

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
REPORT – FEBRUARY 21, 2013

Members of the Curriculum Committee were asked to consider a proposal from the Department of Political Science and Geography (DPSG) in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts: Bachelor of Arts degree in Global Affairs.

Bachelor of Arts degree in Global Affairs (GA)

This degree is designed to provide students with an opportunity to study global dynamics, trends and implications. In particular, it will help prepare students for a wide range of job opportunities in public, non-profit, and private organizations.

Need

The proposal provides several factors that indicate a need for the degree. First, it suggests that the percentage of U.S. population over the age of 65 is rising, and that the demand for competent and qualified personnel to fill professional positions in the global setting is rising. Second, the international non-profit sector job opportunities are growing. Third, there is a local need. The proposal points to the key military and contractor facilities in San Antonio, as well as other Federal agencies that need global affairs majors. Finally, the proposal suggests that the global affairs program matches with UTSA's strategic plans.

Although the proposal said that there were no bachelor degrees offered in global affairs in Texas, the proposal provided a list of twelve international-related programs across the state. Of the twelve programs, nine were offered by private schools. Thus, the DPSG expects that it will have a minimum of 40 majors within the first two years of its operation and to see growth each year thereafter.

Degree Requirements and Curriculum

The proposed degree requires 120 semester credit hours (SCH). In addition to the core curriculum, students must complete 39 hours in the major (including at least 9 hours of GLA courses, 30 hours in political science global affairs), 6 hours in support work, 6 hours in a single language other than English, and 27 hours of electives. The new degree requires seven new organized courses (two are similar to two POL courses) as well as seminar and special studies courses. Independent study, internship, practicum, and honor thesis courses are included in the degree program. The program will be reviewed on a five-year cycle as required for all UTSA degree programs.

Faculty requirements

The proposal indicates that the department is in the process of hiring replacement faculty as well as advertising for two new positions in global affairs. The GA program is expected to require one support staff position.

After a thorough review of the proposal, the committee recommended approval of the program.

Be it resolved that the proposal for a B.A. in Global Affairs be approved.