

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for maintaining the Humanities Program at the University of Kansas (KU). As a graduate of the KU Humanities program (BA in Humanities, 2019 with highest distinction), I urge the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at KU to retain the Humanities Program and all associated faculty.

As a third year PhD student in political science at the University of Chicago, I can attest to the great value of the Humanities Program in preparing me for graduate study. Crucially, the program provided me with the flexibility to take courses across various departments and disciplines while fulfilling the requirements for my major. This was a boon when applying for PhD programs supportive of interdisciplinary study, such as the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Chicago. My experiences in anthropology, literature, and political science courses, among others, has provided me with a wide base of knowledge to draw on in developing my personal research program in hopes of becoming an academic myself. Furthermore, the program also helped me to develop abilities to synthesize and connect knowledge across various areas of study and to interact with people more easily from different backgrounds and disciplines. I still use the readings and definitions that I discovered in my Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies course when working on my master's thesis and dissertation prospectus.

In sum, the Humanities program at KU was invaluable to me as a student, a researcher, and a person. I urge the KU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to retain the program and the various faculty that made my time at KU the most generative and impactful experience I have had in my long career as a student to date.

Thank you,

Maya Van Nuys

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(she/her/hers)