PROPOSAL FOR A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Date: November 16, 2025

School/College/Unit: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department/Division: Classics

Certificate Title: Applied Humanities

CIP:

Effective Term: Fall 2026

Which campus(es) will offer this certificate? Athens

Level (Undergraduate, Graduate, or Post-Baccalaureate): Undergraduate

Program Abstract:

The Franklin College of Arts and Sciences seeks to implement a transformational shift in the way its students and faculty engage with the arts and sciences, providing a foundational and supportive platform for the proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities.

The proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities consists of an initial sequence of two gateway courses anchored in transformative texts drawn from a faculty generated list and nine hours of integrated elective coursework in the applied humanities. The certificate is designed for STEM students to meet their career preparation needs. Professional school faculty, industry partners, UGA alumni and stakeholders, and national thought leaders in higher education consistently express the need for STEM graduates who possess deep disciplinary knowledge and technical proficiency combined with knowledge and skills about the human dimension of grand scientific challenges. These include awareness of the historical and cultural dimensions of science and technology, critical analysis of texts, use of theory and frameworks to understand problems, ethical reasoning, communication, and creative capacity for problem-solving. This certificate aims to produce UGA STEM students who deeply understand the human dimension of STEM and can apply a humanities lens to disciplinary problem solving in STEM.

While this certificate is designed for STEM students, it is open to all UGA students who may be interested.

The gateway courses are based on the fundamental premise that transformative texts inform and inspire students, develop their critical thinking and imaginative capacity, improve communication skills, and help them see issues from different perspectives. A collective

intellectual experience based on transformative texts will unite and anchor certificate students in foundational, genuine, and deep engagement with universal inquiry and knowledge. The elective courses are grouped in clusters in the applied humanities and will prepare students for careers in STEM and professional disciplines in the private and public sectors.

The Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities does not require any additional costs, computing/equipment costs, facility needs, or other fiscal needs. Mario Erasmo, Professor and Head of the Department of Classics, will serve as the Program Director. Students will receive additional advisement from their major advisors.

1. Purpose and Educational Objectives
State the purpose and educational objectives of the program. How does this program complement the mission of the institution?

The purposes and educational objectives of the Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities are:

1) Promote humanistic inquiry to immerse students in a common intellectual experience anchored in transformative texts that reflect a variety of genres, time periods, authors, settings, and geographies.

2) Connect the humanities to students' majors and professional aspirations for additional applications of problem-solving of complex and integrated problems.

3) Develop students' core analytical skills that are highly valued by employers, including critical thinking, communication skills, and imaginative capacity.

4) Provide an opportunity for students to pursue a humanities-focused curriculum across disciplines while also fulfilling general education and major requirements.

The Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities meets multiple institutional priorities, including cross-disciplinary opportunities, support for undergraduate student research, and career-placement success. The clusters of study of the elective courses are focused on high demand career tracks.

2. Need for the Program
Explain why this program is necessary.

The proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities aligns with the goals outlined in the USG's 2029 Strategic Plan. One goal directly relevant to this program is the USG's Economic Competitiveness Goal, which states: "The University System of Georgia will play a critical role in developing the talent and knowledge of current and future industry needs in the state of Georgia and beyond." Offering the certificate would also align UGA with peer and aspirational institutions with Applied Humanities programs, which meets one of UGA's 2025 strategic goals.

According to recent reports, 6 in 10 companies fired a recent college graduate in the year of hire. The most cited reasons were poor communication skills (39%), struggles with feedback (38%), and inadequate problem-solving abilities (34%). The proposed certificate prepares undergraduates to be more rounded employees in their careers of choice prepared for adaptive challenges through the acquisition of skills that include evaluating evidence; creative thinking and problem solving; and respectful dialogue.

In addition, provide the following information:
   a. *Semester/Year of Program Initiation:* **Fall 2026**
   b. *Semester/Year of Full Implementation of Program:* **Fall 2026**
   c. *Semester/Year First Certificates will be awarded*: **Spring 2027**
   d. *Annual Number of Graduates expected (once the program is established):* **200-300**
   e. *Projected Future Trends for number of students enrolled in the program:* **It is anticipated that 200 students may enroll in the program.** The Department of Classics has the capacity to manage the administration of the proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities.

The faculty have estimated the number of graduates based on plans for enrollment in the gateway courses FCID 1000 and FCID 1001. The college is launching an initiative to scale enrollment in these courses over time: 500 students per academic year in AY26-27, 1000 students/AY in AY27-28, and 1500 students/AY in AY28-29. The faculty consider 1500 students/AY to be the steady state enrollment in these gateway courses. From that number, it is estimated that ~16% of these students (~250/AY) will continue to complete the remaining three required certificate courses, given the strong student interest captured by survey. These estimates are also based on comparable programs at peer and aspirational institutions, such as Purdue University.

3. Student Demand
   a. *Provide documentation of evidence of student demand for this program, including a student survey.*

   To gauge student demand, a Question Pro survey was sent in April, September, and November 2025 to students majoring in the following representative STEM departments and Schools: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Chemistry; Biology; Genetics; Plant Biology; Microbiology; Geography; Geology; Mathematics; Physics and Astronomy; Psychology; the College of Engineering, and the School of Computing. The survey consisted of two questions:

   1. Are you interested in pursuing an Applied Humanities Certificate Degree (15 hours) that includes 2 gateway courses: FCID 1000/H Introduction to the Humanities and 1001/H Ethics and the Human Experience (6 hours) and 3 elective courses (9 credit hours) in one of the following five areas in the Applied Humanities: · Science and Technological Innovation · Data Science and Logical Reasoning · Environment and Sustainability · Healthcare and Medicine · Management and Organization · Ethics and Leadership

2. Would your current program of study and career preparedness as a STEM/pre-Professional major benefit from pursuing an Applied Humanities Certificate Degree?

	Yes	Respondents	No	Respondents
Question 1	76.19%	96	23.81%	30

	Yes	Respondents	No	Respondents
Question 2	84.92%	107	15.08%	19

b. Provide evidence that demand will be sufficient to sustain reasonable enrollment.

Based on the survey results, there is evidence of student demand. Estimates of student demand are based on interest expressed by students in the survey: 76% expression of interest and 85% expression of the utility of the survey to future careers.

4. Program of Study
Provide a detailed program of study for the certificate program, including:
 a. Specific course prefixes, numbers, and titles
 b. Identify any new courses created for this program

The proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities requires 15 hours. A student must earn a grade of "C" (2.0) or better in all certificate courses. A minimum grade point average of 2.5 across all certificate courses is required to earn the certificate. The certificate is awarded only in conjunction with the completion of baccalaureate requirements at UGA.

Required Courses (6 hours)

Students should complete both of the following gateway courses before enrolling in electives for the certificate program:

- FCID 1000, Introduction to the Humanities (3 hours) – **NEW**
- FCID 1001, Ethics and the Human Experience (3 hours) – **NEW**

Electives (9 hours)

Following completion of FCID 1000 and FCID 1001, students must complete an additional 9 hours of elective courses from one of the following clusters. Courses not appearing in the following list may be applied to the certificate with approval from the certificate coordinator.

1. Science and Technological Innovation

2. Data Science, Data Visualization and Logical Reasoning

3. Environment and Sustainability

4. Health and Medicine

5. Ethics and Leadership

1. Science and Technological Innovation

- ARHI 4400, The Natural History of Art (3 hours)
- CLAS 3040, Ancient Science and Technology (3 hours)
- CMLT 4070/6070, Science and Literature in the Renaissance (3 hours)
- COMM 4350/6350, Scientific Communication (3 hours)
- ENGL 3400, Literature and Evolution (3 hours)
- ENGL 3860W, Science Writing for General Audiences (3 hours)
- HIST 3342, History of the Life Sciences (3 hours)
- HIST 3421, History of Ancient and Medieval Science (3 hours)
- HIST 3425, History of Engineering (3 hours)
- HIST 3432, History of Science and Society in the Modern World (3 hours)
- HIST 3727, History of Computing, the Internet, and AI (3 hours)
- HIST 4432, Newton, Einstein, Bohr: History and Philosophical Lessons of Modern Physics (3 hours)
- PHIL(EETH) 4250/6250, Philosophy of Technology (3 hours)
- PHIL 4400/6400, History of Natural Science (3 hours)
- PHIL 4410/6410, Philosophy of Natural Science (3 hours)
- RELI 4540/6540, Christianity and the Natural Sciences (3 hours)
- RELI 4610/6610, The Origins of Monotheism and Science (3 hours)
- SOCI(AFAM) 3005, Race, Technology, and the Body (3 hours)

2. Data Science, Data Visualization and Logical Reasoning

- ANTH 2030, Art and Science of Asking Questions (3 hours)
- ARGD 4160, Data Visualization (3 hours)
- ARST 2020, Ideation and Methodology (3 hours)
- ARST 2800, Introduction to Digital Imaging (3 hours)
- ARST 3800, Transmedia (3 hours)
- ARST 2810, Hypermedia (3 hours)
- ARST 3870, E-Gadgets for Experimental Media (3 hours)
- ARTI 2130, AI for Humans: Learning to Live with AI (3 hours)
- ARTI 2550, Thinking Machines: Foundations of Artificial Intelligence (3 hours)
- ARTI(LING)(PSYC)(PHIL) 3550, Introduction to Cognitive Science (3 hours)
- ARTI 4555, Foundations of Machine Learning (3 hours)
- ARTS 2100, Strategic Visual Thinking (3 hours)
- CLAS 3070, Classical Rhetoric (3 hours)
- CLAS 4230W, Classical Rhetoric (3 hours)
- CLAS 3666, Ancient Empires: A Gaming Approach (3 hours)

- CLAS 4888/6888, Data Analytics Pedagogy for Classics (3 hours)
- CMLT 3060W, Professional Translation and Technical Writing in the Digital Age (3 hours)
- CMLT 3070, Intercultural Digital Humanities (3 hours)
- CMLT 3080, Playing with Robots: Literary Representations of Automata and Intelligent Machines (3 hours)
- COMM 2700E, Communicating in Digital Environments (3 hours)
- CSCI(PHIL) 4550/6550, Artificial Intelligence (3 hours)
- ENGL 3420, Literature and the Mind (3 hours)
- ENGL(LING) 4885, Introduction to Humanities Computing (3 hours)
- ENGL(LING) 4886, Text and Corpus Analysis (3 hours)
- ENGL 4888, Humanities Computing I: Knowledge Representation (3 hours)
- ENGL 4889, Humanities Computing II: Applied Design (3 hours)
- IDEA 4000/6000, Innovation Catalyst and Design (3 hours)
- LING 2200, Python Programming for Language and Linguistics (3 hours)
- LING 3150, Generative Syntax (3 hours)
- LING 3160, Advanced Generative Syntax (3 hours)
- LING 4400/6400, Quantitative Methods in Linguistics (3 hours)
- LING 4570/6570, Natural Language Processing (3 hours)
- LING(COMM) 4887/6887, The Digital Life of Language (3 hours)
- PHIL 2020, Logic and Critical Thinking (3 hours)
- PHIL 2500, Symbolic Logic (3 hours)
- PHIL 3510, Topics in Symbolic Logic (3 hours)
- PHIL(LING) 4510/6510, Deductive Systems (3 hours)
- PHIL(LING) 4520/6520, Model Theory (3 hours)

3. Environment and Sustainability

- CLAS 4170/6170, Environmental History of Greece and Rome (3 hours)
- CLAS 4190/6190, Climate Change and Catastrophes in Antiquity (3 hours)
- CLAS 4280/6280, Solitude in Ancient Rome (3 hours)
- CLAS 4666/6666, Population Displacement in Antiquity (3 hours)
- CMLT 3210, Ecocriticism (3 hours)
- CMLT 4050, Literature and the Natural Environment (3 hours)
- COMM 3320, Environmental Communication (3 hours)
- ENGL 3835, Literature and the Natural World (3 hours)
- ENGL 4835, Environmental Literature (3 hours)
- GEOL 1120, Environmental Geoscience & Sustainability (3 hours)
- HIST 3242, Disasters in the Caribbean and Latin America (3 hours)
- HIST 3725, Environmental History of the Modern World (3 hours)
- PHIL 2400, Philosophy, Science, and Nature (3 hours)

- RELI 4095/6095, Christianity and Sustainability (3 hours)
- WMST 4170S/6170S, Environment, Gender, Race, and Class (3 hours)
- WMST 4770/6770, Women, Gender, and Climate Justice (3 hours)

4. Health and Medicine

- ANTH 4540/6540-4540L/6540L, Health, Biology, and Culture (3 hours)
- CLAS 1030, Medical Terminology (3 hours)
- CLAS 3020, Myth and Medicine (3 hours)
- CLAS 4380/6380, Death: Antiquity and its Legacy (3 hours)
- CMLT 2800, Literature and Medicine (3 hours)
- CMLT 4444/6444, Literature and Medicine (3 hours)
- COMM(HPRB) 4610/6610, Health Communication (3 hours)
- COMM(HPRB) 4625, Communication and Health Disparities (3 hours)
- ENGL 3836, Literature and the Health Humanities (3 hours)
- ENGL 4836W/6836W, Writing about Health and Medicine (3 hours)
- HIST 3343, History of Psychiatry and Mental Illness (3 hours)
- HIST 3421, History of Ancient and Medieval Science (3 hours)
- HIST 3433, History of Medicine (3 hours)
- HIST 3740, Disease and Human History (3 hours)
- HIST 3742, DEATH: A Human History (3 hours)
- HIST(GLOB)(LACS) 3770, Pandemic! Infectious Disease in Global History (3 hours)
- HIST(CLAS) 4225/6225, Medicine, Healing, and the Body in Ancient Greece and Rome (3 hours)
- HIST 4065/6065, History of American Medicine to 1865 (3 hours)
- HIST 4066/6066, History of American Medicine, 1865 to the present (3 hours)
- SPAN 4003, Medical Spanish (3 hours)
- SPAN 4004, Introduction to Medical Interpreting, Ethics, and Intercultural Communication (3 hours)
- SOCI 4000, Society, Bodies, and Health (3 hours)
- WMST 3270, The Gendered Politics of Food (3 hours)
- WMST 4120/6120, Sex, Politics, Science, and Reproduction (3 hours)

5. Ethics and Leadership

- ARTI(PHIL) 4340/6340, Ethics and Artificial Intelligence (3 hours)
- CLAS 3080, Classical Ethics: Informing Modern Decision-Making (3 hours)
- CLAS 4270/6270, Good and Evil in Antiquity (3 hours)
- COMM 4220, Argumentation (3 hours)
- COMM 4390, Communication, Rhetoric and the Common Good (3 hours)
- COMM 4540/6540, Interpersonal Conflict (3 hours)
- COMM 4550/6550, Organizational Communication (3 hours)

- ENGL 3851S, Writing for Social Justice: The Prison Writing Project (3 hours)
- HIST(CLAS) 4320/6320, Law and Society in the Greco-Roman World (3 hours)
- LACS(SOCI) 4211/6211, Environmental Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean (3 hours)
- PHIL 2030, Introduction to Ethics (3 hours)
- PHIL 3200, Ethical Theory (3 hours)
- PHIL 3220, Biomedical Ethics (3 hours)
- PHIL 3230, Ethics of Food (3 hours)
- PHIL 3700S, Criminal Justice Ethnics (3 hours)
- PHIL 4210/6210, Social and Political Philosophy (3 hours)
- PHIL(EETH) 4220/6220, Environmental Ethics (3 hours)
- PHIL 4240/6240, Philosophy of Law (3 hours)
- POLS 4705, Law and Politics of Public Lands (3 hours)
- RELI 2013, Law and Religion (3 hours)
- RELI 4073/6073, Law and Religion in Israel (3 hours)
- RELI 4204/6204, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Religion (3 hours)
- RELI 4410/6410, Ghandi and Nonviolence: History, Theory, and Practice (3 hours)
- WMST 4770/6770, Women, Gender, and Climate Justice (3 hours)

5. Model Program and Accreditation

a. Identify any model programs, accepted disciplinary standards, and accepted curricular practices against which the proposed program could be judged. Evaluate the extent to which the proposed curriculum is consistent with these external points of reference and provide a rationale for significant inconsistencies and differences that may exist.

The proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities is unique, as there are currently no certificate programs in applied humanities in the country. It will also be one of the few applied humanities programs in the U.S: the University of Arizona offers a degree in Applied Humanities (A.B.); Oregon State University offers an online degree in Applied Humanities (A.B.); and the University of North Dakota offers a Minor in Applied Humanities.

b. If program accreditation is available, provide an analysis of the ability of the program to satisfy the curricular standards of such specialized accreditation.

N/A

6. Student Learning Outcomes

Describe the proposed learning outcomes for the certificate program.

- SLO1: Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will be able to explain, discuss, and compare the major intellectual opinions, concepts, and legacies of transformative and discipline specific texts.

- SLO2: Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will be able to formulate, develop, and produce original work, in oral and/or written form, appropriate to the transformative texts and the relevant cluster.

- SL03: Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will be able to apply humanities focused knowledge and critical thinking skills acquired in the gateway and elective courses to discipline specific problem-solving.

- SLO4: Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will be able to apply knowledge gained by increased imaginative capacity acquired through humanistic inquiry to discipline specific problem-solving.

- SL05: Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will be able to apply humanities focused skills (e.g., evaluating evidence; creative thinking and problem solving; and respectful dialogue) to discipline specific technical issues and problems.

7. Assessment and Admissions

Describe how the learning outcomes for the program will be assessed. Describe the process and criteria for how students will be admitted to and retained in the program.

Assessment of the learning outcomes will include a combination of embedded assessment and exit surveys. Assignments, exams, and project feedback will be used to generate direct measures for assessment. Exit surveys, which are required for certificate completion, will predominantly generate indirect measures for assessment.

Learning Outcomes	Program Assessment
SL01: Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will be able to explain, discuss, and compare the major intellectual opinions, concepts, and legacies of transformative and discipline specific texts.	Anonymous survey of students in the gateway courses. Evaluation of speaking skills, written assignments, and project feedback in FCID 1000 and/or FCID 1001. Observations by faculty teaching core classes and annual communication with the certificate coordinator.
SL02: Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will be able to formulate, develop, and produce original work, in oral and/or written form, appropriate to the transformative texts and the relevant cluster.	Anonymous survey of students in the gateway courses. Evaluation of speaking skills, written assignments, and project feedback in FCID 1000 and/or FCID 1001. Observations by faculty teaching core classes and annual communication with the certificate coordinator.

SL03: Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will be able to apply humanities focused knowledge and critical thinking skills acquired in the gateway and elective courses to discipline specific problem-solving.	Anonymous survey of students in the gateway and cluster elective courses. Evaluation of speaking skills, written assignments, and project feedback in FCID 1000 and/or FCID 1001 and elective courses selected from the clusters, such as CLAS 3040, Ancient Science and Technology; HIST 3425, History of Engineering; PHIL(EETH) 4250/6250, Philosophy of Technology. Discussions between students and the certificate coordinator about electives and how courses target learning and careers goals. Observations by faculty teaching core classes and annual communication with the certificate coordinator.
SL04: Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will be able to apply knowledge gained by increased imaginative capacity acquired through humanistic inquiry to discipline specific problem-solving.	Anonymous survey of students in the cluster elective courses. Evaluation of speaking skills, written assignments, and project feedback in elective courses selected from the clusters, such as CMLT 2800, Literature and Medicine; HIST 3433, History of Medicine; SOCI 4000, Society, Bodies, and Health. Discussions between students and the certificate coordinator about electives and how courses target learning and careers goals. Observations by faculty teaching core classes and annual communication with the certificate coordinator.
SL05: Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will be able to apply humanities focused skills (e.g., evaluating evidence; creative thinking and problem solving; and respectful dialogue) to discipline specific technical issues and problems.	Anonymous survey of students in the cluster elective courses. Evaluation of speaking skills, written assignments, and project feedback in elective courses selected from the clusters, such as CLAS 3080, Classical Ethics: Informing Modern Decision-Making; COMM 4390, Communication, Rhetoric, and the Common Good; PHIL 3200, Ethical Theory. Discussions between students and the certificate coordinator about electives and how courses target learning and careers goals. Observations by faculty teaching core classes and annual communication with the certificate coordinator.

Incoming students will be advised of the gateway courses and the Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities during first-year student orientation for all in-coming students across the university through the Exploratory Center and throughout lower-division advising.

Students may take the gateway courses without completing the certificate. Students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 ("C") or better to be awarded the certificate.