

**Application process for Core HUME attribute**  
**25 March 2021**  
**DRAFT FOR FC**

The 500 year old system of Jesuit education is based on a humanist curriculum that includes instruction in language, rhetoric, literature, history, philosophy and theology. This humanist approach is at the heart of Xavier's Core Curriculum, and the centrality of these disciplines is reflected in the common courses that all undergraduate students must complete. In addition to the so-called "Core Courses," students must elect one additional course in the humanities that expands upon the foundational knowledge provided in the Core.

With the adoption of the new Core Curriculum in 2015, a range of courses offered by the Departments of Classics and Modern Languages, English, History, Philosophy, and Theology (hereafter "humanities departments") were designated humanities electives. Each department agreed upon the course numbers that were eligible, and these courses were given the attribute "HUME" in the university catalog as the new Core was implemented.

In the intervening years, a small number of courses taught outside of the humanities departments have been approved to carry the HUME attribute. The attribute was awarded on a case-by-case basis as decided by the members of the Core Curriculum Committee. As Xavier has added new departments and interdisciplinary programs, the case-by-case approach has been deemed insufficient and potentially unfair. The Faculty Committee has instructed the Core Curriculum Committee to solicit feedback from the chairs of the humanities departments to create a formalized application process for the HUME attribute, similar to that which exists for other Core attributes.

The members of the humanities departments affirm that the diversity of methods, objectives, and modes of inquiry make defining the "humanities" difficult. Due to the expansion of interdisciplinary studies in higher education, faculty hired to teach in one discipline may have training or experience as scholars or teachers in another discipline. Thus, faculty in many different disciplines may take a humanist approach to their subject matter, and would therefore be qualified to teach courses which carry the HUME attribute.

The following process has been devised by which instructors in departments or interdisciplinary programs outside of the humanities (as traditionally defined at Xavier) can apply for courses to carry the Core HUME attribute. Together with the members of the Core Curriculum Committee, the chairs of the humanities departments commit to an application process that is comprehensible and transparent. Faculty from any department or interdisciplinary program are eligible to submit a course for approval.

The two criteria by which a course will be evaluated are approach to the subject and qualifications of the instructor. Faculty wishing to apply for a HUME attribute should submit to the chair or co-chair of the Core Curriculum Committee 1) a syllabus for the course that makes clear the approach to the subject, and 2) a CV or other summary of scholarship and experiences

that qualify the instructor to teach in the humanities. Core Curriculum Committee will solicit feedback from the chair of the humanities department to which the qualifications of the instructor and the approach of the course most closely align. If the course and/or instructor take an approach that does not clearly align with a single discipline, the chair or co-chair of the Core Curriculum Committee will solicit feedback from all of the chairs of the humanities departments. To evaluate the qualifications of the instructor, chairs will compare the instructor's qualifications and experience to the criteria for teaching in that discipline that were previously established by the department.

Finally, the chairs recommend that new faculty who are qualified to teach in the humanities should be identified at the point of hire, which will further streamline or potentially obviate the application process.

The application process will eventually be handled via a workflow in SharePoint/Nexus, and will be initiated by a notification to the co-chairs of the CCC. Until that workflow is established, interested faculty should send a course syllabus which includes sufficient information to explain the instructor's approach, and a CV or other document explaining the instructor's qualifications to teach in the humanities to the co-chairs of the CCC at [lebesmuehlbachert@xavier.edu](mailto:lebesmuehlbachert@xavier.edu) or [raya6@xavier.edu](mailto:raya6@xavier.edu).

### How to submit a HUME Proposal:

