

Liesel Nowak
To: Crystal Graham
Cc: Liesel Crosier

Tue, Nov 11, 2025 at 12:30 PM

Hi, Crystal,

Please see the below statement on behalf of MBU,

Thanks,

Liesel

Mary Baldwin University confirms that, following a vote by its Board of Trustees, several academic minors will be discontinued as part of a broader academic realignment.

This action implements recommendations from a faculty-led academic portfolio review completed nearly two years ago, which identified many of these minors as persistently low-enrolled. It also aligns with MBU's strategic direction to focus on career-focused, workforce-aligned programs that are partnership-driven and professional by design.

The minors being discontinued are:

- African American Studies
- Anthropology and Sociology
- Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution
- Professional Writing
- Sexuality and Gender Studies
- Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures
- Exercise Science - Nutrition, Coaching, Communication (Exercise Science retained as a major)
- Religious Studies
- Physics
- Art History
- Film with an Emphasis in Film Production
- Film with an Emphasis in Film Studies
- Music
- Studio Art
- Dance
- Science Communication
- Creative Writing

Mary Baldwin intentionally delayed announcing the Board's action until affected faculty had been personally notified. The university deeply values the contributions of these faculty members and recognizes the impact they have made on generations of students.

This academic realignment builds on MBU's existing areas of strength — particularly in health sciences, human services, business, education, and technology — while continuing to emphasize the liberal arts principles that have always defined a Mary Baldwin education: communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, and ethical judgment.

Mary Baldwin's mission remains unchanged: to empower inclusive leaders to create lives of purpose and professional success in a changing world.

For additional context or inquiries, please contact Liesel Nowak at lanowak@marybadwin.edu or at (540) 280-8702.