

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION**

**COMMITTEE:** Assessment and Accountability                      **NO.:** AAC 08-26  
**COMMITTEE DATE:** June 13, 2008  
**BOARD DATE:** June 25, 2008

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**MOVED:**                      The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts** to award the **Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Policy**.

One year after graduating the program's first class, the institution shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty, resources, and program effectiveness.

Authority:                      Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)  
Contact:                        Aundrea Kelley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Policy

## **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

June 2008

### **Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Policy**

#### **INTENT**

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts' (MCLA) proposed Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Policy intends to prepare graduates for public policy service in local, state and national government as well as for graduate work. The proposed program will include an experiential learning component with elected officials from Berkshire County serving as mentors and internship supervisors. The concurrent development of a new Public Policy Institute at MCLA which will address local policy issues—such as health care, transportation, and education—will enrich and support the proposed degree.

In summer 2006 the MCLA Department of History/Political Science/Geography developed a proposal for a new major in political science and public policy. The proposal was unanimously recommended by the department in fall 2006 and subsequently recommended by the Curriculum and All-College committees. The proposal was reviewed by the Board of Trustees on May 12, 2007, and received unanimous approval. MCLA submitted a Letter of Intent to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education in February 2008, which was circulated to the public college and university presidents and chancellors. One letter was received in support of the proposal, which noted that the area of public policy is increasingly significant in the operations of governmental institutions and their intersections with the private sector.

#### **NEED AND DEMAND**

The Massachusetts Division of Unemployment Assistance projects employment growth rates through the year 2010 to be particularly high for occupations related to a political science and public policy degree. For example, there will be a 10 to 20 percent growth rate for law enforcement occupations, postsecondary political science teachers, social and community service managers, social scientists, and urban and regional planners across the state. The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board projected job growth in the County in the year 2012 in positions for which Political Science and Public Policy graduates will be qualified as follows:

- Office and Administrative Support Occupations.....9,770 positions  
(includes policy related positions - social and community service areas – administrative support positions)
- Education, Training and Library Occupations.....4,630 positions  
(includes social scientists, political science teachers)
- Management Occupations.....3,290 positions  
(includes urban planners, social and community managers)

The American Political Science Association (APSA) traced undergraduate interest in political science, public policy and international relations from 1990 to 2004 and found that while there was a slight dip in the number of majors during the mid- to-late 1990s, interest has now

rebounded to the highest level. Further research by the APSA found that 55 percent of public and private undergraduate colleges have experienced enrollment increases in political science majors, with only 9 percent experiencing a decrease in majors. At MCLA there has been recent growth in the number of history majors, as well as an increasing number of students within history expressing strong interest in areas associated with the discipline of political science – governments, elections, and public policies.

*Program Duplication*

The only other public institution of higher learning in the geographic proximity of MCLA is Berkshire Community College, and MCLA projects that some Berkshire Community College students who are matriculating to MCLA will be interested in the new major. Williams College, while seldom competing for the same pool of students as MCLA, does offer courses in political science and public policy in which students could enroll.

**ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT**

Admissions standards for first-year students entering the proposed political science and public policy program are the same as those for all entering students at MCLA. Freshmen must meet the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education admissions standards and possess a high school diploma or equivalency at the time of enrollment. To be considered for admission, applicants must meet the minimum eligibility index (a sliding scale based on high school grade point average and SAT I or ACT test scores) and successfully complete the 16 high school academic units in English, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Language and Electives. Transfer applicants are evaluated on the basis of their previous college work and minimally have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or 2.0 (24+ college-level credits) on a four-point scale.

MCLA has transfer articulation agreements with all Massachusetts community colleges, eight New York community colleges, and one Connecticut community college. Students transferring to MCLA from a Massachusetts Community College may qualify under the Commonwealth Compact. It is quite possible that those transferring under this compact may have completed all the MCLA core curriculum requirements and some of the requirements for the proposed political science and public policy program.

The table below summarizes the enrollment projections for the first four years of the proposed program:

**B.A. in Political Science and Public Policy Enrollment Projections**

	# of Students Year 1	# of Students Year 2	# of Students Year 3	# of Students Year 4
New Full Time	10	10	10	15
Continuing Full Time	2	12	18	22
New Part Time	2	2	2	2
Continuing Part Time	1	2	3	3
<b>Totals</b>	15	26	33	42

## **CURRICULUM (Attachment A)**

Students majoring in the proposed political science and public policy program, like students in most MCLA programs, will take one-third of their credits within the major (40), one-third as electives (40), and one-third in a college-wide curriculum (40) that fosters MCLA's central mission and values. A total of 120 credits are required for completion of the degree.

The proposed major intends to acquaint students with the public policy process in the classroom, as well as provide first-hand experience through internships and the public practitioner components of the program.

The proposed program will promote the following learning objectives:

- gain a knowledge of the basic institutions of government at the national, state and local levels in the United States
- develop a comparative understanding of politics and policy processes in liberal and non-liberal democratic nation-states
- gain an understanding of the relationship of international relations to war, peace and the global economic systems
- understand the concept of power, its sources and operation
- appreciate and understand the historical context of the development of political ideas, institutions, and policy processes
- understand contrasting views of the role of individuals in politics and policy-making through such organizations as groups and political parties
- gain a knowledge of the competing normative philosophies and scientific theories regarding political behavior and the role of government
- develop skills in research, writing and speaking
- develop quantitative analytical skills in data creation and analysis
- develop skills in social science methodology
- develop abilities in analyzing political behavior and the policy process
- develop political and administrative skills by working in government and public organizations and
- prepare for graduate school in political science and law and careers in government, journalism, and the private sector

## **RESOURCES AND BUDGET (Attachment B)**

The proposed political science and public policy program will require the addition of a full-time faculty member. Additional part-time faculty may be utilized if necessary. Current resources in place to implement this new major include secretarial and administrative support staff, library resources, computer equipment and facilities, as well as field learning opportunities. The proposed major will be housed in the Department of History/Political Science/Geography, and will be administered by the department chair. MCLA requires all entering students to obtain laptop computers, and the current wireless network and library support has ensured adequate student access to Web-available resource materials. There will be need for a modest increase in subscriptions to hardcopy journals and books.

In addition, the College is currently in the process of establishing an MCLA Public Policy Institute, which will be housed at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art campus in North Adams. Among other activities, this Institute will provide highly acclaimed speakers for a Public Policy lecture series, expertise and community resources for faculty and students to research various public policy areas in the Berkshires, as well as internship opportunities for students. This Institute will complement the classroom and experiential components of the proposed major.

## PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Four faculty members in the Department of History/Political Science/Geography will teach in and evaluate the program, along with the departmental curriculum committee. In addition, policy practitioners will be invited to be members of an advisory committee. This committee should help develop a pool of experts and provide counsel and guidance on appropriate and effective ways to integrate their expertise into the program. MCLA identified the following program goals:

GOAL	Measurable Objective	Strategy for Achievement	Timetable
Offer regularly scheduled courses to ensure student access to major requirements	A Political Science/Public Policy course schedule that offers students necessary introductory and advanced courses to complete program in four years	Coordinate efforts with department chair, faculty, Academic Affairs and Registrar	Schedule of courses will begin in fall 2008, with a full range of courses available by 2009-2010
Promote the new major and recruit students	A full range of promotional materials, including brochures, as well as information on departmental and college web sites	Work with Registrar, Admissions Office, Department faculty and MCLA Webmaster	All promotional materials and Web materials should be completed by August, 2008
Identify External policy practitioners to serve as mentors, instructors, and field supervisors	A compilation of practitioners in various Berkshire County and beyond, including résumés, internship placements and links to courses	Departmental faculty in cooperation with appropriate college offices will contact and recruit practitioners	The initial list should be completed by September 2008 and be added to throughout 2008-2009 academic year
Develop Program Advisory Board consisting of external policy practitioners	Assemble an advisory board with written guidelines and recruit Board members	Department faculty in conjunction with appropriate college offices will assemble guidelines and recruit members	The guidelines will be completed by January 2009. Members recruited in spring 2009 semester, with first Board meeting in September 2009
Develop new faculty position in public policy and recruit new faculty member	A description of new position and advertise for new faculty member	Department faculty and appropriate college offices will meet to develop position description and recruitment strategies	The advertising for a new faculty member will begin in September 2008 with position filled for September 2009
Seek additional grants to acquire additional resources such as speakers, faculty and student conference travel	Secure grants from agencies and individuals	Department faculty and appropriate college offices will develop and coordinate grant strategies	Grant applications will be completed and submitted by January 2009 or whenever grant deadlines require

Develop and Conduct Program Review	Produce a list of program goals, measurements and final report	Follow BHE and MCLA guidelines to develop program review strategies and implementation plan	Program review strategy will be finished in January 2009 with program review completed in May 2010
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## **EXTERNAL REVIEW**

The program was reviewed by Dr. Paul Petterson, Central Connecticut State University; Dr. George P. Richardson, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany – State University of New York; and Professor Emeritus George T. Sulzner, Political Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

All three reviewers agreed that the proposed program is consistent with the academic mission of MCLA and addresses areas of need in Massachusetts and nationally with one stating, “The particular configuration of this program is well designed to address the mission of building citizenship in students and enhancing MCLA’s ties with the larger community. It is also a useful major for pursuing professional careers and graduate study.” The reviewers made specific recommendations regarding the curriculum, and each reviewer’s comments were addressed sufficiently. The reviewers stressed the need for at least one additional full-time faculty member to be well-versed in both political science methodologies and public policy analysis. MCLA responded that it is committed to hiring an additional faculty member to help fine tune and expand the major. Finally, the reviewers noted that the proposed program will require on-going monitoring and that minor modifications may need to be made as the College evaluates the effectiveness of the program in accomplishing its objectives.

## **STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION**

After careful review and deliberation of the proposal and all supporting documentation, staff recommendation is for approval of the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Policy at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

One year after graduating the program’s first class, the institution shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals, as stated in the application, and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty, resources, and program effectiveness.

**Attachment A – Curriculum Outlines  
Bachelor of Art in Political Science and Public Policy**

**MCLA POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

REQUIRED CREDITS IN MAJOR = 27

POSC 201 – United State Government and Public Policy	3 cr
POSC 202 – Comparative Government and Public Policy	3 cr
POSC 320 – International Relations	3 cr
HIST 104 – Modern World Civilization	3 cr
HIST 203 - American History I	3 cr
HIST 204 - American History II	3 cr
Methods/Theory/Political Philosophy – (Choose one of the following)	3 cr
HIST 200 – Research and Bibliography	
MATH 232 – Introduction to Statistics	
PHIL 360 - Social and Political Philosophy	
POSC 335 – Political Science Theory and Methods (new course)	
POSC 401-402 – Seminar in Problems in Political Science	3 cr
OR	
POSC 403-404 – Seminar in Public Policy	
POSC 540 - Internship in Political Science/Public Policy	3 cr
Total Credits..... 27	

ELECTIVES - 18 credits – Choose from below:

POSC 300 Politics and the News Media in America	3 cr
POSC 304 Constitutional Law	3 cr
POSC 315 Topics in Political Science	3 cr
POSC 316 Topics in Public Policy (new course)	3 cr
POSC 325 Canadian Politics	3 cr
POSC 331 Africa	3 cr
POSC 368 Introduction to Public Administration	3 cr
POSC 500 Directed Independent Study	3 cr
POSC 540 Internship in Political Science	3-9 cr
(in addition to the required 3-credit internship)	
POSC 510 Teaching Assistantship in Political Science	3 cr
ECON 141 Macroeconomics	3 cr
SOCI 331 Methods of Social Research	3 cr
<i>With department approval six credits from related disciplines can be applied to the Political Science and Public Policy major.</i>	

Total Credits.....45

## GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIRMENTS

TIER I Core Foundations	
Critical Reading, Thinking, Writing	3cr
Quantitative Reasoning	3cr
Computing Technology/Problem Solving	3cr
Language Arts	3cr
TIER II Core Domains	
Creative Arts	6cr
Human Heritage	6cr
Self and Society	6cr
Science and Technology	7-8cr
TIER III Capstone Experience	3cr
TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED FOR DEGREE	40
TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDITS REQUIRED FOR DEGREE	120



**Attachment B: New Program Budget Form**

<b>One-Time/Start Up Costs</b>	<b>Cost Categories</b>	<b>Annual Expenses</b>			
		<b>Year 1 (\$)</b>	<b>Year 2 (\$)</b>	<b>Year 3 (\$)</b>	<b>Year 4 (\$)</b>
n/a	Full-Time Faculty (Salary)	0	50,000	50,000	50,000
n/a	Part-Time/Adjunct Faculty <b>Represents 2 additional sections</b>	8,284	8,615	8,959	9,318
0	Staff	0	0	0	0
0	General Administrative Costs	5,000	6,000	7,000	8,000
0	Instructional Materials, Library Acquisitions: printing, consumable art lab supplies	+2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
0	Facilities/Space/Equipment: additional cost of maintenance, repairs/replacements of art lab equipment,	0	2,500 computer for faculty member	0	0
0	Field and Clinical Resources, Internships	n/a	1,000	1,000	1,000
1,000 for brochures	Marketing ( <b>Part of overall college budget</b> )	1,000	0	0	0
0	Other (in-state/out-of-state travel)	+1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<b>TOTALS</b>	17,284	71,115	69,959	71,318

<b>One-Time/Start-Up Support</b>	<b>Revenue Sources</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>			
		<b>Year 1 (\$)</b>	<b>Year 2 (\$)</b>	<b>Year 3 (\$)</b>	<b>Year 4 (\$)</b>
0	Grants	0	0	0	0
0	Tuition Estimate based on current trends. Note: 70% resident, 20% non-resident and 10% NEBHE-qualified full-time and part-time students. <b>Resident tuition is remitted to the state general fund</b>	28,705	62,045	80,260	86,955
0	Fees – Estimate based on current trends.	64,240	167,024	229,291	289,045

	<b>Fee revenue supports campus operations and is not dedicated to one area.</b>				
0	Departmental	0	0	0	0
0	Reallocated Funds	0	0	0	0
0	Other (specify)	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTALS</b>	92,945	229,069	309,551	376,000