To be adopted:

PROPOSED CHANGES TO LIBERAL STUDIES MAJOR

PRESENT:

Liberal Studies is the major of choice for students interested in careers in elementary school education. Under the federal legislation No Child Left Behind all prospective teachers must be “highly qualified” by demonstrating proficiency in their subject matter. The Liberal Studies major includes a core of lower-division courses designed to provide students with broad subject matter coverage to give them the foundation needed to pass the CSET and enable them to be well prepared to teach. The five upper-division tracks allow students to build upon their strengths and interests and at the same time provide them with a connection to the core Education courses.

PROPOSED:

Liberal Studies is the major of choice for students interested in a major with broad interdisciplinary scope. The Liberal Studies major includes a core of lower-division courses designed to provide students with broad subject matter coverage to give them the foundation for a wide variety of careers and advanced degrees in professional schools of education, law business or medicine or academic programs toward doctoral study in the humanities and social sciences.

Preparation for Teaching

The Prepare to Teach Program is a preprofessional program open to undergraduates in all majors who are interested in teaching in California elementary schools. Through the program, prospective teachers begin to think pedagogically about subjects they are studying, gain early field experience in the schools, and receive an introduction to the profession that will help them make informed decisions about their own careers. The goal is to give prospective elementary school teachers information about state requirements that are best met when students are undergraduates and to advise on how to prepare to teach the
required subjects in California elementary schools. The program is administered in the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs, 2417 Humanities and Social Sciences, (951) 827-2743.

**Blended Program in Undergraduate Teacher Preparation**

Qualified students have the opportunity to enroll in an accelerated program resulting in an elementary credential. The end goal is to be able to begin “professional” student teaching in the final quarter of the senior year. Our goal is to give early deciders the opportunity to begin teaching their own classes earlier and as interns to continue to receive the intense support of the Graduate School of Education and the school district during the first two quarters of the first year of teaching.

Students must take EDUC 001 and EDUC 002. Successful completion also requires careful course selection and a minimum GPA of 3.0. Advising is a collaborative effort between the Bridge to Teaching Program and the Graduate School of Education. For Information about undergraduate requirements, contact Brenda Aragon in the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs, 3111 INTS or 2417 Humanities and Social Sciences, (951) 827-2743, or brenda.aragon@ucr.edu. Information about UCR’s credential programs can be found at the Graduate School of Education Web site, education.ucr.edu/teach or at 1124 Sproul Hall.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The major has changed, Liberal Studies no longer offering preparation for teaching. The program feels it’s better to be general than make them think they are entering a preparation for teaching that no longer exists.

**APPROVALS:**
Effective: Spring 2014
Approved by the faculty Committee of Liberal Studies: June 21, 2013
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: October 16, 2013
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: December 9, 2013