

OLLI Program Definitions and Filter Questions for Curriculum Committees

What is the purpose of OLLI programming?

OLLI's volunteer-led learning community, featuring a dynamic curriculum of non-credit classes, study groups, and educational travel, will allow members to enjoy a satisfying and fulfilling life as they reach and enjoy retirement, share Bradley's dedication to lifelong learning, and enrich the intellectual life of Bradley University's campus.

Classes Definition:

- **Classes:** lecture-based, academic courses held at Bradley University 12 days per year, taught by volunteers (usually local experts), in the following categories: Art; Community Awareness; Finance & Business; Gardening, Environment, & Agriculture; Health & Wellness; History & Political Science; Literature; Music & Entertainment; Philosophy & Religion; STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Mathematics); and Topical. An OLLI class session is one hour or 1 ½ hours long and the class meets four times in the Spring and Fall; in the Winter, class sessions are two hours long (plus a break at the half-way point) and meet for two days. OLLI members take up to four classes each season. The goal number of classes offered each season are: 30 for Winter, 44 for Spring, and 44 for Fall. A volunteer committee selects the offerings each season. *Note: Spring and Fall goal numbers have been adjusted temporarily for 2017-2021 due to campus construction projects.*

FILTER QUESTIONS TO ASSIST IN SELECTING OLLI PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The specific offerings from each of the three types of OLLI programs (Classes, Study Groups, and Learning Trips) are determined by committees of OLLI volunteers working with the Continuing Education staff members who support OLLI. To help volunteers and staff to be aligned, these filter questions provide guidance for selecting appropriate offerings (not rigid checklists, but rather helpful guidance). Consider all the filter questions in total.

All three categories of Filter Questions are to be applied to all decisions – the Universal, the Staff, and the Committee Filter questions.

UNIVERSAL FILTER QUESTIONS FOR CLASSES:

What do we want our members to experience?

- High quality, educational programming with a broad spectrum of topics
- A diverse, academic-oriented experience available through Bradley University
- A sense of belonging to a continuous learning community
- Volunteer-driven curriculum and peer-led instruction

How does the program provide social engagement for our members?

- Held in an open, friendly environment with food and fellowship
- Opportunity to learn on Bradley's campus and/or provide positive interactions with BU students

How do we engage our membership?

- Provide programming to enable adults ages 50+ to develop intellectually
- Provide outstanding, personalized customer service and opportunities for fellowship
- Provide an outlet to let members feel relevant and part of a continuous learning community

STAFF FILTER QUESTIONS FOR CLASSES:

- Do membership fees cover the direct cost of the program and provide revenue?
- Will the class fit in a room located in the MSC? *Note: for 2017-2021 only*

COMMITTEE FILTER QUESTIONS FOR CLASS SELECTION AND PRIORITIZATION:

- Are there four hours of engaging, quality classroom time?
- If the topic is offered elsewhere (e.g. community colleges, park districts, etc.), will this offer a superior experience for OLLI participants?
- Do any BU faculty have interest in instructing or using class as a cohort?
- Can a committee volunteer find a qualified volunteer instructor in the community?
- Is this an "academic" learning opportunity?
- If the instructor has taught before, were his/her evaluations positive?