

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Resolution to Recommend Approval of the Applied Humanities, B.A. New Degree Proposal
10-25/26-ICC – November 18, 2025 – Curriculum Reading

RESOLVED: That the Applied Humanities, B.A. New Degree Proposal, detailed in proposal [24-2524](#), be approved.

RATIONALE:

The Applied Humanities, B.A. equips students to understand how humanistic knowledge, creativity, and reflection inform and enhance human life, connecting the values and interpretive methods of the Humanities to contemporary social, technological, and professional contexts.

The degree emphasizes transferable, career-relevant skills such as cross-cultural communication, media literacy, ethical reasoning, and leadership, while sustaining an appreciation for the intrinsic value of the Humanities. Through 300 hours of community-based learning and a project-based capstone, students apply humanistic knowledge and methods to civic and professional practice.

Students select one of three emphasis areas that integrate humanistic inquiry with applied and professional pathways:

- Technology and Human Values: Humanities for the Future
- Health Humanities: Practical Ethics for Health and Wellness
- Social Responsibility: Humanities for Organizational Leadership

A required language sequence (6–8 units) supports intercultural competency and global awareness. Collectively, these components prepare students to lead with empathy, creativity, and ethical insight in a complex and interconnected world.

The Applied Humanities, B.A. redefines Humanities education for the twenty-first century, connecting ethical reflection and creativity with applied, career-oriented learning. It demonstrates that a polytechnic university is strengthened by programs that center human experience, sustainability, and civic engagement alongside science and technology, embodying Cal Poly Humboldt’s mission to prepare students for meaningful work, lifelong learning, and leadership in pursuit of a more just and sustainable world.

Program Overview:

- **Total Units:** 120 (including GE and university requirements)
- **Major Requirements:** 41–49 units
 - **Core (17 units):**
 - HUM 101S – Applied Humanities (3)
 - HUM 103 – Applied Storytelling (3)
 - SP 121S – Issues in Community Volunteering (1)

HUM 205 – Navigating Change (3)

PHIL 309B – Perspectives: Humanities/Science/Social Science (3)

HUM/ENST 490S – Applied Capstone (4)

- **Areas of Emphasis (18–24 units):** Students complete six courses, including at least nine upper-division units, in one of three emphasis areas:
 - *Technology and Human Values* – explores the ethical and cultural implications of innovation and technology.
 - *Health Humanities* – examines the intersections of health, culture, communication, and wellness.
 - *Social Responsibility* – integrates the Humanities with organizational leadership and civic engagement.
- **Community-Based Learning (300 hours):** Students complete 300 hours of approved service or community engagement through courses or structured programs such as College Corps, YES, or other service-learning opportunities.
- **Language Requirement (6–8 units):** Two semesters of a language other than English at the college level.

Student Learning Outcomes: Graduates of the Applied Humanities, B.A. will be able to:

1. Gather, evaluate, and employ information in multiple genres of source material. (ILO 3, 5)
2. Demonstrate professionalism in presentation, communication, and collaboration. (ILO 6)
3. Analyze foundational humanities texts and apply their analysis to real-world circumstances. (ILO 4, 5)
4. Articulate the value of the humanities in developing effective leaders. (ILO 4)
5. Develop skills and abilities necessary to succeed within their chosen emphasis area or professional pathway. (ILO 3, 4)

Alignment With Polytechnic Build-Out:

The Applied Humanities, B.A. fulfills the polytechnic vision described in the *Cal Poly Humboldt Polytechnic Prospectus* by ensuring that applied learning extends beyond the sciences into human-centered, ethical, and civic domains. As the Prospectus notes, Humboldt’s polytechnic mission is defined by hands-on learning, interdisciplinary collaboration, and sustainability, including “an education grounded in the liberal arts and a strong understanding of sustainability.”

The Applied Humanities degree embodies this by:

- **Integrating applied humanities with sustainability and equity.** Students explore the moral, cultural, and social dimensions of technology, health, and leadership through applied projects that support local and global communities.
- **Providing hands-on, workforce-connected learning.** Through service learning, storytelling, digital media, and public humanities projects, students gain experience

relevant to careers in education, health, policy, communication, and technology management.

- **Linking liberal arts to STEM and applied sciences.** The program complements Humboldt’s science and technology strengths by cultivating the ethical reflection, communication, and cultural awareness needed in complex problem-solving.
- **Advancing social sustainability.** Aligning with the “three-legged stool” model of environmental, social, and economic sustainability, the Applied Humanities program focuses on social and cultural dimensions—ensuring that technological and scientific progress remains grounded in human values.

Through these contributions, the Applied Humanities, B.A. anchors the polytechnic build-out in the liberal arts foundation articulated by the CSU and the Chancellor’s Office, ensuring that Humboldt’s designation as a polytechnic university includes programs that connect applied knowledge to ethical leadership, cultural literacy, and civic engagement.

Program Demand And Workforce Alignment:

Applied Humanities responds to workforce needs for adaptable, ethical, and communicative professionals. Job sectors include education, health care, public service, communications, and technology management. According to national employment data, employers seek graduates with strong analytical, creative, and leadership skills, core outcomes of this program.

Related Proposals:

- [HUM - 101S - 24-2752 - New Course - Applied Humanities](#)
- [HUM - 103 - 24-3020 - New Course - Applied Storytelling](#)
- [SP - 121S - 25-3030 - Course Change - Issues in Community Volunteering](#)
- [HUM - 205 - 24-2754 - New Course - Navigating Change](#)
- [HUM - 490S - 24-2869 - New Course - Applied / Service Learning Capstone Experience](#)
- [ENST - 490S - 24-2867 - Course Change - Applied / Service Learning Capstone Experience](#)
- [NAS - 392 - 24-2968 - Course Reactivation - Indigenous Film, Media, and Digital Sovereignty](#)
- [PHIL - 311S - 24-2805 - New Course - Introduction to Care Ethics](#)
- [RS - 309W - 24-2919 - New Course - Death and the Good Life](#)

Note on Document Preparation: Portions of this resolution were developed with the support of artificial intelligence tools to enhance consistency, formatting, and clarity. All content originates from the official proposal documents and aligns with Chancellor’s Office documentation standards. Each resolution is reviewed and finalized collaboratively by the Integrated Curriculum Committee Chair, committee members, and the proposal authors, with opportunities for revision prior to submission for Senate consideration.