College: Fairmount College of Liberal Arts & Sciences 
Department/Program (s): Interdisciplinary 
Degree (s) Offered: Bachelor in General Studies (BGS); M.A. in Liberal Studies (MALS) 
Triggers: ACT ʹ BGS program; Graduates ʹ MALS program 
Brief Description of Each Degree: 
B.G.S. ʹ The Bachelor of General Studies degree allows students to design their own program of 
study crossing departmental or even college lines. The BGS degree allows the student to 
become a generalist and may allow pre-professional or nontraditional career students greater 
flexibility in planning for their unique futures. Most recent data indicates there were 255 
majors and 143 graduates. : G

 MALS ʹ increased admissions. 
 Monitor ACT outcomes of the BGS program. 
 Especially for the undergraduate program, consider targeted advising programs 
to move students towards completion in a timely manner. Targeted advising 
may also allow students the opportunity to learn about other in-demand 
programs across the University (i.e., engineering, health professions). 
 
By April 1, 2012 (send to the Office of the Provost): 
 Efforts should be made to document that the program review process is a part of 
a continuous improvement approach involving interdisciplinary departmental 
faculty members. 
 The learning outcomes for both programs should be further developed and a 
revised assessment process needs to be implemented to include the following: 
o Learning Outcomes: Statements that describe what students are 
expected to know and be able to do by the time of graduation. These 
relate to the skills, knowledge, and behaviors that students acquire 
through their program (e.g., graduates will demonstrate advanced 
writing ability). 
o Assessment Methods: Direct measures used to identify, collect, and 
prepare data to evaluate the achievement of learning outcomes (e.g., 
writing project evaluated by a rubric). 
o Targets: Expectations of students to achieve the desired outcome to 
demonstrate program effectiveness (e.g., 90% of students will 
demonstrate at least the benchmark performance on a writing project). 
o Results: Actual achievement on each measurement (e.g., 94% of the 
students achieved at least the benchmark performance on the writing 
project). 
o Analysis: An evaluation that determines the extent to which learning 
outcomes are being achieved and leads to decisions and actions to 
improve the program. The analysis and evaluation should align with 
specific learning outcomes and consider whether the measurement and 
target remain valid indicators of the learner. 
 
Prior to the next review in 2014: 
 Data should be collected and evaluated in terms of student perceptions about 
the program. The University implemented an electronic undergraduate and 
graduate student exit survey in 2011 (by program) for this purpose. 
 Data should be collected and evaluated from all program graduates to include 
salary, employment location, and employment in the field. The University is 
implementing an alumni survey (by program) for this purpose in 2012.