Proposal for Changes to the B.G.S. degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Introduction:

On March 26 CUSA voted to recommend several changes to the B.G.S. degree. These recommendations are made in response to the introduction of the KU Core and recently approved changes to the B.A.

Background:

The BGS provides students with greater flexibility and currently serves students who have changed degree programs, or are completing multiple majors, minors, or degrees. The general education requirements for the BGS currently include:

- Common Degree Requirements (27 hrs):
  - English (3 courses)
  - Argument & Reason (1 course)
  - Mathematics (2 courses)
  - Western Civilization (2 courses)
  - Non-western Culture (1 course)
- Principal Course Requirements (18 hrs)
- A CLAS-approved minor (see Minors on this page) or a second major, co-major, or degree. B.G.S. majors are available in many but not all of the subjects in which a B.A. degree also may be earned.

Proposal:

In the next year CUSA will examine and make recommendations for a revised B.G.S. degree. In the interim the committee feels that, in order to better serve students and the strategic goals of the university (including aligning curricula more closely with peer/aspirational institutions), requirements in addition to the KU Core are necessary.

These recommendations are intended as a ‘stop-gap’ measure, to be replaced by a substantially revised B.G.S. degree in the near future.

CUSA recommends adding the following requirements to B.G.S. degree, beginning Fall 2013:

1. Quantitative - An additional course beyond the KU Core Quantitative Literacy goal (Goal 1, Learning Outcome 2) with a pre-requisite of Math 101 or another course approved by CUSA. (Additional 3 credits)
2. Foreign Language – Second-semester proficiency in one foreign language, or first semester proficiency in two foreign languages. (Additional 10 credits)

3. Laboratory - An approved laboratory or field experience. (Additional 1 credit)

4. Writing – Students must complete ENGL 101 and 102 sequence to meet Goal 2, Learning Outcome 1, (or if placed into ENGL 102/105) ENGL 102/105 and another course approved for KU Core goal 2.1.

5. Minor or Double Major - A CLAS-approved minor or a second major, co-major, or degree. (Additional 18 credits)

Justification:

The BGS is advertised as providing students with greater flexibility. The KU Core will abolish the common degree and principal course requirements for the BGS degree, and provide flexibility for students who change degree programs or complete multiple majors, etc. CUSA decided that college-level math, language and laboratory skills are an essential part of a liberal arts and sciences undergraduate education and enhance post-graduate success. The proposed additional requirements to the BGS will add at most 32 hours to the BGS degree.