

EPC 14-Day Clock Memo

TO: All Faculty
FROM: Educational Policies Committee
SUBJECT: Notice of Curriculum Changes
DATE: October 17, 2025

The 14-day review period begins October 17, 2025 and ends October 31, 2025

This notice of Curriculum Changes is published as required by the EPC Manual, which is located in the Faculty Handbook. The following paragraph may be found in Section III, Part VI, Section 3, "Procedures Governing Revision of Curriculum and Degree Requirements":

F: Faculty members must submit objections to proposals in writing to the Chair of EPC via facgov@plu.edu within 14 days from the date listed on the 14-Day Notice of Curriculum Changes distributed by the EPC. Objections received within this 14-day period will suspend approval, pending resolution of the objections. In the event a dispute cannot be resolved, EPC will make its recommendation to the faculty for action at the next regular faculty meeting.

Complete copies of the proposals may be obtained from the Provost's Office or from Erik Hammerstrom, Chair of the Educational Policies Committee for the 2025-26 academic year.

Curriculum Changes for Review – Summary

- **Computer Science** – new degree*
- **Hispanic Studies** – change major, minor requirement
- **Political Science** – add permanent Core Curriculum course

*Type 3 proposal requiring a vote at Faculty Assembly

Curriculum Changes for Information Only – Summary

- **Economics** – reactivation of courses
- **Global Studies** – add Core Curriculum element to a special topic course
- **Hispanic Studies** – eliminate continuation policy
- **History** – change course description; add Core Curriculum element to special topic courses
- **Political Science** – add Core Curriculum element to a special topic course
- **Religion** – reactivation of formerly offered course

Curriculum Changes for Review

Deletions are indicated by ~~blue strikethrough~~ | Additions are indicated in **blue bold**
For conciseness, courses and catalog language sections that are not being changed, are not listed.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Fall 2026

Type 3 – new degree*

*Type 3 proposal requiring a vote at Faculty Assembly

[Link to MS in Cybersecurity proposal](#)

Catalog

The Master of Science in Cybersecurity prepares students by equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the complex challenges of protecting information systems and data. Graduates are prepared for various roles in the cybersecurity field, with a focus on the technical aspects of the discipline as well as some aspects of management and law.

Admission to the M.S. in Cybersecurity program is based on a holistic review of the applicant's academic preparation, work and volunteer experiences, and potential contributions to the classroom experience, the profession of cybersecurity, and society. Review of applications and acceptance into the program is determined by faculty evaluation. Review is based on the following requirements:

- **Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with at least a 3.0 GPA.**
- **Knowledge of computer networking, computer programming, and mathematics. This can be demonstrated by the following:**
 - **Computer programming**
 - **Education: an introduction to programming course(s) in Java, C#, C++, C, or Python, including data structures.**
 - **Professional experience in programming**
 - **Networking**
 - **Education: an introductory computer networking course**
 - **Professional experience and/or certification in an applicable credential such as CompTIA Network+, CCNA, etc.**
 - **Mathematics**
 - **Education: courses in discrete structures and introductory statistics**

Application materials

- Official transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended
- A personal essay describing your reasons for pursuing this degree.
- Programming, networking and mathematics: Please describe where you acquired your knowledge of computer networking, programming and mathematics. It might be from a college course, work experience, or self-taught.
- A resume or vita

Guaranteed Graduate Admission – MS in Cybersecurity

PLU's Guaranteed Graduate Admission process provides qualified students with an expedited pathway to the Master of Science in Cybersecurity.

Eligibility:

Current PLU students majoring in Computer Science (BS or BA) or Data Science (BS) with a minimum GPA of 3.0 who have completed CSCI 386, and PLU Computer Science or Data Science minors who have completed CSCI 270 and CSCI 386 and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher qualify for guaranteed admission.

This streamlines the admission process for high-achieving PLU students, offering a direct path from undergraduate study to the advanced Cybersecurity program.

Students who meet the eligibility requirements will receive a form that serves as their application. By completing and submitting this form, students can indicate their interest in joining the program.

Master of Science - Cybersecurity 36 semester hours

- CSCI 501: Cybersecurity Fundamentals (4)
- CSCI 510: Ethics, Risk Management and Cyber Law (4)
- CSCI 520: Secure Software Development (4)
- CSCI 525: Network Security (4)
- CSCI 530: Ethical Hacking (4)
- CSCI 540: Security Operations, Incident Response and Forensics (4)
- CSCI 545: Cybersecurity Lab (4)
- CSCI 550: AI and Cybersecurity (4)
- CSCI 599: Cybersecurity Capstone (4)

Courses

CSCI 501: Cybersecurity Fundamentals

A survey of the fundamental concepts, principles, and practices of cybersecurity. Designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the field. Includes topics such as: basic cryptography, secure development lifecycle; common threats, vulnerabilities and exploits; confidentiality, integrity and availability; information lifecycle; privacy considerations; legal and regulatory issues. (4)

CSCI 510: Ethics, Risk Management and Cyber Law

This course explores risk management and incident response, ethics, policy and law from a cybersecurity perspective. Includes topics such as: ethics frameworks; professional ethical obligations; ethical decision making; local and federal policy; privacy; legal and regulatory issues; risk management; risk assessment and analysis; cybercrime. (4)

CSCI 520: Secure Software Development

This course provides an exploration of secure software development practices, emphasizing the integration of security throughout the software development lifecycle (SDLC). Students will learn to identify vulnerabilities, apply secure coding techniques, and implement security measures in software design and architecture. (4)

CSCI 525: Network Security

This course explores the concepts, technologies, and methodologies used to secure networks. It covers a range of topics from fundamental principles to advanced security techniques, preparing students to design, implement, and manage secure network infrastructures. Prerequisite CSCI 501. (4)

CSCI 530: Ethical Hacking

Explores the techniques and tools used by ethical hackers to identify vulnerabilities and assess and enhance the security posture of systems and networks. Students will explore the ethical and legal implications of hacking, distinguishing between malicious hacking and ethical practices aimed at improving security. Topics include penetration testing methodologies, vulnerability assessment, and the use of various hacking tools and techniques. (4)

CSCI 540: Security Operations, Incident Response and Forensics

Students will explore the critical functions of a Security Operations Center (SOC), including threat detection, incident response, and continuous monitoring. The curriculum emphasizes the importance of establishing robust security frameworks and protocols to protect sensitive information and maintain compliance with industry regulations. Topics include the use of Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) systems, and the

implementation of threat intelligence to enhance situational awareness. The topic of digital forensics is covered, where students will gain hands-on experience with forensic tools and methodologies to investigate cyber incidents. Topics such as network forensics, malware analysis, and mobile device forensics will be explored, equipping students with the skills to analyze and interpret digital evidence. Additionally, the course will cover incident response strategies, including preparation, detection, analysis, containment, eradication, and recovery. Students will learn how to develop and implement incident response plans, conduct post-incident reviews, and communicate effectively with stakeholders during and after security events. (4)

CSCI 545: Cybersecurity Lab

This lab course provides students with practical experience in various aspects of cybersecurity, including network security, penetration testing, incident response, and secure coding practices. Students will engage in hands-on exercises, simulations, and projects that reinforce their understanding of cybersecurity concepts and tools. Prerequisites CSCI 525, 530, and 540. (4)

CSCI 550: AI and Cybersecurity

This course explores the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity, focusing on how AI technologies can enhance security measures and how they can also introduce new vulnerabilities. Students will gain understanding of AI applications in threat detection, incident response, and risk management as well as the ethical implications and challenges associated with these technologies. (4)

CSCI 599: Cybersecurity Capstone

This can take one of two forms: internship or project. With the internship option, students secure and complete a cybersecurity-related internship, working with a faculty sponsor to set and assess learning goals. The project option involves the completion and presentation of an independent study project that makes use of the knowledge obtained from the program's curriculum to form connections between academic concepts and the application of those concepts in a real-world setting. Students present their work at the end of the program and produce a comprehensive report. (4)

HISPANIC STUDIES

Fall 2026

Type 2 – change major, minor requirement

Catalog

Major in Hispanic Studies

A minimum of 36 semester hours ~~beyond HISP 103~~, including:

Latino Studies courses are taught in English. No more than one course taught in English may count towards the major.

Foundational Courses

~~4-20~~ 28 semester hours, depending on entry level

- **HISP 103: Accelerated Elementary Spanish (4)**
- HISP 201: Intermediate Spanish (4)
- HISP 202: Intermediate Spanish (4)
- LTST 241: Introduction to Latino Studies (4)
- HISP 252: Spanish for Heritage Speakers (4)
- HISP 300: Spanish Conversation (4)
- HISP 301 or 351: Hispanic Voices for Social Change/Hispanic Voices for Heritage Speakers (4)
- HISP 331: Intensive Spanish Language and Culture (Study Away) (4)

Exploring Literary, Linguistic, and Cultural Studies

~~12 4-~~28 semester hours, selected from the following:

- HISP 321: Iberian Cultural Studies (4)
- HISP 322: Latin American Cultural Studies (4)
- HISP 325: Introduction to Hispanic Literary Studies (4)
- LTST 341: Latino/a/x Experiences in the U.S. (4)
- LTST 342: U.S. Latino/a/x Literary and Cultural Studies (4)
- HISP 401: Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics (4)
- HISP 403: Advanced Spanish (Study Away) (4)
- HISP 423: Special Topics in Iberian Literatures & Cultures (4)
- HISP 433: Special Topics in Latin American Literatures & Cultures (4)

Minor in Hispanic Studies

20 semester hours ~~beyond HISP 103~~, including:

Latino Studies courses are taught in English. No more than one course taught in English may count towards the minor.

Foundational Courses

4-20 semester hours, depending on entry level

- **HISP 103: Accelerated Elementary Spanish (4)**
- HISP 201: Intermediate Spanish (4)
- HISP 202: Intermediate Spanish (4)

- LTST 241: Introduction to Latino Studies (4)
- HISP 252: Spanish for Heritage Speakers (4)
- HISP 300: Spanish Conversation (4)
- HISP 301 or 351: Hispanic Voices for Social Change/Hispanic Voices for Heritage Speakers (4)
- HISP 331: Intensive Language and Culture (Study Away) (4)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

J-Term 2026

Type 2 – add permanent core curriculum course

Course

POLS 240: Political Activism - ES

This course is designed to help students identify ways that they might contribute to the betterment of the communities for which they are a part through engagement with the political process. In addition to working on their own social action work, students will engage with the long history of political activism in this country and the ways that that previous work has shaped the contemporary political landscape. (4)

Curriculum Changes for Information Only

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ECONOMICS

J-Term 2026

Type 1 – reactivation of courses

Courses

Econ 311 : ~~Dynamic Modeling~~ Natural Resources Economics

An introduction to **the economic principles governing natural resource management, with emphasis on** dynamic modeling and optimization. ~~with consideration of both market and socially optimal outcomes. Examples used include fisheries, forestry, mining, renewable energy and sustainability. Topics include non-market valuation, renewable and nonrenewable resource use, sustainability, and globalization.~~ Extensive use of spreadsheets to build and solve dynamic resource allocation problems. **Applications include outdoor recreation, mineral extraction, land use, and fisheries.** Prerequisite: ECON 101 ~~or 111 and MATH 128~~ or consent of instructor. (4)

Econ 341 : Strategic Behavior

An introduction to game theory and analysis of interactive decision processes. Interactive game playing, cases, and examples drawn primarily from economics, but **applications also includes sports, political science, business, and biology strategic decisions in international relations, environmental resource management, biology, sports, business, and political science.** Prisoner's Dilemma, sequential games, Nash equilibrium, mixed and pure strategies, collective action and bidding strategies, bargaining. Prerequisites: ECON 101 ~~or 111~~, or consent of instructor. (4)

GLOBAL STUDIES

J-Term 2026

Type 1 – add core element to special topics course

Course

GLST 387 : Special Topics in Global Studies

To provide undergraduate students with new, one-time, and developing courses not yet available in the regular curriculum. The title will be listed on the student term-based record as ST: followed by the specific title designated by the academic unit. (1 to 4)

NOTE: The Core Curriculum Committee grants a one time approval for the Core Curriculum element “IT” to be added to GLST 287 Special Topics, (*Hollywood goes to Africa!*), to be taught in J-Term 2026.

HISPANIC STUDIES

Fall 2026

Type 1 – eliminate continuation policy

Catalog

In the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures section of the catalog:

Limitations: All Baccalaureate Degrees

(All credit hours referred to in listings of requirements are semester hours.)

Total Required Hours and Cumulative GPA

A minimum of 128 semester hours must be completed with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.00. A 2.50 is required in the Schools of Business and Education and Kinesiology, plus the Departments of Economics, History, ~~Languages and Literatures (Hispanic Studies)~~, Sociology & Criminal Justice, and Social Work.

In the major in Hispanic Studies section of the catalog:

~~Continuation Policy~~

~~To remain in the Hispanic Studies major, students must maintain a 2.50 overall grade point average (GPA) and maintain a 2.50 GPA in all Hispanic and Latino Studies courses required for the major or the minor.~~

HISTORY

Type 1 – change course description

Fall 2026

Course:

HIST 251 : Colonial American History - IT

This course examines the colonial period in American history through the Revolution, in order to understand that world on its own terms, as well as to assess colonial legacies for U.S. culture and society. Topics include imperial goals, Native sovereignty, settler dynamics, slavery, as well as resistance and revolt. This course explores how the diverse range of

people in Colonial America tried to shape their own lives and the world around them. (4)

~~The history of what became the United States, from the settlement of America to the election of Thomas Jefferson as the third President of the United States in 1800. It will pay particular attention to three periods – the years of settlement, the era of adjustment to an imperial system around the turn of the 18th century, and the revolt against that system in the second half of the 18th century, which culminated in the creation of the American union. Emphasizes certain themes: the origins of racism and slavery, the course of the religious impulse in an increasingly secularized society, and finally, the ideological and constitutional transition from royal government and the rights of Englishmen to republicanism, and popular sovereignty. (4)~~

Type 1 – add Core Curriculum Element to Special Topics courses

Courses

HIST 288 : Special Topics in European History

To provide undergraduate students with new, one-time, and developing courses not yet available in the regular curriculum. The title will be listed on the student term-based record as ST: followed by the specific title designated by the academic unit. (1 to 4)

NOTE:

The Core Curriculum Committee grants a one time approval for the Core Curriculum element “IT” to be added to HIST 288 Special Topics (*Italian Renaissance*), to be taught in J-Term 2026.

HIST 289 : Special Topics in Non-Western History

This course offers students the opportunity to enhance cultural understanding through the examination of non-Western cultures. (1 to 4)

NOTE:

The Core Curriculum Committee grants approval for the Core Curriculum element “RL” to be added to HIST 289 (*Islamic Civilization: Globalization and Diversity of Islam*), for J-Term and Spring 2026.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

J-Term 2026

Type 1 – add Core Curriculum Element to Special Topics course

Courses

POLS 287 : Special Topics in Political Science

To provide undergraduate students with new, one-time, and developing courses not yet available in the regular curriculum. The title will be listed on the student term-based record as ST: followed by the specific title designated by the academic unit. (1 to 4)

NOTES:

The Core Curriculum Committee grants a one time approval for the Core Curriculum element “ES” to be added to POLS 287 (*Our Polarized Supreme Court: How Do Judges Make Decisions?*), to be taught in J-term 2026.

The Core Curriculum Committee grants a one time approval for the Core Curriculum element “ES” to be added to POLS 287 (*Polarization and Politics*), to be taught in J-term 2026.

RELIGION

J-Term 2026

Type 1 – reactivation of formerly offered course

Course

RELI 223 : American Christianity - VW

History of Christianity in North America, with a particular focus on the United States. Course covers the interaction of Christianity with social and political issues; including, immigration, slavery, the civil rights movement, and feminism. (4)