The College of Liberal Arts was established in fall 2005, as a part of the restructuring of the College of Arts and Sciences. Under the leadership of then Chancellor James Ammons, the College of Arts and Sciences was divided into three new colleges: the College of Science and Technology, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Linda Kerr Norflett, Professor of Theatre and Associate Dean of the former College of Arts and Sciences, was selected as Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Norflett selected Dr. Mary Mathew, assistant chair of English and Mass Communication, to be Interim Associate Dean of Liberal Arts and retained her executive assistant, Ethel Benkin, from the College of Arts and Sciences to be interim executive assistant for the College of Liberal Arts. After conducting national searches, Chancellor Charlie Nelms approved both Interim Dean Norflett and Interim Associate Dean Mathew for permanent status in their positions in summer 2007. Mrs. Ethel Benkin became permanent executive assistant earlier in the year. With the retirement of Dean Norflett in each 2009, Associate Dean Mathew now serves as Interim Dean of the College and Dr. Michelle Ware, Associate Professor of English, serves as Interim Associate Dean.

The College of Liberal Arts consists of eight departments: Art, English and Mass Communication, History, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, Theatre, Aerospace Space Studies and Military Science. The College has received approval for degree programs in Liberal Studies, South Asia Studies and Global Studies. Individual departments offer a variety of new programs in addition to the traditional degree programs that existed since the founding of the University. While the focus of the college is the preparation of majors in the eight disciplines listed, the College of Liberal Arts gives substantial support to the University’s General Education program. The College fulfills a critical role in the General Education Program for all undergraduate students by providing training in two thematic areas of the program: focus on writing and on ethics. We offer approximately 200 sections of classes in General Education per year, and we generate an impressive number of credit hours for the University.

The mission of the College of Liberal Arts of North Carolina Central University is to prepare its students to succeed in the fields of English, History, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts, Mass Communications, Modern Foreign Languages, Military Science, and Aerospace studies, by offering them rich theoretical knowledge and relevant practical skills to help them excel intellectually, artistically, and professionally. As a reflection of the cultural and intellectual diversity of the global community, the College will promote multi-cultural learning, interdisciplinary collaboration, top-rated research, and state-of-the-art technology. The College will set high goals in recruitment, enrollment, retention, and the ideals of dedicated community service. The mission of the College will uphold at all times emphatic recognition of the core values of the humanities, genuine commitment to scholarship and teaching, academic integrity, and principle-centered leadership.

The vision of the College of Liberal Art is to maintain high levels of academic excellence and to be recognized as a body of outstanding leaders in the fields of English, Mass Communication, History, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts, Modern Foreign Languages, Military Science, and Aerospace Studies. We shall partner across disciplines and cultures to represent and integrate the best of arts and humanities nationally and globally. Our goal is to train students to be creative critical thinkers who demonstrate social consciousness, outstanding professional values and impressive leadership skills.

Degree Programs Offered by the College of Liberal Arts

Aerospace Studies
Art
Art Education, B.A.
Art, B.A.

English & Mass Communication
English Secondary Education, B.A.
English, B.A.
English, M.A.
Mass Communication, B.A.

**History**
- History Secondary Education, B.A.
- History, B.A.
- History, M.A.

**Military Sciences**

**Modern Foreign Languages**
- French Secondary Education, B.A.
- French, B.A.
- Spanish Education, B.A.
- Spanish, B.A.

**Music**
- Jazz Studies, M.M.
- Jazz, B.M.
- Music Education, B.A.
- Music, B.A.

**Theatre**
- Theatre Arts Education (K-12), B.A.
- Theatre, B.A.

**Recent Initiatives of the College of Liberal Arts**

- The Department of Music has developed a concentration in Ethnomusicology via Distance Education as an option in the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. This concentration explores music around the world.

- The Department of History has submitted a Plan to Establish a Master of Arts degree in Public History which deals with the uses of historical and archival information outside academia.

- The Department of Art is planning a collaborative agreement with the School of Communication Arts at the Community College level that will allow students with an Associate degree in Applied Science in Digital Media to enroll in the Art studies concentration at NCCU and work towards a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art. The articulation agreement will be finalized in 2009.

- The Department of Theatre is developing an interdisciplinary concentration in Musical Theatre which will be available as an option in the liberal Studies degree program in the College of Liberal Arts.

- The Department of English and Mass Communication has established a concentration in Writing as an option in the Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

- The Department of English and Mass Communication is offering a Certificate in English Language Development (ELD). This new proficiency in English program will serve students who speak languages other than English and who aim to matriculate in a university program. The ELD program was approved by the NCCU Board of Trustees on June 4, 2008.

- The proposal to plan a separate Department of Mass Communication was approved by the NCCCCU Board of Trustees on June 4, 2008. The department structure will be established during 2009-2011, pending funding for the new department.

- The Department of English is preparing proposals for the following programs:
  - A concentration in Rhetoric & Composition for the graduate English program
  - An online communication concentration in Mass Communication
  - A public relations concentration in Mass Communication

Prepared by Linda Norflett, Ph.D
September 2008