

TRANSMITTAL HISTORY FOR REVISIONS TO THE PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

Committee on Curriculum and Instruction- Friday, June 12, 2009

Excerpt from Unapproved Minutes

1. Psychology Minor Revision (Guest: Mike Vasey)
 - John Harder & Sciences Subcommittee: The change here is logical in the sense to reduce the number of credit hours from 39 down to 20-24. The increase in credit hours over time was due to 3 credit courses moving to 4 & 5 credit hours. The main revision to the General Psychology minor is that the prerequisite courses were 100, 220 & 300- these are required now of all tracks. 320 has been changed to 220 (Data Analysis). This reduction seemed reasonable. A student survey of non-majors indicated the approval of these tracks, which similar to the General Psychology Minor, have 3 required courses (Biological Bases track has additional required course), with 100 serving as a prerequisite. Subcommittee concerns centered on the upper division courses- are there prerequisites that would make it difficult for students to complete the program? Psychology 100 and 220 were typically the only prerequisites for their courses so this was not seen as a problem. The other critique was that the minor tracks were presented in name only without a rationale regarding why they should be “tracks”. They do parallel the core areas from which students select in the general psych minor.
 - Mike Vasey: Regarding the prerequisites- we plan to make 300 a prerequisite for many advanced courses in the near future. This is a required course in all tracks so there would be no complications. Biological Bases of Behavior has the 313 as a prerequisite. As for the rationale for tracks- our mistake was in assuming that everyone here is a Psychologist. The committee suggestion to provide a brief paragraph describing who would be most interested in each track or why we have these tracks is a great idea and we will do so in the near future. While we will be retaining the General Psychology minor, most students will not choose that but instead a more specialized track.
 - a. Clinical/Individual Differences Track- should attract quite a few majors (Criminology, Sociology, pre-law, pre-med in Psychiatry)
 - b. Developmental Psychology- Education students, working with intellectual disabilities
 - c. Organizational Performance- Business students, pre-law, engineering
 - d. Social/Personality- Business, Criminology, Sociology
 - e. Biological Bases- we were surprised by the number of Biology majors indicating an interest in a Psychology minor; probably many students wanting to minor could be a Neuroscience or Psychology major
 - f. Psychological Research- does not map onto a specific sub-discipline within Psych. The Undergrad Studies Committee intent was to make available to students a broad range of research from surveys to microbiology; correlational to experimental in humans and animals, to benefit from that expertise. Alisa Paulsen (advising Chair for undergrads) saw this interesting to pre-law and pre-med students, especially with premeds having a lack of training in research methods and critical thinking.

- Letter from Subcommittee serves as motion to approve; 2nd- Huffman
- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**CCI Social, Behavioral, Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Subcommittee- Tuesday, June 09, 2009**

Excerpt from Unapproved Minutes

Psychology Minor revision

Primary reviewers: Todd & John

- Rationale: Reducing hours that have crept up as individual course credits have risen over time
- Proposal retains and revises general Psych minor and add 6 tracks, outlined nicely in proposal
- Summary comparison chart lays out new structure nicely
- No new courses are contained in proposal
- 3 core courses apply to all 6 tracks, and then split into areas of specialization
- For all 6 tracks there is a choice of 3 elective courses for students
- Minors run from 20-24 credit hours
- Do electives have pre-reqs that would make minor difficult? Psych 100, but that is included in core.
- Proposal is slated to be implemented upon OAA approval
- Rationale for each track: assumed that these are all emerging and relevant domains within Psychology. Appendices could be more descriptive of tracks. For example, why is there an Organizational and Performance Psychology and a General Psychology minor – what is the difference? Org Psych is well established field. Mike Vasey outlined rationales for each track at SBS meeting.
- **Suggestion for CCI: A paragraph for each track for students, stating who should take each minor and why. This would be useful to help students identify tracks by interest who might not know how fields break down.**
- Most tracks are well defined fields, although committee wondered if the research minor was a defined subfield of Psychology. Above suggestion can clarify this. Much of this information about various fields is covered in Psych 100 and students will be exposed to different sub fields in this course.
- Motion to Approve : Mummy, 2nd Bitters

Further Discussion: Max 5 hours transfer credit: Units can choose to accept less than 10

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

**College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Committee on Curricular Affairs-
Tuesday, May 26, 2009**

Excerpt from Approved Minutes

1. Psychology Minor Revision

- Current minor requires 9 courses (30-39 credit hours) not including Psych 100, which is part of minor. Excessive in terms of credit hours.
- This has happened over years as course credit amounts have risen, rendering psych minor unattractive.
- Proposal is to reduce requirement to 6 courses (19-24 credits with a minimum requirement set at 20)
- Other proposed revisions relatively modest and meant to bring minor into conformity with newly revised Psych major
 1. changing data analysis to Psych 226
 2. core areas from 5-6
 3. shifting of courses to reflect changes in major
- Would create 6 minor tracks each emphasizing one subfield within psychology
- Reflects the way a non-psych major would be interested in psychology
- Department conducted a student survey to determine desirability of changes. How was survey sample chosen? Beyond SBS and A&S, included Biology majors for example, very broadly disseminated survey done by Alisa Paulsen.
- Drawing in new minors may attract double majors
- Minor tracks parallel structure of Political Science but not identically. This would be an advantage for advising
- 5 of the 6 minors correspond to core areas
- Psych Research track: for one to pursue research methods and critical thinking
- Is this too many minor tracks? No- they are more specialized. Will making these more specialized still populate the minor? Yes, there are enough. Students can choose what makes intellectual sense. Minors are rigorous and minor as it was did not make intellectual sense
- It is important for students to have a minor defined as within tracks over the general name “Psychology”
- Credit to Alicia Paulsen for strong proposal.
- All tracks have data analysis course & require Psych 300
- All get basic data and methods course then their own branch course(s)
- To what extent can a student with a methods course already hope to get such a course to substitute for the Psych offering? The requirement could be waived but the student would have to take an additional course (see “or equivalent”). Double majors could count this as a GEC course
 - Taking Psych 220, 300 or its equivalent is spelled out in the proposal
- Some Sociology courses could be readily treated as equivalents
- Typo- Appendix 1- Psych 220 not 320
- Consistency with SIS- consider changing language throughout from “Program” to “Plan” (all majors and minors are now plans)
- “Notes” (Appendix 2), #11 on all plans from “...changes must be...” to “variation form minor plan described on this sheet needs approval of Department”
- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**