

# ONLINE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM

## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

CREATING A LOW-COST INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREE WHILE EXPANDING ACCESS THROUGH AN OPEN, ONLINE COURSE

### AT A GLANCE:

**Targeted Degree Program:**

Interdisciplinary bachelor's degree in the social sciences

**Opening Date:** Fall 2013

**First-Year Enrollment:** 1,000

**Anticipated Students Served in First Five Years:** 13,488

**Tuition Model:** Credit hours at reduced rate of \$155/credit

**Geographies Served:** Nationwide, with primary emphasis on the state of Washington

**Targeted Students:** Working young adults with some college credits who are returning to school

### HALLMARKS:

Courses developed and taught by full-time University of Washington faculty for an expanded population of students

Versions of the courses offered at no cost via Coursera

Courses in multimedia format addressing the needs of diverse audiences

Interdisciplinary degree mapped to employer needs

Advisors/coaches who interact with students to ensure their motivation, engagement, retention

Analytics experts tracking multiple assessment measures at course, program, and institutional levels

Ongoing course, program assessment and evaluation for continuous improvement

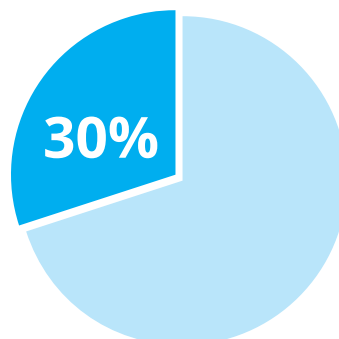
“ This program will target working adults who want to complete a four-year degree but have work, family, location and other issues that make face-to-face education difficult. We will create a high-quality program that builds upon the expertise of our faculty and will feature such special services as advisors/coaches who will proactively interact with the students. ”

DAVID SZATMARY, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Like other traditional research universities, the University of Washington has historically served first-time full-time undergraduates and graduate students as core constituencies. In this Next Generation Learning Challenges program, they are breaking out of that mold to offer an opportunity to working adults with some college credit who need an undergraduate degree to advance their careers. Their numbers are substantial: nearly six million people in the western states have at least one year of college but lack a degree, and many of them also lack the resources to pay tuition at the usual rates, the time to travel to campus to attend

classes, or both.

UW's program is being designed expressly to serve the needs of this target population. The specific degrees offered are being selected based on those likely to have the greatest economic impact. The degrees will be offered at a reduced cost - approximately half the per-credit-hour cost of most competitive programs - with free versions of the courses offered on Coursera, a commercial platform on which universities offer massive open online courses (MOOCs) that are available to anyone worldwide. The course will expand access to resources and learning and will also give students

**PELL-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:****PRICE TO STUDENTS PER YEAR:**

\$6,975 (FY 2014)

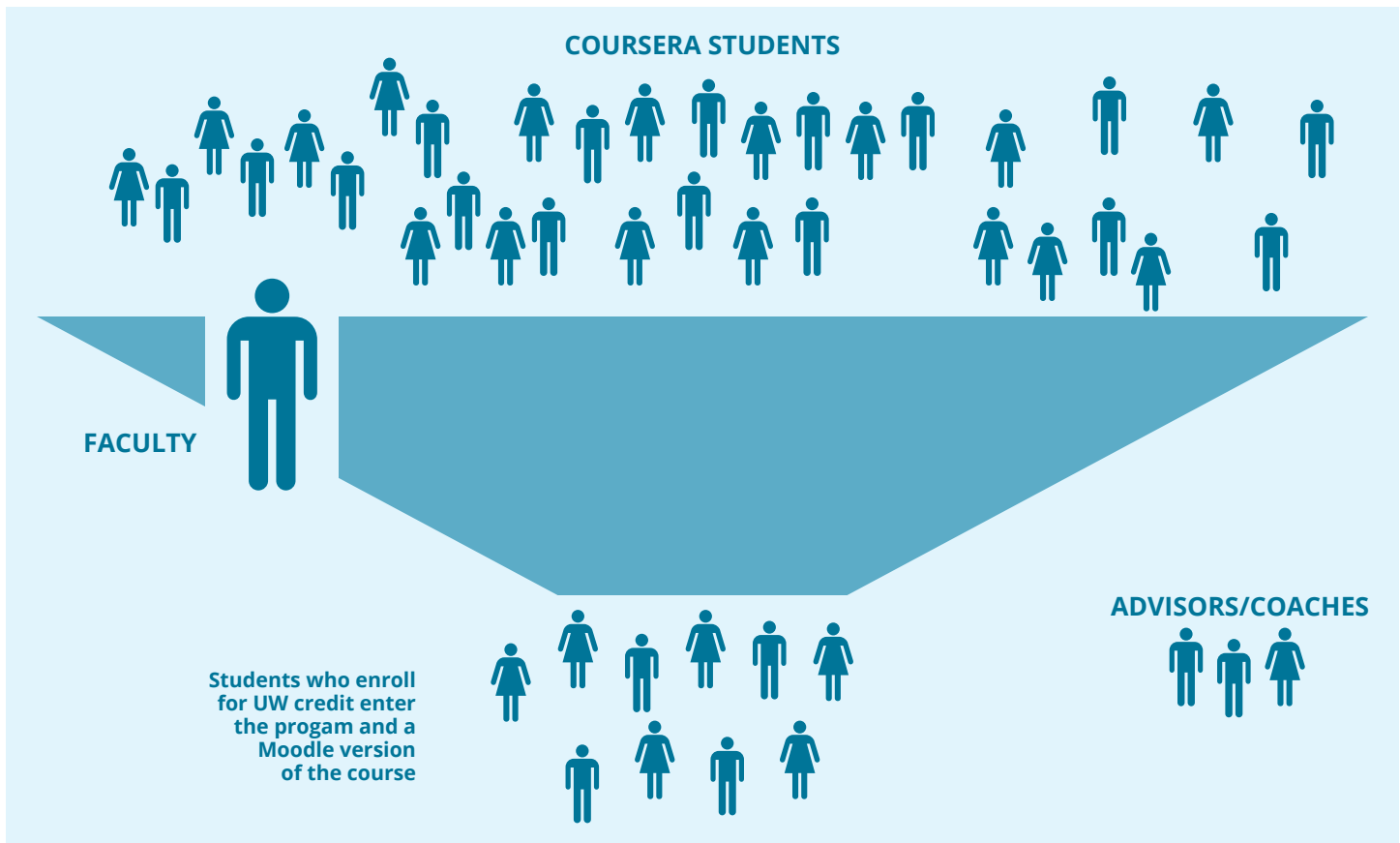
**COST PER FTE PER YEAR:**

\$6,493 (FY 2015)

**DELIVERY:**

Online

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The University of Washington is uniquely positioned to reach students in two ways: an open, online version of the course offered through Coursera and a credit-bearing course offered on the Moodle platform. Faculty develop content across both courses but students enrolled in the credit-bearing course also have access to specialized online coaches and advisors.

the opportunity to sample a course before enrolling. The credit-bearing versions of the courses, offered in Moodle, will be instructor-led and will have additional assignments, projects, papers and readings which will augment the materials on Coursera.

Since the program targets students who have some college credit already, it will focus on upper-level courses. Full-time faculty will design and teach these courses, ensuring their depth and quality. The courses will be designed around learning outcomes, and these outcomes will be described at the beginning of each lesson to inform students explicitly of

the required concepts to master and skills to develop. Faculty who teach in the program will receive comprehensive training in online instruction to ensure their thorough familiarity with those practices which encourage retention and course completion.

In addition, specialized online advisors/coaches will work with students, checking in with them at least every other week about their progress in current courses and suggesting strategies for completion. Struggling students will receive particular attention.

*"The degrees will be offered at a reduced cost - approximately half the per-credit-hour cost of most competitive programs - with free versions of the courses offered on Coursera, a commercial platform that offers massive open online courses (MOOCs)."*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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