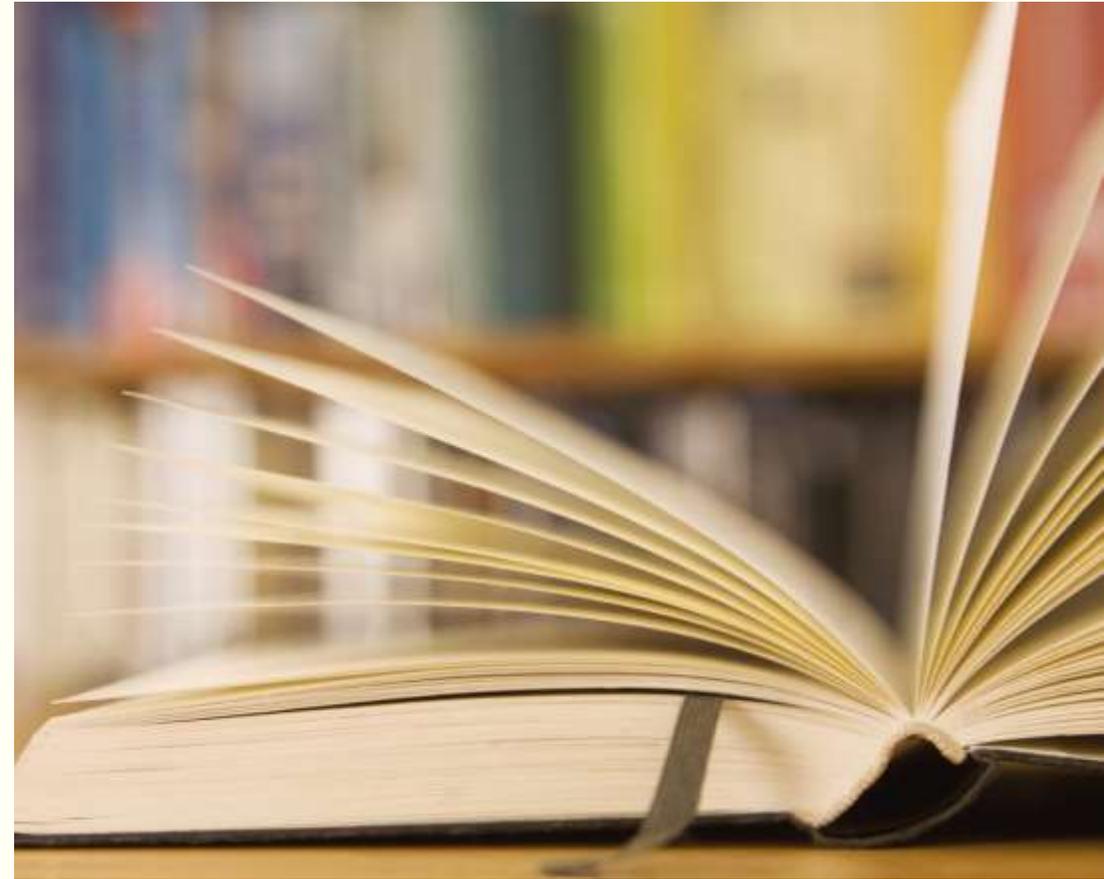




LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM REVIEW

2018-2019

Prepared by Patricia Portanova



Mission Statement

“The Associate Degree in Liberal Arts is designed to prepare students for future enrollment in Bachelor Degree programs while exploring potential careers. The program’s mission is to provide students with the knowledge to be informed and responsible critical thinkers in an ever-changing world. Through a multi-disciplinary approach to coursework, students are exposed to the skills needed to become active participants in their society.”



Liberal Arts Program Requirements



Required
Classes



ENG 101: English Composition I
3 credits



ENG 102: English Composition II
3 credits

Liberal Arts Program Requirements



Electives

Behavioral Science
6 credits

History &
Government
6 credits

Fine & Perf Arts/For
Lang/Phi & Rel
6 credits

Literature
6 credits

Math
3 credits

Science
8 credits

Liberal Arts
12 credits

Free
9 credits

Learning Outcomes

The Liberal Arts Associate Degree program assists students in the development of:

1. Knowledge concerning the broad aspects and interconnectedness of the Liberal Arts attained through a multi-disciplinary approach. The graduating student will be able to:

- **Describe the major concepts and theories studied in the broad array of liberal arts courses.**
- **Articulate the relationships among the various liberal arts courses and discuss multiple perspectives afforded by the various disciplines.**
- **Articulate and employ the benefits of liberal arts as they apply to civic engagement, careers, and service.**

2. Written communication skills.

3. Oral communication skills.

4. Information literacy skills.

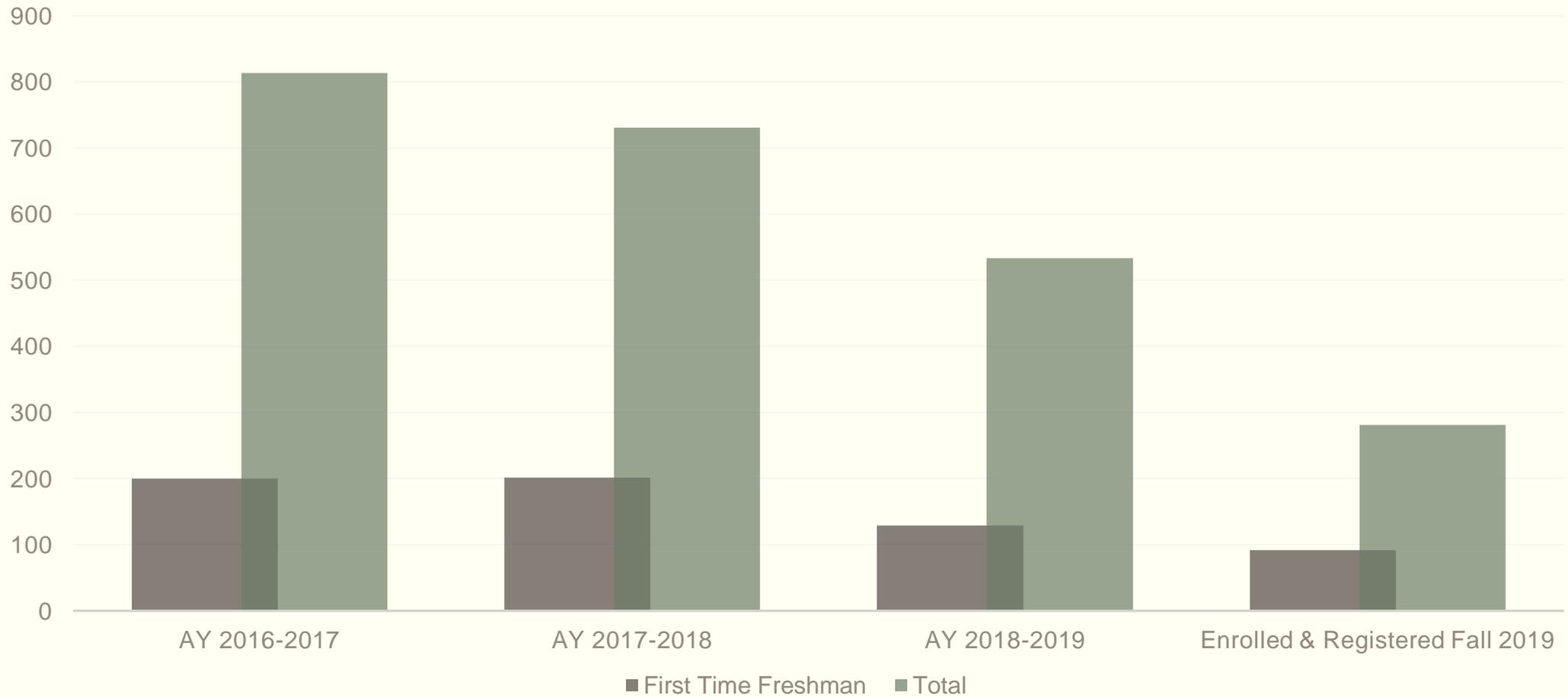
5. Quantitative reasoning skills.

6. Global awareness skills.

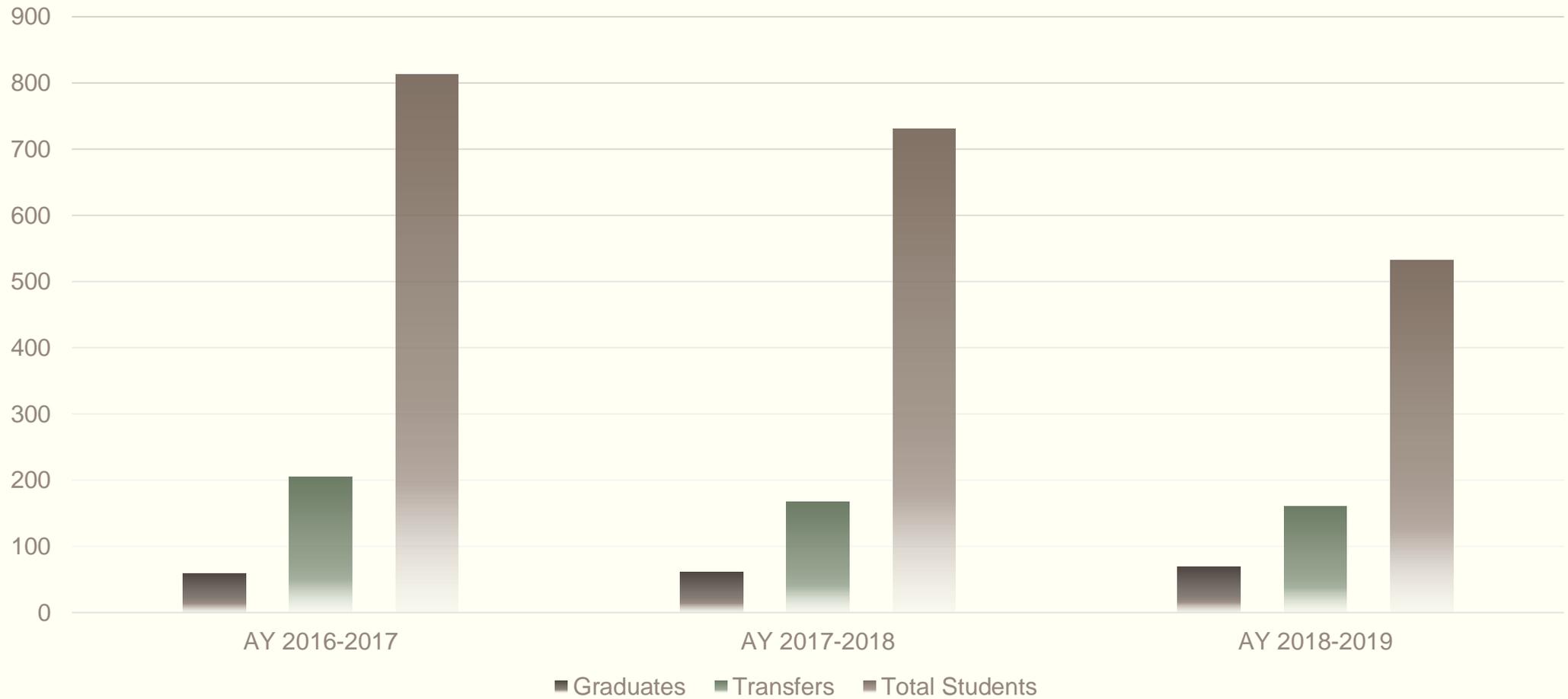
7. Science and technology skills

*Learning Outcome 1 is the only outcome specific to the Liberal Arts Program. The other learning outcomes are tied to the Core Skills that are required of all NECC students.

Enrollment in Liberal Arts Associate Degree 2016-2019



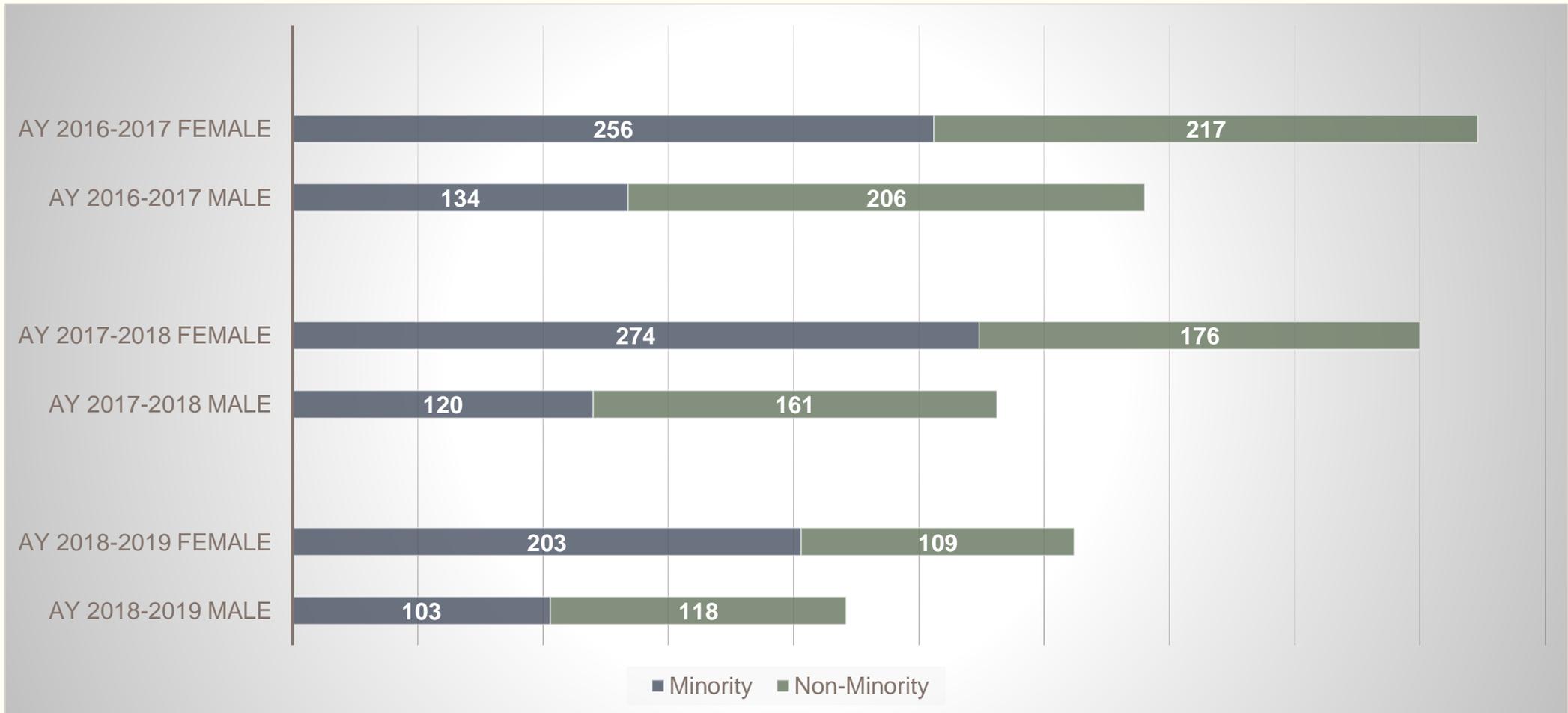
Graduates and Transfers 2016-2019



Graduates and Transfers 2016-2019

2016/2017	Graduation Rate: 7.4%
	Transfer Rate: 25.2%
2017/2018	Graduation Rate: 8.5%
	Transfer Rate: 22.9%
2018/2019	Graduation Rate: 12.9%
	Transfer Rate 30.2%

Student Demographics 2016-2019





LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM REVIEW

Strengths

Strengths

- **critical inquiry**: the program offers students an opportunity to obtain the skills needed to be active participants in their society while supporting the College's Core Values of **student engagement**, **collaboration** and **professional development**, as well as supporting the College's Strategic Goals.
- **transferability** to four-year institutions and **alignment** with Mass Transfer; **flexibility** in electives with a **guided pathway** for more structure; many opportunities for students to accomplish the six core skills.

Strengths

- **dedicated faculty** who support, and teach in, the Liberal Arts program are dedicated practitioners who maintain a high-quality educational program and participate in **continued professional development**.
- consistently engaged in **curriculum assessment** with a long-term assessment plan; curricular changes are based on data.
- **growing opportunities for career exploration**, including NECC Link, career panels, and career-related workshops coordinated with Career Services.



LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM REVIEW

Opportunities for Improvement

Recommendations

Opportunity

increased attention to tangible measures of success, such as transfer and graduation, is necessary.

Recommendation

Create a culture of ongoing advising to support students at every stage of their educational journey. Include adjunct faculty in advising—particularly evening and part-time students.

Recommendations

Opportunity

The flexibility of program electives makes it challenging to ensure that Liberal Arts Associate Degree students gain “knowledge of the Liberal Arts disciplines and their interconnectedness.”

Recommendation

Develop and implement a required, and transferable, interdisciplinary **introductory*** course for all Liberal Arts students that explore the Liberal Arts, provide structured opportunities for transfer and career-exploration.

Recommendations

Opportunity

Current Liberal Arts faculty are dedicated to creating ample opportunities for student learning in and out of the classroom, but there are not enough full-time faculty to support all aspects of the Liberal Arts Program—particularly the arts.

Recommendation

Hire more full-time faculty, particularly in Theater, Music, and Language to manage theater productions, oversee student publications, and reinvigorate the intellectual community in the Liberal Arts Program through the arts.

Recommendations

Opportunity

Rates of student retention, transfer and graduation need to increase.

Recommendation

In addition to a required capstone course, create stronger links between the Liberal Arts curriculum and the Center for Liberal Arts to encourage student sense of belonging. Develop stronger connections with local colleges (e.g. UMASS Lowell, Regis, Merrimac, etc.) and clearer transfer processes.

Recommendations

Opportunity

The current assessment plan for the Liberal Arts program reveals a gap in assessing one objective: “knowledge of the Liberal Arts discipline and their interconnectedness.”

Recommendation

The recommended Liberal Arts capstone course would allow for quality assessment of the program, as the course objectives would align with the outcomes of the Liberal Arts program.

Recommendations

Opportunity

The current assessment plan for the Liberal Arts program reveals a gap in assessing one objective: “knowledge of the Liberal Arts discipline and their interconnectedness.”

Recommendation

The recommended Liberal Arts introductory course would allow for quality assessment of the program, as the course objectives would align with the outcomes of the Liberal Arts program. Revise existing curriculum map and assessment plan.

Recommendations

Opportunity

Although there are growing opportunities for career exploration, these are implemented piece-meal. As a result, these opportunities do not meet the needs of all Liberal Arts students.

Recommendation

In addition to developing a Liberal Arts-focused internship course, the recommended Liberal Arts introductory course would include structured career-exploration. Create an Advisory Board of alumni, local business leaders, community leaders, and faculty.

Review Committee

Kristi Arford	Professor of Anthropology, Chairperson of Behavioral Science
Stephen Russell	Professor of History, Field-Trip Extraordinaire
Patricia Machado	Professor of Economics, Chairperson of Global Studies
Janel D'Agata Lynch	Coordinator of Civic Engagement & Service-Learning, Adjunct
Michelle Sunday	Director of Transfer, Articulation, and Academic Advising
Duane Roen	Vice Provost, Arizona State University, External Reviewer

Action Plan

- Continue to revise Liberal Arts Guided Pathway to offer more structure for Liberal Arts students while maintaining some choice in electives.
- Research interdisciplinary Liberal Arts/Humanities courses at other institutions.
- Develop a Liberal Arts capstone course in consort with Liberal Arts faculty and the Director of Transfer, Articulation, and Advising and propose the course through AAC.
- Re-design the Liberal Arts Curriculum Map and Assessment Plan.
- Continue to plan career panels/networking opportunities for Liberal Arts students (next one is in March!)
- Ramp up marketing and recruitment of Liberal Arts students.
- Collaborate with Advising to create more structured opportunities for continued advising training for Liberal Arts faculty.