

## Recommended LAC FAQs

- **Why is the curriculum form changing from “required” to “recommended” LAC?**
  - The change ensures that program requirements are listed in a way that is aligned with [CDHE policy](#) on general education. Because of the gtPathways statute, programs may not mandate which courses students use to fulfill the LAC.
- **Does CDHE policy prohibit liberal arts courses from being used for major requirements?**
  - No, it simply means programs cannot require students to use those courses to fulfill their *LAC* requirements. Programs may continue to require students to use courses that have LAC status to fulfill their *major* requirements, and unless the student has already fulfilled the relevant LAC area, such courses will continue to double count for both the major and the LAC.
- **Can programs still require specific LAC courses for their major?**
  - Yes, programs can continue to require any LAC courses for their major. Such courses will be listed in the Major Requirements section of the degree program. They will also be listed as “recommended” courses in the Liberal Arts Curriculum section of the degree program.
- **Can a program list courses as recommended LACs even if they are not required for the major?**
  - Yes, this is perfectly acceptable. However, unless the course is also listed in the Major Requirements section, the student can complete the degree program using a different LAC course, including gtPathways courses transferred from other institutions.
- **If the change in language from “required” to “recommended” LAC does not impact whether courses can be required by programs, why change the language at all?**
  - Both the CDHE and the registrar’s office received questions and complaints from students who objected to being required to take additional liberal arts courses when they had already fulfilled the statewide general education requirements. These types of complaints stemmed from the practice of listing the courses as required for the LAC, rather than as required for the major.
- **Since the courses will be listed under the Major Requirements section, why do we need to list them as “recommended” in the Liberal Arts Curriculum section too?**
  - Listing the courses in both the LAC section and Required Major section helps the students understand that the courses double count in both areas of the degree program. This also provides an easy reference to students and advisors, helping to ensure that students complete their degrees in 120 credit hours.
- **Will this change result in a higher credit hour total for the major?**
  - Since every degree program includes LAC requirements as well as major requirements, this does not change the total number of credits required in the major degree program. However, it may increase the number of credits in the required major section, since courses that were previously listed only as “required specific LACs” must now be listed in the major requirements section. Remember the total number of LAC courses required is dropping from 40 to 31 with the introduction of the new Liberal Arts Curriculum. If it is necessary for the student to double count all “recommended” LAC courses that serve as requirements for the major in order to complete the degree program in 120 credit hours, this can be explained in the notes.

- **If a major requires a course from a liberal arts category that a student has already fulfilled, does the student have to take the specified course?**
  - Yes, the course is required by virtue of it being a major requirement. This is the primary reason for changing our catalog presentation. In the past, students in this situation complained that they were being required to take “extra” LACs. The new presentation makes it clear that they are only required to take the course for the major.
- **If a transfer student already has already fulfilled all LAC areas, can a program still require LAC courses for the major?**
  - Yes, the program can still require the student to take every course listed in the major requirements section of their degree program. This includes courses that also carry LAC status.
- **Questions about the Liberal Arts Curriculum?**
  - Please contact [LAC@unco.edu](mailto:LAC@unco.edu) or a member of the [Liberal Arts Council](#).
- **Questions about the curriculum workflow process?**
  - Check out the [Revising Programs in Workflow](#) manual from the Registrar’s Office that provides a step-by-step guide through the new curriculum template. For any additional workflow process questions, please contact [Meagan.Crews@unco.edu](mailto:Meagan.Crews@unco.edu).