

Shepherd University

WV-HEPC Series 11 Intent to Plan

Date: March 2018
Category of Action: Implementation Plan (Section 5 of Series 11)
Title of Degree: Master of Arts, Appalachian Studies
Location: Shepherd University

Effective Date

of proposed action: Fall 2019

Submission of Full proposal

(Implementation Plan): June 22, 2018

Shepherd University

Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix, President

Dr. Scott Beard, Acting Provost

Dr. Richard Stevens, Dean, Graduate Studies and Continuing Education

Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Appalachian Studies Center Director and APST Board Chair

Prepared by:

Members of Appalachian Studies Interdisciplinary Board and A&H Dean: Professor Rachael Meads (APST Faculty), Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst (History Faculty), Dr. Jeff Groff (Environmental Studies Faculty), Dr. Ben Martz (Business School Dean), Breanna Gladden (Undergraduate Student Representative), Joshua Riese (Graduate Student Representative), Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt (APST and English Faculty), Arts and Humanities Dean Dow Benedict, and Acting Provost Scott Beard

Shepherd University, Master of Arts, Appalachian Studies

Table of Contents

5.2. Plan request	3
5.2.a. Education Objectives	3
Relationship of Objectives to Institutional Mission.....	4
Special Features and Administrative Organization.....	6
5.2.b. Description of the program and objectives	8
5.2.c. Assurance of Program Quality	9
5.2.d. Other institutions offering similar programs	10
5.2.e. Needs assessment	10
Societal, occupational, research, or public service needs.....	11
Student demand for the program	11
5.2.f. Additional resources needed to offer the program	12
5.2.g. Instructional Delivery Methodologies	13
Summary	14
Appendices	15
Appendix A: Curricular Summary.....	15
Appendix B: APST Board Minutes and Supporting Data.....	19
<i>Recent APST Course Enrollments</i>	26
<i>APST Board Members</i>	27

5.2. A request to develop a plan should indicate the projected date of submission of the full proposal and the projected date of implementation.

This submission of the Intent to Plan (WV-HEPC Series 11) is a comprehensive proposal for the Master of Arts, Appalachian Studies degree at Shepherd University. The proposal will be submitted to the Shepherd University Board of Governors for its April 5, 2018 meeting and following BOG approval, to the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) on June 22, 2018, and upon approval, submission of the full implementation plan in accordance to section 6 of Series 11-Implementation Plan. The program is scheduled for full implementation in Fall 2019, contingent on internal and external approvals.

5.2.a. Educational Objectives

The Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies, an interdisciplinary masters' program with *30-33 required total hours, is one of three such degrees in the Region and is specifically designed for community members who fit into the following categories:

1. Students for whom a graduate degree in an interdisciplinary Appalachian Studies curriculum would improve their qualifications for the job market and in the region;
2. Students who are already in the workforce in education, politics, local and regional planning, economic development, business, service organizations, recreation, leisure or the parks service, cultural and arts organizations, and health related administrative careers, whose careers will profit from a deeper knowledge and understanding of the region; and
3. Students who are interested in understanding the region from a variety of historical, cultural, and global perspectives, and whose knowledge base will be enhanced through study and research of the region.

The Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies and the Graduate Certificate in Appalachian Studies are designed as complementary graduate programs, so that a student who completes the Graduate Certificate in Appalachian Studies may apply all 15 hours toward completion of the Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies.

This proposed interdisciplinary M.A. in Appalachian Studies has been constructed to take advantage of several unique features about Appalachian Studies at Shepherd University:

- the service learning and community engagement components of the program;
- the Celtic Roots Global Appalachia component of the program;
- the unique geographic position of Shepherd University as both a Gateway into Appalachia and convenient access to the research and cultural resources of Washington, D.C. (a feature that has enhanced our graduate NEH Summer Institute for Teachers;
- the partnership that we have enjoyed with the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, the setting for the NEH Summer Institute and the research opportunities and potential it offers to graduate students;

- the array of award-winning programs and community services offered by Appalachian Studies at Shepherd University which offer learning opportunities for students (see below).

The MA in Appalachian Studies is likewise structured to interface with Shepherd’s new Center for Regional Innovation and to encourage students to remain in the Appalachia after graduation and to participate in the cultural and economic development of the region. The Appalachian Studies Intended Student Outcomes are builds upon the LEAP (Liberal Education and America’s Promise) goals as presented by the Association of Colleges and Universities, as utilized as overarching outcomes for students enrolled at Shepherd University:

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World,
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills throughout the Curriculum,
3. Personal and Social Responsibility,
4. Integrative Learning.

These LEAP goals are likewise consistent with Shepherd’s COPLAC (Council of Public Liberal Arts) association.

Additionally, the program has the following overarching objectives:

1. Understand the geographic region and environment known as Appalachia.
2. Understand the history, ethnic roots, and cultural traditions of the Appalachia people;
3. Understand the current political, social, and economic forces that shape the region;
4. Participate in service and experiential learning to increase an appreciation for the Appalachian region and its citizens.

Relationship of Objectives to the Mission of the Institution



Shepherd University Vision Statement

“Shepherd – a premier liberal arts university. We will be a nationally respected community of learners where passion, purpose, and experience unite to inspire individuals to shape the world.”

Shepherd University Mission Statement

“Shepherd University, a West Virginia public liberal arts university, is a diverse community of learners and a gateway to the world of opportunities and ideas. We are the regional center for academic, cultural, and economic opportunity. Our mission of service succeeds because we are dedicated to our core values: learning, engagement, integrity, accessibility, and community.”

Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities

Mission Statement & Intended Student Outcomes

The region of Appalachia encompasses a geographic area that stretches from New York to Alabama, encompassing thirteen states; West Virginia is the only state that is located completely within this geographic area. The Appalachian Studies Program at Shepherd University seeks to explore the problems even as we celebrate the region through a series of interrelated programs, all dedicated to a richer and fuller understanding of the history, language, lore, cultural and folk art traditions, and the crucially important task of “telling our own story.” The following goals or intended student outcomes (ISOs) are specifically related to the curricular component of the program and closely align with the mission of the University:

The Appalachian Studies Program at Shepherd University seeks to create:

- an understanding of the geographic region known as Appalachia, through the study of its cultural traditions and the ethnic heritage of those diverse people who call themselves Appalachians;
- an understanding of the history of Appalachia and its diverse ethnic roots;
- an understanding of the political, social, and economic forces that shape the region;
- an understanding of the geography and environment of Appalachia;
- an understanding and appreciation of the storytelling, literature, music, art, folk and recreational traditions of the region;
- an appreciation for the Appalachian region and its citizens, through service and experiential learning ;
- community leaders with a commitment to global as well as local civic engagement.



Special Features that make the Institution a Desirable Place to Initiate a Program

Shepherd University is a Gateway to both the heartland of the Appalachian region and the economically powerful world resting at our front door. Thus the location of Shepherd and the academic and programmatic infrastructure provided now by our Appalachian Studies programs make this new MA in Appalachian Studies particularly appealing and appropriate for a program designated as a Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities. As Gateway to Appalachia, Shepherd University is also in a unique location and position to draw students from surrounding states that other Appalachian Studies MA Programs cannot offer (for example Eastern Tennessee State University or North Carolina's Appalachian State University).

Additionally, our inter-connected programs are already well established and have given Shepherd a national reputation as a **Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities**. One of these programs, the **NEH Summer Institute for Teachers, [Voices from the Misty Mountains and the Power of Place](#)** has proven appeal for Appalachian graduate studies, as demonstrated by the large number of teacher applications for Shepherd's NEH Institute that continue from year to year (over 120 applications reported by our NEH program officer Richard Pettit prior to the March 1, 2018 deadline). Other components in the APST Program include:

1. **[Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence \(AHWIR\) and Writer's Award](#)**: This program was funded by the WV Humanities Council for 18 years and has brought an array of writers to Shepherd University and the Eastern Panhandle, including Henry Louis Gates, Denise Giardina, Ron Rash, Nikki Giovanni, Robert Morgan, Charles Frazier, and others. These writers' books are used for the **[One Book, One West Virginia](#) State Common Read program**, and we partner with the West Virginia Center at the Book at WV Library Commission for this project. AHWIR events allow graduate students the opportunity to work with nationally known writers and participate in planning these events and the Heritage Festival in the **[APST 576 - Appalachian Studies Practicum](#)** course.
2. **[Appalachian Heritage Festival](#)**: The Performance Arts Series at Shepherd, celebrating twenty-one years running, partners with the APST Program to bring Appalachian artists from across the region to the community. Under the leadership of Rachael Meads, an array of great artists have graced the Frank Theater stage, including Ralph Stanley, Hazel Dickens, Jean Ritchie, John Lilly, among others. Likewise, a range of dance, gospel sings, fiddle, and other workshops and educational experiences are part of the festival which occurs over the weekend, prior or following week-long AHWIR events each fall. Appalachian Studies graduate students participate in these events, planning, researching, facilitating, assisting in events management, and they often receive university credit for their work through the **[APST 576 - Appalachian Studies Practicum](#)**.
3. **[West Virginia Fiction Competition](#)**: This program is partnered with the WV Center for the Book, which provides funding for the competition while Shepherd provides the staff.

Writers across the state participate, including Shepherd University students. Fiction winners are selected by the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence.

4. [**Anthology of Appalachian Writers**](#): The Wiley Cash volume of the anthology will be the tenth volume, publishing some of the best regional and national writers, including in 2018 two state poet laureates and several Weatherford Fiction Award winners. Among the anthology editors each year is a student editor mentored by seasoned professional editors, and this prestigious position is useful for graduate school application, working in the publishing world, or securing a position in the work force. The anthology is listed with the Library of Congress and has secured a solid reputation in the field. Proceeds from anthology sales support the APST program speakers, student activities, community outreach, conference travel and presentation, and fieldtrips.
5. [**Celtic Roots Global Appalachia Program**](#): This is a global travel and study abroad program offered to students through the Celtic Roots APST 530 “place” course, APST 531 travel practicum, and the optional study abroad semester. In May 2017, 20 students and community members taking the Celtic Roots course traveled to Ireland, Wales, and the English Lakes, while studying the culture, history, and literature that connects to the travel destinations. In 2015, Appalachian Studies students travelled to Celtic France (Brittany, Normandy, and Paris), studying the works of Joyce, Beckett, and Yeats, among others; and in 2019 students will travel through Celtic Spain and Provence France to study the works of Fitzgerald, Karen Spears Zacharias, Joyce, and others. Travel throughout the Appalachian region is also part of the APST 556 Appalachian Culture and the APST 558 Appalachian Literature courses. In our August 2017 “student exchange” discussions with the University of the West of Scotland (UWS), their graduate studies dean was particularly interested in the quality of our Appalachian Studies Graduate Certificate program, which they wished to use as the first semester module for their MA in Media Studies degree. Our first Shepherd student to use the APST Graduate Certificate in this way is currently in Ayr, Scotland, pursuing the UWS MA degree. Our goal is to teach Scottish graduate students here at Shepherd in a semester exchange program.
6. [**Appalachian Studies Graduate Certificate Program**](#): This relatively new program has already drawn a number of community members into Appalachian Graduate Studies. The certificate is marketed to interested community members and to graduate students (often in the MAT or C&I programs who wish to gain some cultural expertise about the Appalachian region that will serve them as teachers). However, many students are interested in the Graduate Certificate program itself, such as the student studying this semester at UWS working on his MA in Media Studies in Scotland.
7. [**Appalachian Studies Minor**](#): The minor is marketed to students in a BA degree program who are required to declare a minor. Typically, these are students in History, English, Political Science, Art, Teacher Education, Environmental Science, and Communications.
8. [**Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Voices from the Misty Mountains: Unity and Diversity, A New Appalachia**](#): The March 2016 Appalachian Studies Association Conference brought a thousand scholars and community activists to Shepherd University and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia to talk about the problems and celebrate the

accomplishments of the region. Conference Chair Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Program Chair Rachael Meads, and Foundation Executive CEO Monica Lingenfelter wrote a WV Humanities Council grant to fund the conference and to open more than 18 plenaries and special events to the community.

9. [Speak Story Series](#): The newest addition to the APST Program (fall 2017) is this popular story series, founded by award-winning storyteller Adam Booth. Speak brings to Shepherd and the Eastern Panhandle an array of world-class storytellers, who present throughout the community, in the public schools, as well as at Shepherd University. The Speak Story Series is both a performing and a teaching series, with the goal of bringing to life and maintaining the stories and storytelling traditions that keep a community vibrant and that maintain and enhance our understanding of our region and ourselves.
10. [Appalachian Studies Service Learning at Shepherd University](#): Graduate students now have the opportunity to receive APST 576 Practicum credit for the Alternative Spring Break Service Learning Program. Each spring during break, students travel to depressed regions of the state for community service. By taking the Practicum course, they are required to reflect on that service which enhances the experience. During spring 2018 break, students will work with Brandon Dennison's Coalfield Development Corporation. Dennison was named in fall 2017 as West Virginian of the Year for his work in economic and educational development among adults in the state.

This academic and community infrastructure offered by the Appalachian Studies Program at Shepherd University is funded and supported through grants, awards, and the Shepherd University Foundation, as well as through community partnerships with the WV Center for the Book, the WV Library Commission, the WV Humanities Council, and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Such an established and popular series of programs will encourage growth of an MA in Appalachian Studies. Additionally, the artists, scholars, and internationally known writers and historians, who are involved in our programs and who are often activists in the region, offer a unique opportunity for our graduate students as they complete the MA degree and continue to work in the community.

5.2.b. Brief Description of Program and Program Objectives

The Center for Appalachian Studies at Shepherd University, composed of a director and an interdisciplinary board, will oversee the interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies and will report to the Graduate Council. The curricular program combines interdisciplinary courses in Appalachian Studies with Business, Environmental Studies, Tourism and Recreation, and History courses. The M.A. in Appalachian Studies is designed for community members who fit into the following categories:

1. Students for whom a graduate degree in an interdisciplinary Appalachian Studies curriculum would improve their qualifications for the job market and in the region;
2. Students who are already in the workforce in education, politics, local and regional planning, economic development, recreation and hospitality, business, service organizations, leisure, or the parks service, cultural and arts organizations, and health related administrative careers, whose careers will profit from a deeper knowledge and understanding of the region; and
3. Students who are interested in understanding the region from a variety of historical, cultural, and global perspectives, and whose knowledge base will be enhanced through study and research of the region.

The M.A. in Appalachian Studies major is intended to be a 30-33 credit hour degree, and as part of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities it has clearly defined program objectives. Graduates of the program are expected to develop:

- an understanding of the geographic region known as Appalachia, through the study of its cultural traditions and the ethnic heritage of those diverse people who call themselves Appalachians;
- an understanding of the history of Appalachia with its diverse historic and ethnic roots;
- an understanding of the political, social, and economic forces that shape the region;
- an understanding of the geography and environment of Appalachia;
- an understanding and appreciation of the storytelling, literature, music, art, folk and recreational traditions of the region;
- an appreciation, through service and experiential learning, for the Appalachian region and its citizens;
- community leaders with a commitment to global as well as local civic engagement.

5.2.c. The Institution will assure high quality standards for the program and maintain a continuing assessment of quality.

Shepherd University has a solid reputation for strong, rigorous undergraduate education, with *The Princeton Review* rating Shepherd as “a best southeastern college.” Shepherd professors are dedicated to quality teaching, small classes, and a tradition of face-to-face instruction and open-door advising. Shepherd has a respected Center for Teaching and Learning that provides leadership for professional growth and oversight for assessment (<http://www.shepherd.edu/ctl2>).

Assessment

The Appalachian Studies program will follow and adhere to the University’s guidelines for programmatic and course assessment. For more than a decade Shepherd has cultivated a culture of assessment. Assessment occurs at multiple levels throughout the institution, not only in academic programs. The Appalachian Studies Interdisciplinary Board will review the program annually to assure that the program goals are being met. Students currently evaluate

courses regularly while instructors offer ongoing formal and informal input to the review and planning processes. Knowledge and skills-based outcomes will be assessed by examinations, quizzes, projects, research papers, critical writing assignments, community service projects and reflection assignments, and oral presentations and discussions. The program will be evaluated on the basis of LEAP goals, as well as APST Intended Student Outcomes listed earlier in this document. The Director of Appalachian Studies will make recommendations on program development and delivery and will work with the Alumni Office in tracking graduates in the proposed major.

Program Review

Shepherd University ensures the quality of its academic programs, its faculty, and curricula through regular assessment in cyclical program reviews. The Masters of Arts in Appalachian Studies Major will be subject to review as mandated by the Graduate Program and required by the state and the institution. Assessment data is regularly collected and reported to the Center for Teaching and Learning as a part of the internal review process. The five-year review requires both internal self-review and external review by a qualified professional; these documents, in turn, are reviewed by the campus Program Review Committee, the Academic Provost, and Board of Governors. The M.A. in Appalachian Studies will also be evaluated at intervals along with other university programs by Shepherd's regional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

5.2.d. Other Institutions Offering Similar Programs

Appalachian State University, at Boone, North Carolina, offers an MA in Appalachian Studies, with two tracks: 1) culture and music and 2) sustainability. It likewise offers a graduate certificate that serves as a feeder program for the M.A. East Tennessee University has a similar program with both a certificate and M.A. of Appalachian Studies. Some other institutions in the region have related B.A. degrees and minors. The Appalachian Studies Association, considered a definitive website on the topic of Appalachian Studies programs lists these and Shepherd's programs on their website: <http://appalachianstudies.org/resources/programs.php>.

5.2.e. Statement of societal, occupational, research, or public service needs that will be met, as well as anticipated student demand for the program, societal, occupational, research, or public service needs

Three components of the Shepherd M.A. in Appalachian Studies will make this degree particularly appealing and distinctive: 1) the Celtic Roots and Global Appalachia emphasis, provided through travel and course study abroad, semester student exchanges, and exciting partnerships we have forged in the past year with international Universities; 2) the opportunity for graduate students to work directly with some of the best writers, artists, and scholars in the

country through the Appalachian Heritage WIR Programs; and 3) the community service component in all of the APST academic programs, including the proposed MA. The most tangible benefit from the new Appalachian Studies graduate degree will emanate from these community engagement components: that is, as students become aware of their Appalachian culture and the needs of the Appalachian community, they tend to be more engaged. Thus the program is a tangible solution to the diaspora or exit from the state that has been historically at the heart of the Appalachian cultural experience. Community service and engagement is built into the curriculum of this Masters degree through courses like APST 558 Appalachian Literature, the APST 576 Practicum, Alternative Spring Break experience, and the elective APST 580 internship. It is our aim for the Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities to become a national center for the study and research of Appalachia, just as Shepherd University is becoming a national center for research and innovation for the economic development of the state and region. Our Appalachian Studies mission matches the President's [University Center for Regional Innovation](#), and we were an important part of both the BROCADE economic initiative and conference held at Shepherd December 5-6, 2016, and the Economic Summit, March 17-18, 2017, at Shepherd University (<http://www.shepherd.edu/news/m-b-a-program-to-host-a-summit-on-improving-the-states-economy/>).

In terms of **student demand** for the program, we offer the strong enrollment numbers of the Appalachian Studies Minor core courses (APST 356 Appalachian Culture, APST 358 Appalachian Literature, and APST 309 WV and the Appalachian Region History courses); these three courses have been offered yearly since the inception of the minor, with solid enrollment numbers for such frequent offerings. We also offer NEH website application data for the NEH Summer Institute for Teachers, Voices from the Misty. The NEH upgraded the 2013 and 2016 Summer Seminars to a 25-person Summer Institute, running for 2017 and 2018. Graduate credit for the NEH Summer Seminar/Institute has been offered each July that we have run the event. We anticipate that initially, as we begin to market the Masters of Arts in Appalachian Studies, there will be an enrollment for the first 5 years of 10-15 students. Both the APST Minor and the APST Graduate Certificate will serve as feeder programs for the M.A. in Appalachian Studies and Certificate course work can be applied directly to the M.A. requirements, which will be an incentive for students to continue with completion of a graduate degree. These curricular interfaces will help to both market and sustain the M.A. in Appalachian Studies, as will the Global Appalachia or study abroad component.

Student Demand for the Program

Community and business constituents in the Eastern Panhandle express a growing interest in programs that prepare our students to engage in the local community. Shepherd University's

ability to attract students from the tri-state area and to extend into new markets beyond our boundaries is likewise a benefit. Affordable tuition, convenient location, and a reputation for excellence give Shepherd University an advantage over many institutions of higher learning in the region with a similar program; and the University's reputation as a Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities, as well as its many affiliated programs have helped to establish a national reputation in the field and increased student interest in our institution. Because of the success of the NEH Summer Institute in attracting teachers from across the nation to study Appalachian culture at Shepherd University in the summer, we think that this national exposure of our programs will attract Masters students as well.

5.2.f. Additional Resources Needed to Offer the Program

Faculty

The APST program is currently administrated through the [Appalachian Studies Interdisciplinary Board](#), which has done a remarkable job in growing the minor and graduate certificate programs, as well as establishing the NEH Summer Institute for Teachers. The key faculty members in the major offering the program core and APST courses come from history, Appalachian Studies, English, and Student Affairs. An adjunct APST faculty member is one of the nation's leading storytellers and has created, developed, and manages the [Speak Story Series](#) at Shepherd University. The Director of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities is a nationally recognized scholar in the field of Appalachian literature, past president of the National Appalachian Studies Association, and familiar with the educational workings of the state by virtue of her position as past chair of the State Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) and ACF Legislative Coordinator for more than a decade. The professor who teaches Appalachian history courses is a recognized scholar and published author as well in the field. The professor from Student Affairs who teaches the Appalachian Culture and Appalachian Music courses is a native West Virginian and possesses the highest degree in the field, an M.A. in Appalachian Studies (no Ph.D. exists in the discipline); by virtue of her position as Performing Arts Director at Shepherd (PASS), she has brought to the University and our students the preeminent musicians in the field of Appalachian music, including Ralph Stanley, Hazel Dickens, and Jean Ritchie, among others. Interdisciplinary faculty who teach the other courses in the proposed M.A. degree are experts in their fields and fully qualified, and all have been informed of the responsibilities that come with teaching graduate courses. Thus the faculty who will serve this proposed degree are already on staff and teaching these courses with regularity. **The proposed Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies will require no new faculty.** There will be no additional costs to support the MA degree, and we believe the University and the State will be well served by the proposed degree and what it will bring in terms of understanding, scholarship, prestige, and economic development.

Facilities Requirements

Courses for the Appalachian Studies are taught across campus in a variety of venues. All classrooms used are outfitted with an array of technology, including WiFi. Classrooms vary in size and are equipped with smartboards and technology that brings the world-wide web into our classes. Shepherd utilizes a learning management system (LMS) program called Sakai, and is committed to the further development of alternative instructional delivery models such as hybrid and distance learning.

Library

The Scarborough Library at Shepherd University houses a sizable collection of books, journals, and assorted publications on Appalachian Studies. The online digital library is licensed for group membership so that students and faculty have easy access to relevant publications while in the library as well as remotely. Users have access to thousands of full-text journals from over 50 databases, including subscription databases such as LexisNexis and JSTOR. The Scarborough Library also houses a West Virginia Collection and hosts regional and local Appalachian arts exhibits during the year—including the 2016 Builder Levy Exhibit and the 2017 Roger May Looking at Appalachia Exhibit. Each fall a photography exhibit accompanies the AHWIR events.

Professional librarians are available to assist faculty and students approximately 56 hours a week. Librarians teach a one-credit course, “Research Methods and Information Retrieval,” and there are regularly scheduled tours, workshops, and orientation sessions for those who need assistance in utilizing the library’s materials and technology. Librarians offer tailored information literacy skills class sessions that focus on using the library’s databases for research assignments. These sessions are held in the library’s instructional lab enabling students to develop their online research skills with the assistance of a librarian. The library is normally open 86 hours per week during the fall and spring semesters and has a computer-equipped work room open 24 hours a day. The reference section of the library is typically open 56 hours weekly during the regular academic year. At present there are 33 reference lab computers and 8 public computers on the main floor of the library. The 24-hour room has 8 computers, the instruction lab 24, the third floor 10, and 38 are available for checkout.

5.2.g. Instructional Delivery Methodologies to Deliver the Program

Most courses in the proposed program are delivered in face-to-face settings, utilizing technology and a hybrid system which is particularly important for the music, storytelling, and literature classes in the curriculum. This hybrid model, with online formats provided through Sakai and other means, is the norm for core courses as well as elective courses in the curriculum, though some courses are currently taught solely online, such as the RECR 544 Hospitality Industry course. Instructional methods include, but are not be limited to, lectures,

online simulations and web discussions, and various types of experiential learning such as internships, service learning projects, fieldtrips, and a strong study abroad component called Celtic Roots and Global Appalachia course. Other courses have the ability for online instruction if requested, such as the APST 558 Appalachian Literature course.

Summary

Shepherd University is uniquely poised at this time to establish a vibrant M.A. degree in Appalachian Studies, one built upon an academic and community foundation of programs that have been evolving for in the Eastern Panhandle for over a decade. This proposed graduate program is unique, with its emphasis on service learning and community involvement, Celtic Roots and Global Appalachia, and graduate student engagement in an infrastructure of nationally recognized programs that come under the umbrella of a Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities. The particular convergence of a number of factors, including the significant economic needs of a State that loses population each year, requires innovative and dedicated curricular programming: according to the U.S. Census Bureau estimates, West Virginia lost 1.2 percent of its population, declining from 1.85 million in 2010 to about 1.83 million in 2016. This proposed Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies is offered at a propitious and timely moment. The fact that our proposed interdisciplinary Master's degree will be built upon strong programs already in place will ensure its success and allow us to develop out-reach, economic, and service programs to further benefit the state.

Appendix A: Curricular Summary

Curricular Summary



Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies – (30-33 hrs.)

The Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies, an interdisciplinary masters' program with *30-33 required total hours, is one of three such degrees in the Region and is specifically designed for community members who fit into the following categories:

- Students for whom a graduate degree in an interdisciplinary Appalachian Studies curriculum would improve their qualifications for the job market and in the region;
- Students who are already in the workforce in education, politics, local and regional planning, economic development, business, recreation and hospitality, service organizations, leisure, or the parks service, cultural and arts organizations, and health related administrative careers, whose careers will profit from a deeper knowledge and understanding of the region; and
- Students who are interested in understanding the region from a variety of historical, cultural, and global perspectives, and whose knowledge base will be enhanced through study and research of the region.
-

The Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies and the Graduate Certificate in Appalachian Studies are designed as complementary graduate programs, so that a student who completes the Graduate Certificate in Appalachian Studies may apply all 15 hours toward completion of the Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies.

Admissions Requirements: Successful completion of University [Graduate Admissions](#) requirements

APST Masters Discipline Core, 12 Credit Hours:

- [APST 501 - Appalachia in Time, Place, and People](#) (3cr)
- [APST 530 - Celtic Roots and Global Appalachia](#) (3cr)
- [RESR 601 - Independent Research Seminar](#) (3cr)
- *APST 602 - Thesis (3)

***Students may elect a non-thesis track with 6 additional academic credits (2 additional course selections) from the concentrations below, with approval of the Director—the non-thesis track makes the total hours for the MA in Appalachian studies 33 total hours.**

Service Learning: Every candidate for the APST MA must engage in some form of sustained community service; this service learning component can be met through 1) selecting a local or campus community project (Alternative Spring Break for example), 2) engagement in the university or greater community through the APST Practicum 576, 3) working in the community through the **APST 580 Internship** (a variety of internships are available including working during the legislative session at the State Capital as a political intern or through some other approved internship), or 4) participating in the study abroad semester program which is structured to expand experiences and outlook about the region. The service project or study abroad experience must be approved by the APST Center Director.

Concentrations: 9 Hours (The student may select 9 hours from one of the following concentrations)

Appalachian History, Culture, and Heritage Concentration: 9 Hours

- ****** [APST 500 - Seminar in Appalachian Studies](#) (3cr)
- [HIST 509 - West Virginia and the Appalachian Region](#) (3cr)
- **ENVS 522** - [Environmental History](#) (3cr)
- [APST 543 – Appalachian Music and Ethnomusicology](#) (3cr)
- [APST 545 - Appalachian Folk Tales and Storytelling](#) (3cr)
- [APST 556 - Appalachian Culture](#) (3cr)
- [APST 558 - Appalachian Literature](#) (3cr)

Preserving Appalachian Communities, Business Development, and the Environment Concentration: 9 Hours

- ****** [APST 500 - Seminar in Appalachian Studies](#) (3cr)
- [MBA 501 - Entrepreneurship](#) (3cr)
- [MBA 503 - Fundraising and Grant Writing](#) (3cr)
- [MBA 504 - Non-profit and Service Marketing](#) (3cr)
- [MBA 505 - Business in West Virginia](#) (3cr)
- [HIST 500 - Historic Preservation](#) (3cr)
- **ENVS 523** - [Environmental Ethics](#) (3cr)
- [HPPH 525 - Oral History](#) (3cr)
- [RECR 570 - Environmental Education](#) (3cr)

*****Electives: 9 Hours**

- ****** [APST 500 - Seminar in Appalachian Studies](#) (3cr)
 - [ANTH 525 - Introduction to Museum Studies](#) (3cr)
 - [APST 531 - Appalachian Travel Field Experience](#) (1-3cr)
 - **APST 580 – Appalachian Internship** (3-9cr)
 - [GSCI 543 - Environmental Chemistry](#) (3cr)
 - **RECR 543 – 21st Century Tourism** (3cr)

- **RECR 544 – Hospitality Industry (3cr)**
- [APST 576 - Appalachian Studies Practicum](#) (1-3cr)
- **APST 599 – Special Topics: Appalachia (3 cr)**

****The Seminar in Appalachian Studies, APST 500, is repeatable up to 6 hours credit, with approval of the APST Center Director.**

*****Elective Substitutions: As part of the Celtic Roots Global Appalachia Program, a semester of study abroad is possible, at universities in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, or at an approved institution where Shepherd University has exchange agreements. The semester abroad curricular plan may substitute for the 9-hr. elective requirement in the program, with approval of the Director of Appalachian Studies Center. Likewise, a 9-hr. approved internship may suffice for the elective requirement.**



Appendix B: APST Board Minutes and Supporting Data



Shepherd University
**APPALACHIAN
STUDIES**

Appalachian Studies Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 22, 4:00-5:00 p.m., Scarborough 309

APST Board Members Present: Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst (History), Dr. Ben Martz (Business Administration), Dr. Jeffrey Groff (Environmental Studies), Breanna Gladden (undergraduate rep.), and Dr. S. Bailey Shurbutt (APST Coordinator)

Announcements:

1) The 2019 NEH Summer Institute grant—*Voices from the Misty Mountains and the Power of Storytelling*—was filed Thursday, February 22. Karen Spears Zacharias (Weatherford Award Winner and 2018 AHWIR) and Paul Pierce (Springer Theater) will be artists in Residence, while Silas House, Frank X Walker and the Affrilachian poets, Adam Booth, Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst, Dr. James Broomall and Ed Herendeen are guest artists and scholars for the July 7-27, 2019 event. Brenda has been accepting applications for the 2018 Institute, the deadline March 1. Richard Pettit, our NEH program officer told us this week there have been 120 applications for Misty Mountains thus far.

2) Emily Hilliard, Director of the WV Folklife Program at the Humanities Council will present a March 28 program for the campus and community on the Folklife Center and the republication of *Patrick Ward Gainer and Folk Songs from the WV Hills*. Hilliard, who was involved in the republication, will talk about the work of the Center, Gainer, and his ballad collecting. Rachael Meads and Ben Bankhurst will introduce the program and Hilliard. Hilliard will likely be available for speaking with Thursday morning classes.

3) The two APST course changes (APST 476 Practicum and APST 256 Culture), approved by the APST Board in October for the Minor, were approved by C&I and will go into the next catalog. The revised Program change for the minor is up for a second read in March 19; Sylvia will be returning from NZ on the 19th, so we will need someone to answer any questions at the 3:10 meeting (Scarborough 346); Andro sits on C&I and perhaps will represent us.

4) Jessica Kump has been helping us with our Mellon exploration, at present involving a statement of interest (see attached). Mellon is our first choice as a funder for a Shepherd University *Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities*. Jessica is also going to explore support from the Beneden Foundation and Charitable Trust, while Sylvia is going to explore an NEH Artist's grant to fund a Storytelling Chair.

5) Two Appalachian Studies Students will be presenting at the April 4-6 ASA Conference in Cincinnati: Breanna Gladden's *Finding John Henry: Examining the Legend, the Ballad, and the Man*, and Cameron Mallow's *The Swamp Dragon Home Guard and the Civil War in West Virginia*. Editor Natalie Sypolt will moderate a reading from the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, featuring Poet Laureate Marc Harshman, Weatherford Award winner Gretchen Moran Laskass, and Jessica Salfia. Sylvia will present on Wiley Cash.

- I. Approval of December Minutes: MVP
- II. Approval of Janet Stevens RESR 601 Certificate Project: MVP
- III. Programs and Ideas for 2018: Ben, Rachael, & Sylvia
 - A) Elaine Sheldon’s WV Humanities Council program “Documenting Appalachia”: Sheldon has been nominated for an Academy Award for *Heroine*, her exposé of the opioid and drug crisis in Appalachia—the program here at Shepherd is awaiting approval; April 12, 16, 19 are dates Sheldon is considering.
 - B) Responding to Vance’s *Hillbilly Elegy*: Elizabeth Catte’s *What You Are Getting Wrong about Appalachia* and Josh Howard (a program on their history of activism in Appalachia—October event). Ben Bankhurst suggested that we contact Four Seasons, who is interested in bringing Catte to the Eastern Panhandle. Sylvia shared that Dr. Broomall and the Civil War Institute were likewise interested in partnering. Jeff Groff noted that our partnering with the Conservation Film Festival might be worth exploring for some of our events.
 - C) Podcasts & Utilization of Radio Station for Student Presentations: Ben Bankhurst shared his idea about utilization of the Shepherd Radio Station for some of our student presentations. He suggested that we begin collecting podcasts of these and those deemed worth go up on the APST website under a new Student Podcast Link. The group agreed this was an intriguing idea that we needed to explore. Bankhurst, Shurbutt and Gladden agreed to work as a subcommittee to see how we might structure this idea.
- IV. Discussion of the proposed MA in Appalachian Studies: The Board took up the task of gleaning through the MA in Appalachian Studies proposal which was one of the commissions given to Sylvia during her working release time this spring semester by President Hendrix and Provost Beard. Sylvia started with Dr. Beard and from there met with Dean Martz, Dr. Howard-Bostic, Dr. Groff, and Dr. Kendig (and informally with Dr. Bankhurst and Professor Meads). The Board went over the document drafted from these conversations and modeled after East Tennessee State University (ETSA), and made a number of suggestions, including moving some of the courses into different concentrations and simplifying and clarifying requirements. Shurbutt will collate the results as well as check on some of the concerns expressed during the discussion. She noted that she would meet with Provost Beard and Dr. Stevens, the graduate dean. **The group of course changes were voted on—APST 530 Name Change and Courses Description; APST 543 Name Change: MVP**

Course Creations were voted on—APST 580 Appalachian Internship and APST 602 Thesis: MVP

The Board preferred to vote on the Program Addition after Provost Beard and Dean Stevens answered some of our questions. Sylvia agreed to pursue those conversations asap and to send a revision, asking for an email vote in a few days. Two courses changes must also be processed by email: APST 531 and APST 576, two practicum courses in need of course description changes. After some additional discussion, the Board dispersed a bit before 6:00 p.m.

Email Vote for the Proposed MA in Appalachian Studies and Several Additional Course Changes:

From: Sylvia Shurbutt

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 12:49 PM

To: Andro Barnett; Breanna Gladden; Joshua Riese; Benjamin Bankhurst; Ben Martz; Jeffrey Groff; Rachael Meads

Cc: Scott Beard; Richard Stevens

Subject: Re: Important: Program Vote and Course Course Proposals

Thanks, everyone. I think we have passage of all the course changes, course creations and the program addition. I'll share the information with Richie and get the paper to him on Thursday or Friday. The only signatures we need for a graduate proposal are mine and Dow's for the program addition only. I'll take that by his office for signature on Friday and all signed hardcopies to Richie as well. Sylvia

Dr. S. Bailey Shurbutt

Professor of English

Shepherd University Appalachian Studies Coordinator

304.876.3119 (messages), 304.876.5207 (office)

<http://www.shepherd.edu/appalachian/>

[Shepherd University | Appalachian](#)

www.shepherd.edu

The official Web site of Shepherd University, a liberal arts institution located one hour from Washington, D.C., in historic Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Sylvia,

Here are my votes and comments (in red) -Jeff

YES 1) Motion: Approval of **APST MA Program Addition** (attached with their and earlier changes are highlighted). Both Dean Stevens and Provost Beard agreed that the thesis requirement (and alternative non-thesis track) needed to be among the core requirements, so note that move. Also, Dr. Stevens wishes us to include a special topics APST 599 for additional flexibility. Please reply to this email with your vote.

YES 2) Motion: Approval of Course Creation: **APST 599** Special Topics (attached).

YES 3) Motion: Approval of Course Change: **APST 531** Practicum (attached)

3) Please also find all the APST approved course changes that we altered during last week's meeting.

Finally, our changing the name and descriptions of **APST 430 Celtic Roots and Global Appalachia**, **APST 343 Appalachian Music and Ethnomusicology** and **APST 531 Travel Practicum** means that we need to also vote to **change the undergraduate courses for C&I**.

___ **YES** ___ 1) Motion: Approval of **APST 430 name and description change** for Celtic Roots and Global Appalachia

___ **YES** ___ 2) Motion: Approval of **APST343** name change or Appalachian Music and Ethnomusicology

___ **YES** ___ 3) Motion: Approval of **APST 431** Travel Practicum Course description.

Benjamin Bankhurst

Today, 1:08 PM Sylvia Shurbutt;Andro Barnett;Breanna Gladden;Joshua Riese;

Dear Sylvia,

Please accept my apologies for the delayed response. I fully endorse the creation of the MA and approve the motion.

Best,

Ben

Aye_1) Motion: Approval of **APST 430 name and description change** for Celtic Roots and Global Appalachia

Aye ___ 2) Motion: Approval of **APST343** name change or Appalachian Music and Ethnomusicology

Aye ___ 3) Motion: Approval of **APST 431** Travel Practicum Course description.

Joshua Riese

Yesterday, 8:55 AM Sylvia Shurbutt;Breanna Gladden;Ben Martz;Benjamin Bankhurst;

Vote in the affirmative on all motions.

Josh

Sent from my iPhone

I'm in full support.

Breanna

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Ben Martz

Yesterday, 7:48 AM Sylvia Shurbutt;Breanna Gladden;Joshua Riese;Benjamin Bankhurst;

Support from this corner...

From: Andro Barnett

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 11:52:15 AM

To: Sylvia Shurbutt; Breanna Gladden; Joshua Riese; Benjamin Bankhurst; Ben Martz; Jeffrey Groff; Rachael Meads

Cc: Scott Beard; Richard Stevens

Subject: RE: Important: Program Vote and Course Course Proposals

In support of all the motions,

Dr. Andro L. Barnett

Professor

From: Rachael Meads

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 5:42 PM

To: Sylvia Shurbutt; Breanna Gladden; Joshua Riese; Benjamin Bankhurst; Ben Martz; Jeffrey Groff; Andro Barnett

Cc: Scott Beard; Richard Stevens

Subject: Re: Important: Program Vote and Course Course Proposals

I am very much in support of all of these motions. I believe that we are on a very exciting track.

Rachael

Rachael Meads

Director of Student Activities & Leadership/Performing Arts Series at Shepherd

From: Sylvia Shurbutt

Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2018 9:28 AM

To: Breanna Gladden; Joshua Riese; Benjamin Bankhurst; Ben Martz; Jeffrey Groff; Andro Barnett; Rachael Meads; Sylvia Shurbutt

Cc: Scott Beard; Richard Stevens

Subject: Important: Program Vote and Course Course Proposals

Hi, everyone. I think we're almost there, but since we wished Provost Beard and Dean Stevens to offer some input prior to our program vote, we need to have an electronic vote for that, so please weigh in with your yea or no. Below are the additional proposals that we need to vote on with commentary on the changes made since you've seen them. Respond with your vote for these proposals:

1) Motion: Approval of **APST MA Program Addition** (attached with their and earlier changes are highlighted). Both Dean Stevens and Provost Beard agreed that the thesis requirement (and alternative non-thesis track) needed to be among the core requirements, so note that move. Also, Dr. Stevens wishes us to include a special topics APST 599 for additional flexibility. Please reply to this email with your vote.

2) Motion: Approval of Course Creation: **APST 599 Special Topics** (attached).

3) Motion: Approval of Course Change: **APST 531 Practicum** (attached)

3) Please also find all the APST approved course changes that we altered during last week's meeting.

Finally, our changing the name and descriptions of **APST 430 Celtic Roots and Global Appalachia**

_____ 1) Motion: Approval of **APST 430 name and description change** for Celtic Roots and Global

_____ 2) Motion: Approval of **APST343** name change or Appalachian Music and Ethnomusicology

_____ 3) Motion: Approval of **APST 431** Travel Practicum Course description. **Appalachia, APST 343 Appalachian Music and Ethnomusicology** and **APST 531 Travel Practicum** means that we need to also vote to **change the undergraduate courses for C&I.**

So please vote for each of these motions. Please copy all your vote by Wednesday,

Lastly, we received Stacey Kendig's support and enthusiasm for using the two RECR classes [RECR 543 & 544], the last of our Departmental approvals [which included creating graduate courses by Dr. Chiquita Bostic-Howard for ANTH 525 and Dr. Jeff Groff for ENVS 522 & 523]--so those and other grad curricular papers are signed [see curricular forms for course additions and changes].

APST COURSE ENROLLMENTS

Spring 2016

APST 356 – 18 /556 – 1 Appalachian Culture (19 total)

APST 345 – 15 /545 – n/a Appalachian Storytelling (15 total)

APST 309 – 7 /HIST 309 – 50 /509 –n/a WV and the Appalachian Region (57 total)

Fall 2015

APST 358 – 9 /ENGL 358 – n/a /558 - 1 Appalachian Lit. (10 total)

APST 343 – 18 /543 - 0 Appalachian Music (18 total)

APST 309 – 2 /HIST 309 – 55 /509 – n/a WV and the Appalachian Region (57 total)

Spring 2015

APST 356 – 16 /556 – n/a Appalachian Culture (16 total)

APST 345 – 18 /545 – n/a Appalachian Storytelling (18 total)

APST 309 – 5 /HIST 309 – 64 /509 – n/a WV and the Appalachian Region (69 total)

Fall 2014

APST 358 – 12 /ENGL 358 – 7 /558 – 0 Appalachian Lit. (19 total)

APST 343 – 19 /543 – n/a Appalachian Music (19 total)

APST 309 – 4 /HIST 309 – 64 /509 – n/a WV and the Appalachian Region (68 total)

Spring 2014

APST 356 – 18 /556 – n/a Appalachian Culture (18 total)

APST 345 – 21 /545 –n/a Appalachian Storytelling (21 total)

APST 309 – 3 /HIST 309 – 64 /509 – n/a WV and the Appalachian Region (67 total)

Fall 2013

APST 358 – 11 /ENGL 358 – 5 /558 - 1 Appalachian Lit. (17 total)

APST 309 – 10 /HIST 309 – 55 /509 – n/a WV and the Appalachian Region (65 total)

Spring 2013

APST 356 – 10 /556 – n/a Appalachian Culture + ENGL 356 – 3 (13 total)

APST 309 – 3 /HIST 309 – 68 /509 –n/a WV and the Appalachian Region (71 total)

Fall 2012

APST 358 – 6 /ENGL 358 – 11 /558 – n/a Appalachian Lit. (17 total)

APST 309 – 9 /HIST 309 – 67 /509 – n/a WV and the Appalachian Region (76 total)

Spring 2012

APST 356 –7 /556 – n/a Appalachian Culture + ENGL 356 – 7 (14 total)

APST 309 -3 /HIST 309 – 35 /509 –n/a WV and the Appalachian Region (38 total)

Fall 2011

APST 358 -2 /ENGL 358 – 14 /558 – n/a Appalachian Lit. (16 total)

APST 309 -3 /HIST 309 – 63 /509 – n/a WV and the Appalachian Region (66 total)



2018 APPALACHIAN STUDIES BOARD

Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Center for Appalachian Studies Director, English

Dean Ben Martz, Business and Entrepreneurship

Professor Rachael Meads, Student Affairs and APST

Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst, History

Dr. Andro Barnett, Leisure Studies

Dr. Jeffrey Groff, Environmental Studies

Breanna Gladden Undergraduate Student

Josh Riese, Graduate Student