

Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Social Justice in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Description of program. The BA in Social Justice integrates theory and real-world field experiences to provide an intersectional and situated understanding conditions for political and personal change, and the history of social movements. It is comprised of courses examining the arts, history, literature, comparative religious studies, political science, philosophy, health education, and gender, women's and sexuality studies.

Reason for proposed termination. The BA in social justice was launched in 2016. The largest number of social justice majors was recorded in the fall of 2021 at 55 students; however, in fall 2024, only 24 students were enrolled. Due to the departure and retirement in 2022 of two key faculty members who proposed and implemented the major, the BA in social justice has been hampered by staffing shortages. The college has chosen not to replace those faculty members because of pressing needs in other departments. With no faculty to offer courses on a regular basis, the department has relied on hiring adjunct professors to teach required courses or improvising a teaching format that relies largely on guest lecturers, which is not a sustainable, long-term staffing strategy. Given the declining enrollment and lack of faculty to teach, it is not sustainable to continue the BA in Social Justice.

Effect on current students. Students who are currently declared in the major will be able to finish their program of study.

Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends.

	Applications	Enrollment	Completions
AY23-24	n/a	31	8
AY22-23	n/a	44	12
AY21-22	n/a	53	13
AY20-21	n/a	55	13
AY19-20	n/a	43	8

Impact on resources. It is anticipated that a modest amount of overall cost-savings will result from reduced expenses for adjunct faculty and guest lecturers. Savings will be returned to the college.

Impact on workforce. Workforce needs in the state are not expected to be affected.

Alternative programs. Students who express interest in this area may be guided to other areas of study in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Effective date of termination. Upon approval by the Board no new students will be admitted to the major. Students currently enrolled will receive support to complete their program of study.