

Proposed Motion  
Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate  
University of South Carolina

Brief Title of Proposed Change	Modifying degree requirement for number of hours at the 400 level for the Liberal Studies degree program
Committee Proposing Revision	System Affairs
Date of Presentation to Senate	4/7/17
Senate Approval Date	4/7/17

### Rationale for Proposed Revisions

- Recommended by PC Faculty Advisory Committee
- Currently, the Liberal Studies degree program requires of the Major that:  
*“All courses must be at the upper level with at least 15 hours at the 400-level or above. All grades must be C or better. A minimum of 12 hours is required in each of the two disciplines. At least 15 hours must be USC courses. No more than 12 hours of the major will be accepted in transfer.”*
- Feedback from advisors and students **in Sociology** expressed concern about the requirement for “15 hours at the 400-level or above,” because they have limited courses at the 400 level. This requires many exceptions and waivers to this rule. The initial purpose of creating the rule was to ensure sufficient rigor in the major. However, at USC, course numbering systems vary by discipline, and do not necessarily indicate more rigorous courses at the 400 level versus the 300 level. (For example, the Sociology Department has few or any 400 level courses, and in the History department 400 level courses are reserved for non-U.S. history, whereas 300-level courses are for U.S. history.)

### Summary of Proposed Revisions

*“All courses must be at the upper level with at least 15 hours at the 400-level or above, **with the exception of Sociology, in which the following 300 level courses may be substituted for 400 level courses: SOCY 304, 305, 312, 320, 323, 340.** All grades must be C or better. A minimum of 12 hours is required in each of the two disciplines. At least 15 hours must be USC courses. No more than 12 hours of the major will be accepted in transfer.”*