

Recommendation for Discontinuance of an Active Academic Program

Name/Type of Program and Academic Plan Recommended for Discontinuance:

- BA/BGS in Latin American & Caribbean Studies (LAASA-BA; LAASA-BGS)
- MA in Latin American & Caribbean Studies (LASGA-MA)
- Graduate Certificate in Latin American & Caribbean Studies (LAMCRST-GC)

Department, School/College, and CIP Code:

- Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- CIP Code: 05.0134

Number of students currently enrolled (from Tableau Academic Plan Counts – Spring 2021):

Program	Spring 2021
BA in LACS	4
BGS in LACS	0
MA in LACS	4
Graduate Certificate in LACS	3

Number of students enrolled over the past five academic years (from Tableau Academic Plan Counts):

Program	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020
BA in LACS	7	6	6	7	4
BGS in LACS	1	0	0	0	0
MA in LACS	5	5	5	1	5
Graduate Certificate in LACS		0	0	1	3
Total	13	11	11	9	12

Number of program graduates over the past five years (from Tableau Degrees Awarded):

Program	AY 2016	AY 2017	AY 2018	AY 2019	AY 2020
BA in LACS	4	4	4	3	4
BGS in LACS	0	0	0	0	0
MA in LACS	2	0	0	2	2
Graduate Certificate in LACS		0	0	1	0
Total	6	4	4	6	6

CLACS student credit hours (from Tableau Course Enrollment Summaries):

	AY 2012	AY 2013	AY 2014	AY 2015	AY 2016	AY 2017	AY 2018	AY 2019	AY 2020	AY 2021
Total SCH	931	665	650	487	483	623	451	564	501	466

Rationale for recommendation:

Established in 1961, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) has been awarded graduate fellowships by the US Department of Education (US DoE) since 1976 and was designated and funded by the US DoE as a Comprehensive National Resource Center on Latin America in 1983-1988; 1994-2006; 2010-2014; and 2018-2022 and to provide Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships to students. While CLACS is fortunate in having numerous KU faculty affiliated with its center, their primary teaching responsibilities are to their home units. Having only .5FTE faculty assigned to the program has significantly hindered the Center’s ability to attract students.

In response to the Kansas Board of Regent’s (KBOR) desire for program efficiency, CLACS has proposed merging its BA degree with Global & International Studies (GIST) as a concentration within the GIST BA degree. The concentration is moving through the University’s approval processes and should become available to students in Fall 2022 pending University approval.

The Center has also determined merging the MA in LACS with the MA in GIST would be in its best interest since the degree failed to meet KBOR minima for the number of majors (minimum=20 per year) and awards (minimum=5 per year). The graduate concentration in LACS is moving through the University’s approval processes with projected availability to students beginning Spring or Summer of 2022, pending University approval. Given that the Center is slated to no longer administer academic programs, the Director is in discussions about whether the Center remains in the College or moves to another unit.

Impact of discontinuance:


On students: Future students will not be able to enroll in the LACS degrees or the graduate certificate, but will have LACS options through the College.

On faculty: None. The .5 faculty member assigned to the Center will continue as director. Lecturers currently teaching LACS courses, most of whom are fully or mostly grant-funded, will continue as budget and student enrollment numbers permit to teach these courses to fulfill the new GIST requirements.

On staff: None. All current staff (1.5 FTE) will continue to work for CLACS.

On mission: None. The College and University will continue to offer options in Latin American & Caribbean Studies.

Director/CLACS: _____ **Date:** Aug 31, 2021

Interim Dean/CLAS:  _____ **Date:** Sept. 7, 2021

Provost/EVC:  _____ **Date:** Sept. 8, 2021

From: [Redeker, Jean Marie](#)
To: [Reed, Kathy](#)
Cc: [Colombo, John](#); [Ledom, Karen](#); [Latta, Kristine](#); [Falicov, Tamara](#); [Schwien, Rachel C](#); [Bichelmeyer, Barbara Anne](#); [Roberts, Jennifer A](#); [Caminero-Santangelo, Marta](#); [Carttar, Isabel C](#); [Emkow, Carola](#); [Erlingsson, Hafthor Brynjar](#); [Herlihy, Laura Hobson](#); [Muci, Aron Dane](#); [Nunez Arroyo, Margarita A](#); [Tummons, Emily J](#); [Zaragoza, Angeles](#); [Hill, Amanda](#)
Subject: Discontinuance request for programs in the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 11:22:01 AM
Attachments: [Recommendation for Discontinuance of Active Academic Programs LACS degree.pdf](#)
[CLACS KBOR Jan 2021 program review final.pdf](#)

Kathy,

Attached is a request to discontinue programs in the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies. The request includes a rationale for the recommendation and the projected impact on KU's mission, students, and faculty, and the latest program review.

Copied on this request are those with direct appointments to the Center, the Provost/EVC, the VP for Academic Affairs & Graduate Studies, the Interim CLAS Dean, and others in the CLAS Dean's Office.

The request meets the definition for active academic programs as outlined in USRR 8.1.1 and as such I understand will be considered by University Senate during the Fall 2021 semester.

Sincerely,
Jean

Jean M. Redeker, PhD | Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Accreditation Liaison Officer to the Higher Learning Commission
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**Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Program Review Submitted to KBOR Feb 2021**

CIP 05.0134

Master of Arts - Continue

BA/BGS - merge as a concentration with Global and International Studies

Program support for University mission.

Established in 1961, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) has been designated and funded by the US DoE as a Comprehensive National Resource Center (NRC) on Latin America in 1983-1988; 1994-2006; 2010-2014; and 2018-2022; during these periods the US DoE has also funded Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students, which cover tuition costs plus a stipend. The current US DoE NRC and FLAS grants to CLACS total \$1.7 million over the four-year grant cycle.

CLACS is a leading research center linking faculty, students, and the community from across Kansas, the country, and the world in the interdisciplinary study of the histories, cultures, politics, institutions, economics, and societies of Latin America and the Caribbean. CLACS advances knowledge and seeks solutions to pressing questions related to Latin America and the Caribbean. CLACS works to place this region in a global conversation and to promote a diversity of viewpoints and voices on campus and in the community. Finally, CLACS seeks to provide an environment for learning and working where differences are valued and each person is supported and offered an equitable opportunity to achieve their academic and professional goals.

The quality of the program as assessed by the strengths, productivity, and qualifications of the faculty.

CLACS has no tenure lines. Both degree programs housed in the Center are fundamentally interdisciplinary, and the center views its role as a catalyst for ensuring a vigorous presence of teaching, research, and community outreach related to Latin America. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of Center's programs, it draws on more than 115 faculty members at KU with expertise in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, as well as faculty in the School of Business, School of Education, School of Architecture and Design, and the KU Medical Center. The Center Director, a tenured faculty member, has a half-time appointment in an academic department and a half-time appointment with CLACS.

While CLACS is fortunate in having numerous KU faculty affiliated with its center, their primary teaching responsibilities are to their home units. Having only .5 FTE tenure-line faculty assigned to the program as Director has significantly hindered the Center and its degrees.

The quality of the program as assessed by its curriculum and impact on students & student demand.

The undergraduate degree program requires three core classes (LAA 100, LAA 300 and LAA 550) typically taught by Center staff, graduate teaching assistants, or one of three lecturers. A minimum of 24 credit hours is fulfilled by taking courses from one of the affiliate departments. Core language classes for the undergraduate degree are offered through the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, the Department of African & African-American Studies (Haitian Creole), or through CLACS

(Kaqchikel Maya, K'iche' Maya, Miskitu, Quechua, and Yucatec Maya). Students must reach proficiency level which is typically done in 16 credit hours.

The Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships funded through the US DoE are available to students interested in learning a less commonly taught language (LCTL) such as [Kaqchikel](#), [Quechua](#), [K'iche' Maya](#), [Miskitu](#), [Haitian Creole](#), Guaraní, and [Portuguese](#), and provide up to \$18,000 for tuition/fees and a \$15,000 stipend during the academic year for graduate students or \$10,000 for tuition/fees and \$5000 for the year for undergraduates. For both graduate and undergraduate students, summer fellowships are also available at \$5,000 for tuition/fees and \$2,500 for subsistence. A strength of the degree programs is their focus on LCTLs, which has made CLACS competitive for federal funding; course enrollments in these languages are often funded by federal grants. Less commonly taught languages, due to the comparatively smaller numbers of the populations that speak them globally, are often under-enrolled, and CLACS's LCTL language courses are no exception; these languages have not had widespread appeal across campus (although some of these courses are now attracting some non-degree-seeking students from other universities across the nation, since the format has moved online during COVID-19).

The Center is also an inaugural member of the Tinker Field Research Collaborative, which funds CLACS and ten other Centers nationwide (CLACS funding is \$15,000 a year for five years) to support graduate student travel and research in Latin America. The U.S. Department of Education NRC grant, in addition, funds faculty research, travel, and collaborative projects by an estimated \$20,000 per year, with additional grant funds off-setting Study Abroad costs to make study abroad more affordable for KU's students traveling to Latin America.

While the number of majors and degrees awarded have been consistent for both the undergraduate and graduate program, the number of students attracted to and graduating from the programs has been low and are below KBOR minima.

CLACS offers a minor which attracts fewer than 10 students annually. The minor provides students with a solid foundation of instruction on Latin American/Caribbean topics to supplement their primary field. Students emerge with excellent training to enter the professional world or continue in graduate or professional study related to Latin America and the Caribbean.

Cost Effectiveness and Employment Demand.

Degreestats data are not available, but *Payscale.com* median earnings for the undergraduate degree are \$61,753. The undergraduate and graduate degree programs are cost-effective since they rely on faculty in other departments and some of the Center's activities are supported by grants. In addition, a four-year, \$804,000 grant from the US Department of Education (which has designated KU CLACS a "National Resource Center") funds a significant portion of the CLACS instructional budget for lecturers and GTAs (varying by year but approximately 68% of the total instructional budget for AY 2020-21). For AY 20 direct instructional expenditures for the unit were \$758,209 - 95% covered by estimated tuition generated, endowment income, and external research funding.

Recommendation.

KU recommends merging the undergraduate major with the undergraduate degree in Global & International Studies (GIST) and offering it as a concentration within the GIST degree (with details

of the new concentration requirements and advising structure to be worked out by CLACS in consultation with GIST) while recommending continuation of the MA program. The undergraduate major in Global and International Studies is a natural home for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (LACS) since the GIST program provides students with tools to understand the rapid and profound changes that are occurring internationally and transnationally throughout the world and across various regions. GIST already recommends students add a minor in area studies, including LACS, so adding a concentration to the GIST degree is a natural next step. GIST had 95 junior/senior majors in Fall 2020 and awarded 26 degrees in AY 2020, creating a strong pipeline for a LACS concentration.