

FAQs: The Liberal Studies Online Degree Completion program (3 October 2016)

This program will benefit a student population we do not normally have the opportunity to engage. The program aims to recruit folks who have stopped out of their university education after completing at least some coursework beyond their GE (about 80 units). They include people such as returning veterans who stopped out to join the military, single parents, and others who are now interested in completing their degrees but who, for a variety of reasons, prefer to complete their degree online.

1. A lot of this program has yet to be developed online. Is there a timeline for this? **There are 25 courses in the curriculum, 12 of which are not yet developed as blended or online. It is planned for six of these courses to be converted to online format in summer 2017 and the other six in summer 2018. The program is slated to commence fall 2018. Faculty will be supported with \$4,000 stipends for doing this work. As with many new programs, not all of the curricula is developed fully at the time of implementation.**
2. Some of the faculty that were listed are no longer here at CI. Others are no longer faculty. Are faculty listed in the proposal still committed to teaching in the program? **This refers to the table on page 10. It is possible that some faculty may leave CI, or take up administrative positions, but the courses belong to the programs indicated and will remain here until the programs decide otherwise. It is also possible for new courses to be added in the future.**
3. The budget for this program's marketing/improvement is quite significant. **The budget has been revised. The marketing and program director allocations have been reduced. That savings has allowed a scholarships line to be added.**
4. Our campus has the lowest tenure density of CSUs, this program does not make sense at CI. **The LS Online curriculum has been designed to have minimal impact on each program area that contributes a course to the package. There are 25 courses from 16 different program areas. A program would likely be offering one course per year, or, in some cases, every other year. In addition, the instructor would be teaching the course for 8 weeks only during a regular CI semester. Because the courses are offered through extended university, programs would be earning CERF for these classes taught.**
5. Question as to how the program serves our region and whether it truly serves our students. **This program is not limited to the students in our local region. While CI has an impact on students in the local region, we are part of the CSU system and can have an impact, through this online program, on students beyond our region. We have a real opportunity here to engage a student population we would not normally see. Besides benefiting these students, CI can gain in at least two ways. Students will likely spread the word about the high quality of our courses, value of the CI mission pillars, and dedication of our faculty. The courses developed for online use in the program can be used stateside which can alleviate the scarcity of classroom space concerns and scheduling issues that are increasingly impacting our ability to offer courses on campus.**
6. Is there flexibility for prior course work to be included in the program requirements in order to make this a true degree completion program? **Yes, there is flexibility. With a Reconnect student, we would hope they would have some prior upper division work completed. The minimum requirement for a student who has completed at least 10 units of upper division work would be to complete 30 units of upper division coursework to establish residency. The four required foundation courses and capstone would provide 15 units towards the residency requirement. They would need to complete another 24 units (8 courses) from the list to graduate. While there are a number of elective courses that could be taken, there is the same flexibility as there is in the stateside program for course substitutions. Thus, a Reconnect student coming into the program with at least 10 units of prior upper division coursework completed could potentially complete the program by taking 30 units in the LS Online program.**