

BA General Humanities

Undergraduate Review

Year 3 (2023) - FAR Implementation Report

(reviewed 2019/20)

Recommendation #1

The word “General” be dropped and that the program be referred to as the three-year “BA Pass Degree in Humanities”.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Unit
Responsible for resources:	Unit
Responsible for implementation:	Unit
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Propose Change to ARC, and then APC	Dean’s Office	D	D	D

Comments 2021:

There were no proposed calendar changes associated with GHUM in 2020/2021, as the Dean’s Office was overworked responding to COVID-19. These changes will be part of the 2021/2022 submissions.

Comments 2022:

This task was delayed again, but with the following rationale: in June 2021, I began working with Admissions, specifically with the Transfer Advisor Coordinator, to develop articulation agreements between the General Arts and Science diplomas from Niagara College, Mohawk College, and Fanshawe College and Brock’s General Humanities Program. The goal was to create a clear pathway from these General 2-year college programs to Brock’s 3-year General degrees: a student from Niagara, Mohawk, or Fanshawe would be given 5 transfer credits toward the GHUM program, including their Humanities and Social Science Context Credits, and would be able to complete their Pass BA with 2 more years of study at Brock. Thus, the term “General” now acts as a kind of bridge among these programs.

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

In February, the Articulation Agreement with Niagara College was approved by UPC. The Mohawk Agreement is being reviewed by the Provost's Office and a Draft Agreement with Fanshawe is being reviewed by the College, after which it too will be ready for the Provost's Office.

Though it is still possible to remove the term "General" from the name of this degree, it may now be advisable to further delay this action until the Agreements are "settled" and the affected institutions can be consulted on appropriate messaging.

Comments 2023:

We continue to monitor the effects of these articulation agreements: that development will likely mean that the plan to drop the word "General" will be delayed indefinitely or dropped entirely. Our continuing efforts to prioritize helping GHUM students find homes in existing majors whenever possible, though, may mean that efforts to bolster the visibility of the degree option as a first-choice are of secondary concern.

Recommendation #2

HUMA 1P50 be designated a required course for all students graduating with the BA Pass Degree in the Humanities.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Unit
Responsible for resources:	Unit
Responsible for implementation:	Unit
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Consider making HUMA 1P50 a required course for Pass GHUM students	Dean's Office	C		

Comments 2021:

The Associate Dean (Undergraduate) discussed this recommendation with the Academic Advisors in the Faculty of Humanities, and - for now - will not make HUMA 1P50 a required course. The reason for this is that, periodically, the GHUM Pass degree becomes the sole option for a student who has struggled with a major program to graduate (and often the

change of major from a disciplinary program to GHUM is processed in the final term before the student graduates). To impose a new requirement on GHUM students would seriously disadvantage such students.

Thus, the Associate Dean and the Academic Advisors for the Faculty of Humanities will continue to promote HUMA 1P50 as a recommended course for incoming GHUM students (as it is most useful in the first years of study).

Comments 2022:

Though this task was completed in 2021, a decision was made in the FHUM Dean's Office to "house" this in the Department of English Language and Literature, though it will be cross-listed in GHUM so as to appear in that calendar entry. The rationale for this move is two-fold: to allow for Academic Integrity cases emerging out of HUMA 1P50 to be uploaded into the AIAC system (which organizes cases by academic unit, not program) and to allow for the straightforward execution of various administrative tasks, also linked with academic units (for example, hiring instructors, working with the staff in SAS, or getting final grades approved). The Department of English Language and Literature will consult with the FHUM Dean's Office on staffing the course and ensuring its interdisciplinary focus.

Comments 2023:

HUMC 1P50 was officially homed in the Department of English Language and Literature after the completion of the APC process in late 2022, and the Dean's Office and Department Chair continue to consult on staffing and other issues related to the operation of the course as designed. Furthermore, it has become increasingly clear that making the course required for GHUM student may exacerbate an existing problem: despite prominent messaging in the Calendar, from Advising, and in the course syllabus, many students too often incorrectly assume that HUMC 1P50 can satisfy context credit requirements, and requiring it, for any group of students, may make that assumption even harder to combat.

Recommendation #3

The creation of a third-year HUMA .5 credit independent study course that would be optional to students in the BA Pass Degree in the Humanities.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration as an option for students. The Committee understands that the program may be constrained by limited resources and therefore opt to use existing Faculty of Humanities independent study courses or a directed reading course to address this recommendation.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Unit
Responsible for resources:	Unit
Responsible for implementation:	Unit
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Survey Faculty of Humanities calendar offerings for independent study courses that may be open to GHUM students.	Dean's Office	D	C	
Action #2 To consider creating an optional third-year independent study half-credit course.	Dean's Office	D	C	

Comments 2021:

The first step in this process would be to survey existing independent study courses that may be available to GHUM students across the faculty. Unfortunately, this survey (and subsequent action) has been delayed in 2020/2021, as the Dean's Office was overworked responding to COVID-19. This survey and subsequent action will take place in 2021/2022.

Comments 2022:

Action #1: The survey of FHUM calendar offerings, with an eye to locating Year 3 independent studies opportunities that might be open to GHUM students, is complete. The vast majority of FHUM programs that offer independent studies or directed reading courses do so only at the Year 4 level (eg. CANA, CLAS, ENGL, FREN, HIST, MARS, MLLC, MUSI, PHIL, WRDS). There are four programs that offer independent studies opportunities at the Year 3 level: DART (3F99/3P97/3P98 - with permission), IASC (3P98/3P99 - restricted to majors); STAC (3P94/3P95 - with permission); VISA (3F99 - with permission).

Of these opportunities, the STAC courses are likely best able to accommodate GHUM students, as STAC is an interdisciplinary program with relatively low numbers of majors. However, STAC has no full-time faculty members sited in the unit, complicating the issue of finding a supervisor for the project. Still: the logical next step to respond to this recommendation is for the FHUM Dean's Office to consult with the Director of STAC to discuss potential synergies between the two programs (for example, encouraging excellent GHUM majors to pursue a minor in STAC, and thus be better prepared to take on an independent study course).

Action #2: Given the complications arising from "housing" HUMA 1P50 in GHUM, with respect to being unable to perform basic administrative functions for a course not linked to an academic unit, it is not advisable to create a new GHUM course.

Recommendation #4

The Faculty investigate the possibility of creating a four-year Bachelor of Arts in Humanities that would include a fourth-year capstone course.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Unit
 Responsible for resources: Unit
 Responsible for implementation: Unit
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Faculty investigate the possibility of creating a four-year Bachelor of Arts in Humanities.	Dean's Office	C		
Action #2 If a four-year degree is possible, consider including a fourth-year capstone course.	Dean's Office	C		

Comments 2021:

While there is institutional support for a 4-Year option in the General Humanities, the nomenclature issue remains (that is, the 4-year degree option available to non-Honours students in a 4-Year degree with major, and General students do not hold a major). As per the Academic Calendar, the BA degree offered by Brock include: Honours, With Major, Pass.

Given this institutional barrier, there will be no further consideration of this recommendation.

Recommendation #5

Clarification of the notation that appears on a student's record when they are adjudicated out of a Major to ensure that it is both accurate and conveys a positive message.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. ARC understands that consultation with the Registrar's Office will be necessary to assess the viability of this recommendation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Unit

Responsible for resources: Unit

Responsible for implementation: Unit

Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Discuss messaging around adjudication with the Registrar's Office	Dean's Office	D	D	C

Comments 2021:

Unfortunately, it was not possible to start these discussions in 2020/2021, as the Dean's Office and the Registrar's Office were overworked responding to COVID-19.

Comments 2022:

Unfortunately, this action item was again delayed (for no other reason than the FHUM Dean's Office and Registrar's Office had another challenging year).

Comments 2023:

After consultation with the Registrar's office, we believe that this recommendation is based on faulty information (the source of which remains unclear): the reviewers note in their report that they "were informed that the current notation informs a student that they cannot return to their major". This is inaccurate. However, the message students receive from the Registrar reads, in part, "If you were removed from your major and would like to discuss the possibility of returning to that major or to explore other program options, please book an appointment with Central Academic Advising by clicking on Appointment Bookings in your student self-serve portal." It is certainly true that the Associate Dean and the Academic Advising Team should continue to help students find their way to an appropriate degree path—whether that is helping them to find an appropriate major if the opportunity arises, or

helping them see the value of a completed degree in General Humanities, but the concern with institutional messaging seems to be less of a problem than it was thought to be.

Recommendation #6

Ensure improved tracking of GHUM students through the program with annual audit by the Associate Dean, Faculty of Humanities, and Academic Advisors for the Faculty and the Student Success Centre to provide students with advice regarding (re)-enrolment in a major or in one or more minors as well as advice regarding academic support.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and already in progress.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Unit
 Responsible for resources: Unit
 Responsible for implementation: Unit
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Associate Dean's Office will conduct an academic year-end audit of GHUM students, and contact appropriate Chairs and Directors if there are potential majors within this group.	Dean's Office	T	O	

Comments 2021:

A review of GHUM students was completed at the end of the 2019/2020 year, and several potential disciplinary majors were identified; Chairs and Directors were sent the list of potential disciplinary majors and invited to contact them.

Comments 2022:

A review of GHUM students was completed at the end of the 2020/2021 year, and several potential disciplinary majors were identified; Chairs and Directors were sent the list of potential disciplinary majors and invited to contact them.

Comments 2023:

The process of reviewing the records of GHUM students and working to connect them with Chairs and Directors to find a more specific major home will continue; the review will

normally be conducted towards the end of April each year, when most of grades are in and a better assessment can be made.

Recommendation #7

The Dean's Office commit effort and resources to developing a sense of shared identity and community among all students in the BA Pass Degree in the Humanities.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands that the unique nature of the program and a diverse student cohort will make efforts to foster a shared sense of identity and community a challenge.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Unit
 Responsible for resources: Unit
 Responsible for implementation: Unit
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Dean's Office include GHUM students in its orientation activities.	Dean's Office	T	O	
Action #2 Dean's Office organize a mid-year check-in with GHUM students	Dean's Office	T	O	

Comments 2021:

Action #1

In its Orientation messaging, GHUM students were explicitly welcomed, and a separate video was prepared for those students.

Action #2

The Dean's Office, together with Academic Advisors in the Faculty of Humanities, held two online Q+A sessions for GHUM students in 2020/2021 (at the beginning of the Fall and Winter terms). The Fall session was very well-attended, and the Winter session less so (though that have been related to online fatigue). Still, these sessions proved a valuable opportunity to answer questions and create a sense of community.

Comments 2022

Action #1

In its Orientation messaging, GHUM students were explicitly welcomed, and a separate Welcome session was prepared for those students.

Action #2

The Dean's Office, together with Academic Advisors in the Faculty of Humanities, held one online Q+A session for GHUM students in 2021/2022 (at the beginning of the Fall term). The Fall session was not as well attended as in 2020, but it was still a fun, informative online event. Unfortunately, no GHUM students expressed interest in a Winter session (though the beginning of the Winter Term was difficult and confusing for most students, as we were shifted back into an online-only environment).

Comments 2023:

Action #1

The new Associate Dean continues the practice of explicitly welcoming new GHUM students as part of the Orientation sessions. Furthermore, a welcome letter will be drafted and sent to the incoming cohort of GHUM students in April 2023.

Action #2

Formal Q&A sessions have not yet happened in the 2022-23 academic year, though there are plans to invite GHUM students to an online session in late summer during registration season; if that session goes well and there is interest, we will have similar check-in sessions during the 2023-34 academic year. But, to some degree, the welcome letter, information provided during orientation, and the ongoing review of GHUM student records each April may make annual, formal Q&A sessions redundant.