“Plus 12” - Proposal for completion of the BGS LA&S Online degree

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Plus 12 Proposal Summary:

The purpose of the program is to help past KU students who invested heavily in their KU degree, a chance to finally earn their KU degree. We have identified about 366 students that are close to completion but who are no longer at KU that we can serve with an online program. Of the 366 students approximately 150 would directly benefit from a specialized program. These are students we will not graduate otherwise. To graduate these students, we have taken care to design a program that is of high quality and consistent with our mission, but which will require variance from our current policies to achieve.

The College Online Programs would like to propose a program to turn students who left the College in good standing into graduates of the College. Referred to as the “Plus 12” program, the program would offer an approved set of four online courses to eligible students. Upon completion of the “Plus 12” students would become Liberal Arts and Sciences BGS graduates. We would like to outline suggested criteria for eligibility and the course structure of the program, and to get feedback from CUSA to develop a formal proposal that will meet the intended goals.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Break in attendance at least 3 academic years (to be calculated the same as “Sunset” breaks)
- Need 12 hours or less to graduate
- Only for past College students with 70+ CLAS hours, and a breadth of at least 10 departments in CLAS
- Must meet the requirements of the L&AS BGS allowing for the exceptions listed below.
- Must meet university requirements: 120 overall hours, 45 Jr/Sr hours, 2.00 overall KU GPA, 30 hours in residence
- Must complete prescribed set of courses online

Program Requirements:

Complete 4 courses:

1. Approved Careers Course:
   Suggested courses (others may be approved):
   - LA&S 475: Professional Career Management
   - LA&S 485: Global Career Management
   Justification for course requirement: Requiring a careers course is in line with making sure KU students who graduate with the LA&S-BGS degree are equipped with the skills they need to turn their academics into career-facing skills to ensure the best graduation outcome. These are students already in the market that will need to know how to use their new degree to its fullest.

2. Approved Ethics Course:
   Suggested courses (others may be approved):
   - PHIL 360: Introduction to Business Ethics
   - PHIL 368: Introduction to Sports Ethics
Justification for course requirement: Requiring an Ethics course is in line with Goal 5 of the KU Core. A course on ethics can provide students with a learning outcome applicable to the many careers they may already be in, or be looking to start. This is typically a top five skill for employers.

3. Approved World Culture Course:
   - World Culture or Goal 4.2 Course 300+ level:
     Choose from list of online World Culture/Goal 4.2 courses available

Justification for course requirement: Requiring a World Culture course keeps the Plus 12 program in line with the standing requirements for the LA&S-BGS degree, as well as Goal 4 of the KU Core.

4. Capstone Course:
   - LA&S 494: Liberal Arts and Sciences Capstone Course

Justification for course requirement: This course has been specially designed for students in the LA&S-BGS degree program.

Exceptions Requested for Plus 12 Students:

Per the Time Limit Toward Degree policy, students with a break in attendance of 2 years or more will default to current degree requirements. We ask that students in the Plus 12 program be allowed to follow the degree requirements for their initial term (going back no later than Fall 2009 to match the most recent iteration of the LA&S-BGS degree).

Justification: This alleviates advising issues making the program easily followed and communicated. It also allows students to not have to conform to the KU Core which may make their path toward completion more than 12 units.

The following exceptions to the LA&S-BGS degree requirements:

1. Minimum of 10 unique CLAS departments (currently the LA&S-BGS degree requires 10 departments for admission to the degree, but 15 departments for award):
   Justification: A breadth requirement of 10 departments will still allow the student to obtain their degree with a full breadth of Liberal Arts and Sciences education.

2. A minimum of three Natural Science/Math courses completed, at least one of which is a non-math Natural Science, between the general education requirements and the additional Natural Science/Math required for the LA&S-BGS degree (under old general education requirements, students would have to take 2 Math courses and 4 Natural Sciences courses between gen eds and the LA&S-BGS requirements. Under KU Core, students would take 1 MATH and 3 Natural Sciences courses for the LA&S-BGS degree):
   Justification: This ensures that no student will be able to be awarded their degree without at least completion of MATH 101 and an additional Natural Science/Math course.

3. A minimum of two World Culture courses completed between the general education requirements and the World Culture requirement for the LA&S-BGS degree (under old general education requirements, students would have to take 4 World Culture courses between gen eds and LA&S-BGS requirements, or the approved world culture course for the plus twelve). Under the KU Core, students would also be required between the KU Core and LA&S-BGS to take 4 World Culture courses for the LA&S-BGS degree):
   Justification: According to our market student data, most students will meet or exceed the 9 hours of World Culture required by the LA&S-BGS degree between what they have previously taken and what is required to complete the Plus 12 program

4. Minimum of 70 CLAS hours (currently students have to have 100 CLAS hours to earn a degree from the College. This rule is already subject to change):
**Justification:** 70 hours ensures that the student spent significant time learning within the Liberal Arts & Sciences.

**Additional Regulations:**
If 12 hours or less are needed and we can meet their remaining requirements with online (or on-campus if possible for the student) courses, we will do that first. Otherwise, students will be required to take these 4 courses, or an advisor will work with them to find the courses they need to finish their intended degree/major under normal criteria.

No substitutions will be allowed in the curriculum unless the student fits specific criteria:

1. Students who happen to already have all of their World Culture completed, including the old Non-Western course requirement, but do not have all of the Natural Science/Math courses will replace the World Culture course requirement with a Natural Science/Math, to fulfill their 12 hours.
2. Students who have already taken PHIL 360 or PHIL 368 will need to take an additional World Culture course.
3. Anytime a student can be steered toward finishing the standard LA&S-BGS requirements, we will move the student toward that option first.

**Time Limit on Plus 12**
The program will be run for five years from the semester it is approved to begin, at that time the program will be reviewed to see if it is still needed or can be discontinued. Marketing campaigns for the program will highlight that the program is only an option for the next five years.

Students will always be encouraged to finish the program within one academic year.