

CLAS-Honors Preceptors at the University of Maine

Defining and Supporting Alternative Faculty Models

CCAS, 2011

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CLAS-Honors Preceptors

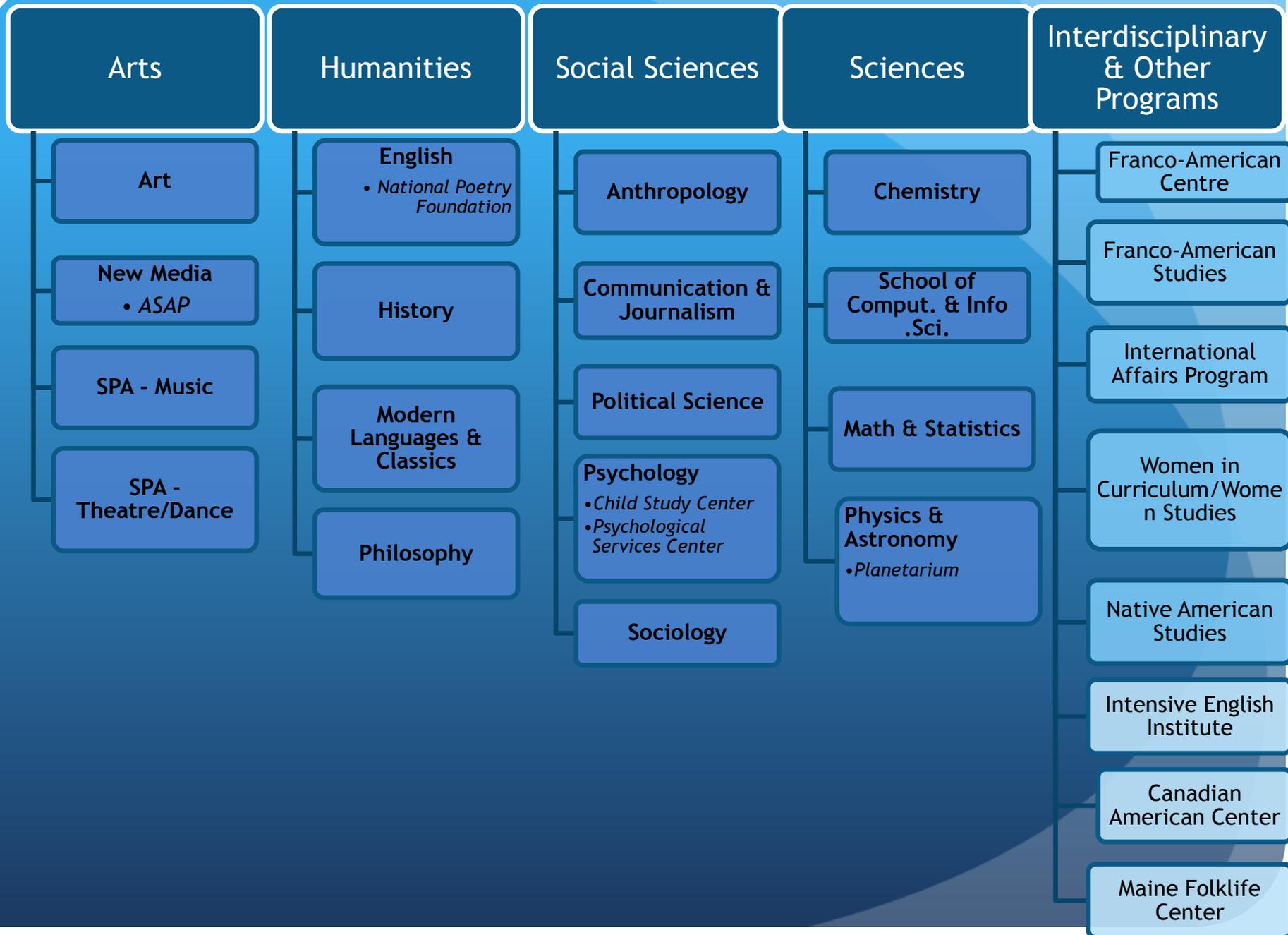
- The story
- The process
- The challenges



The Story

- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

CLAS 2011-2012



The Story

- CLAS Dean's Action Plan - January 2010.
 - Five action items
- “One hallmark of a liberal arts education at a research institution is the opportunity for students to participate in the creation of new knowledge. *We will grow the opportunities for students to participate in research and creative activities.*”

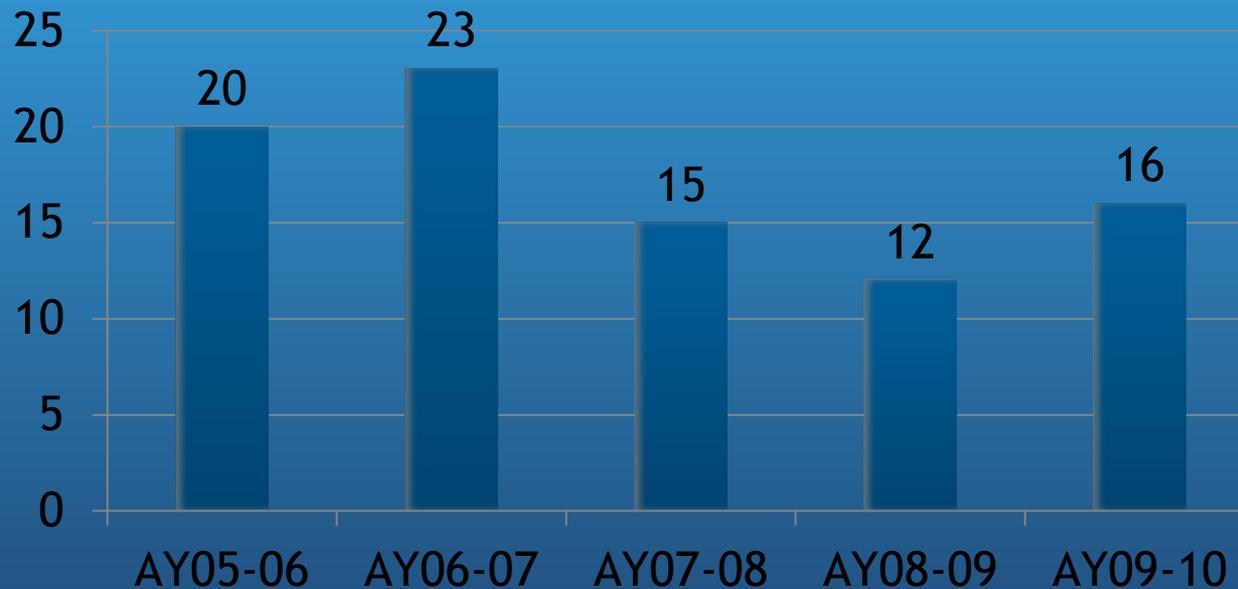
The Story

- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- The Honors College



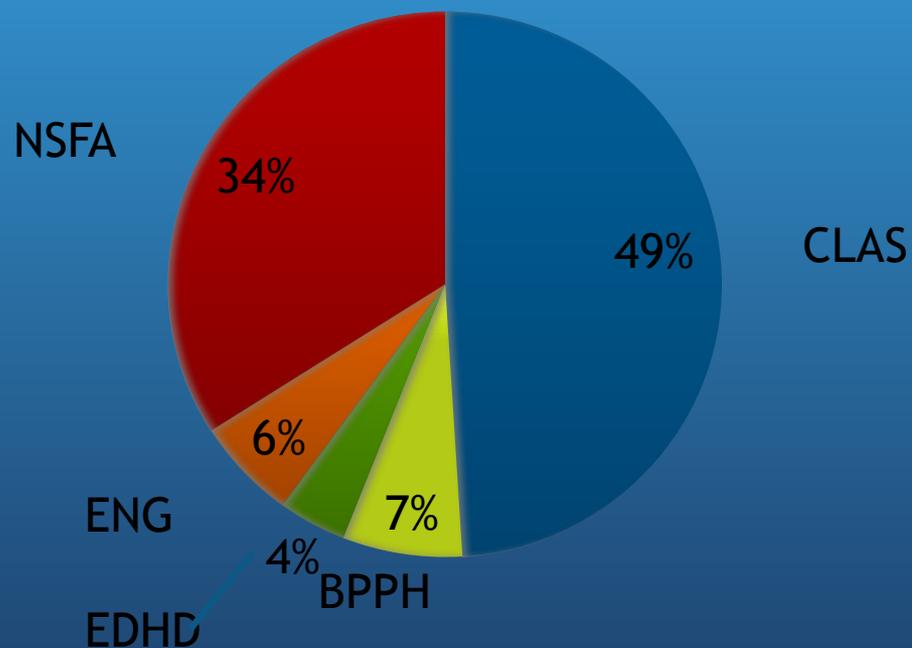
- Core curriculum model
- Honors Thesis
- Faculty
 - regular faculty buy-out or overload
 - Adjuncts
 - 2 instructors

Honors Core Curriculum Sections Taught by CLAS Faculty



Number of Honors core curriculum sections taught
by faculty from 4 other colleges combined = 0

Honors Degrees 2005-2006 through 2009-2010



The Story

- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- The Honors College
- UMaine150

CLAS-Honors Preceptors: The Process

- Defining the positions

Description

- CLAS-Honors Preceptors are teacher-scholars committed to interdisciplinary pedagogy and scholarship. Preceptors are appointed jointly in the Honors College and a disciplinary unit of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the rank of Lecturer. Preceptors engage undergraduate students in the classroom and beyond its walls, as teachers, mentors, and advisors. They value disciplinary and interdisciplinary teaching at all levels from first-year experiences through senior-level thesis advising. As members of the Honors College faculty, they are part of a community of scholars who together explore questions both within and beyond their various disciplines. As members of their disciplinary unit, they champion pedagogical innovation, interdisciplinary interactions, and undergraduate-involved scholarship.

Goals

- To strengthen the Honors College by increasing the size of the faculty and growing the course offerings.
- To increase the opportunities for undergraduate students to involve themselves in research and creative activities.
- To meet the demand for instruction in the liberal arts and sciences with high-quality full-time faculty.

CLAS-Honors Preceptors: Responsibilities

- Teaching three courses a semester divided between the Honors College, academic unit in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Advising and mentoring students in the disciplinary unit and advising Honors thesis students and serving on thesis committees
- Developing and maintaining a program of scholarship that engages undergraduate students in the discovery process
- Providing service to the academic unit, the colleges, the university and the profession

CLAS-Honors Preceptors: The Process

- Defining the positions
- Finding the right homes

CLAS-Honors Preceptors: RFP

Academic units are encouraged to propose innovative ways in which a CLAS-Honors Preceptor might function to serve the missions of the academic unit, the Honors College and the University. Proposals should describe the minimum and preferred qualifications for the position, the teaching responsibilities within the unit, how undergraduate opportunities for research or creative activities will be increased by the addition of the position, and generally how the unit will support the position. Proposals for CLAS-Honors Preceptors should be **no more than five pages** and will be evaluated against the following criteria, *which reflect the goals of the CLAS-Honors Preceptor positions*.

- Potential for undergraduate-involved research or creative activity and how the unit would support new faculty member's scholarly program.
- History of, and potential for, collaboration with the Honors College.
- Demand for undergraduate instruction in the unit and current ability to meet demand.
- Integration of preceptor into the mission of the unit.

In addition to these criteria, the selection committee would consider the distribution of preceptors across areas of disciplinary specialization.

CLAS-Honors Preceptors: The Selection

- 14 departments submitted proposals
- Four chosen
 - Journalism
 - English
 - Political Science
 - Psychology

CLAS-Honors Preceptors: The Process

- Defining the positions
- Finding the right homes
- Searching for the right people

CLAS-Honors Preceptors: The Search

- Search committee made up of faculty from the department and the Honors College
- Campus interviews included
 - Research colloquium
 - Teaching an honors class

CLAS-Honors Preceptors: The Hires

- Journalism
 - Ph.D. University of Florida
 - Two-years experience at American University - Cairo
 - Columnist for Christian Science Monitor
- English
 - Ph.D. Cornell
 - Medieval studies
 - Speaks 8 languages
- Political Science
 - Ph.D. University of Connecticut
 - Visiting Assistant Professor at James Madison University
- Psychology
 - Ph.D. Baylor
 - Social Psychologist

CLAS-Honors Preceptors: The Challenges

- Evaluation Criteria
 - “undergraduate-engaged research” v. independent research
- The Union
 - Evaluation criteria approval
 - “Preceptor” not in the contract
- Tenure-Track Debate
 - Existing Faculty
 - New Faculty
 - New President
- Dean v. Dean

CLAS-Honors Preceptors

Questions?