

From: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
To: [Craigmile, Peter](#)
Cc: [Hans, Christopher](#); [Parthasarathy, Srinivasan](#); [McGraw, Kathleen](#); [Vaessin, Harald](#); [Hadad, Christopher](#); [Lam, Pok-Sang](#); [Haddad, Deborah](#)
Subject: Proposed Revision to Data Analytics Major: Social Science Analytics Specialization
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 1:33:00 PM

Dear Peter,

The proposal to add a Social Science Analytics Specialization to the Data Analytics Major was reviewed by the NMS Panel of the ASCC on 10-13-14 and by the SBS Panel on 10-16-14. Please find below the combined feedback of both Panels. The Panels approved the proposal with two contingencies and a series of questions/suggestions:

Contingencies (these were expressed by the SBS Panel):

- Concern about the elective courses: The fact that 3 courses can come from different disciplines/departments does not seem to be good preparation for a research project. SBS Panel has 3 suggestions for how this could be addressed:
 - Go through all 18 courses and ascertain that these cover enough content;
 - Develop specific guidelines for research project;
 - Request that external committee address this issue when assessment is done.
- Shouldn't there be a required ethics course? Ethics of big data is an important issue. Big data has its own set of issues separate from research ethics. Or maybe ethics should be part of the learning outcomes for the specialization. Perhaps the topic could be inserted in overview of research methods.

Questions/suggestions (these were expressed by the NMS Panel and/or the SBS Panel):

- What is the time expectation for the creation of the capstone course?
- Point of concern: Availability of core courses and faculty to teach the core courses going forward.
- Project without a thesis:
 - Are there any standards in place for the report? How is quality control done for these reports?
 - Undergraduate research project might cover more than one semester. The proposal should specify this.
 - For the research project, the proposal needs to further clarify what the role of the SBS representative on the oversight committee is vs. the faculty member in the specific SBS Dept in which the research will be carried out. How does research happen administratively? Who approves final report of the research?
- Useful to specify that the three elective courses can be from the same discipline. (No distribution requirement.)
- Outcomes: The courses that fulfill specialization outcomes fulfill these at the intermediate or advanced level (except for Soc 3487, which fulfills one goal at the beginning level). Where do students receive beginning level exposure to the outcomes in the specialization? This question was posed by the NMS Panel. The answer provided by the SBS Panel is: Likely, beginning-level exposure is provided in the prereqs and the GE courses. We can ask Associate Dean Kathleen McGraw to articulate a full answer.

- Numbering and other course information:
 - Does CSE 2421 now have a more specific course for the Data Analytics BS? 2xxx is listed in the curriculum map.
 - Identical question for ISE 5xxx in curriculum map. What is this number? Has the course been created?
 - Advising sheet: Geo “5220” is prereq for three other Geography courses. Recommendation to make a note about this on the advising sheet. (Also see comment about numbering below.)
 - There have been several recent changes to the Geography courses in the proposal. These changes will become effective AU15. Request to double-check accuracy of all the information concerning these courses. (For example, 5200, 5201, and 5222 will have new titles. Geog 5220 is in the process of being renumbered to 5210; 5221 will become 5226.) The prerequisite information of the Geography courses will also change in some instances. (For example, some numbers of Geography prereqs may have changed. Curriculum.osu.edu does not list a Math prereq for Geography 5201 starting AU15.)
- Two 7000-level Political Science courses are listed in the Focused Research Methods category. Concern: undergraduate students are not permitted to take a graduate course for undergraduate credit without taking several administrative steps.

I am cc'ing those people who I know have been involved in the development of the proposal. I am also cc'ing the Chairs of the NMS and SBS Panels as well as Christopher Hadad and Deborah Haddad. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Best,
Bernadette

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