UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE FORMS

Academic Program Approval

This form is a routing document for the approval of new and revised academic programs. Proposing department should complete this form. For more information, call the Faculty Senate Office at 831-2921.

Submitted by: _Aaron Kupchik _____phone number_831-3267_____

Department: _Sociology and Criminal Justice_____email address_akupchik@udel.edu__

Date: _10/28/2013_____

Action: _Revise course requirements (by adding a minimum credit hour requirement) and comprehensive exams for Ph.D. in Criminology and Ph.D. in Sociology _____

(Example: add major/minor/concentration, delete major/minor/concentration, revise major/minor/concentration, academic unit name change, request for permanent status, policy change, etc.)

Effective term__14F_____

(use format 04F, 05W)

Current degree____Ph.D __ _____

(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed change leads to the degree of: ___Ph.D._____

(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed name:_____

Proposed new name for revised or new major / minor / concentration / academic unit
(if applicable)

Revising or Deleting:

Undergraduate major / Concentration:_____

(Example: Applied Music – Instrumental degree BMAS)

Undergraduate minor:_____

(Example: African Studies, Business Administration, English, Leadership, etc.)

Graduate Program Policy statement change:__Attached_____

(**Must attach** your Graduate Program Policy Statement)

Graduate Program of Study:_____Ph.D. Criminology_____

(Example: Animal Science: MS Animal Science: PHD Economics: MA Economics: PHD)

Graduate minor / concentration:_____

Note: all graduate studies proposals must include an electronic copy of the Graduate Program Policy Document, highlighting the changes made to the original policy document.

List new courses required for the new or revised curriculum. How do they support the

overall program objectives of the major/minor/concentrations)?
(Be aware that approval of the curriculum is dependent upon these courses successfully passing through the Course Challenge list. If there are no new courses enter "None")

While no new specific courses are required, we have created a minimum course credit hour requirement of 46 hours (15 3-credit courses plus a 1-credit teaching seminar). We previously had no credit hour minimum, only a series of required courses (which we have maintained). The new requirement is consistent with or below comparable programs at peer institutions, and consistent with students' current practices.

Explain, when appropriate, how this new/revised curriculum supports the 10 goals of undergraduate education: http://www.ugs.udel.edu/gened/

The changes affect graduate education only. Our revisions to Ph.D. programs in Sociology and Criminology consist of two changes:

1. We are changing our comprehensive exams from two six-hour, in camera exams, to one six-hour in camera exam and one qualifying paper. Additionally, students will not be required to take more than one course in preparation for any exam. These revisions come at the request of graduate students, and graduate students were involved in the revision process. We expect the new exam system to help guide students towards their dissertation study more efficiently by increasing their focus on their specific program of study while reducing the delay caused by the current exam system and maintaining rigorous performance standards.

2. We have created a minimum course credit hour requirement of 46 hours. We expect this to change very little, since the number of courses is consistent with current practices. This revision is a consequence of the changes we are making to our comprehensive exam system; since students will not be required to take as many courses in preparation for exams, we feel it is necessary to ensure that students take a sufficient number of courses. This system should preserve current practice in terms of number of courses taken, yet offer greater flexibility in what courses graduate students may select.

Identify other units affected by the proposed changes:
(Attach permission from the affected units. If no other unit is affected, enter "None")

None

Describe the rationale for the proposed program change(s):
(Explain your reasons for creating, revising, or deleting the curriculum or program.)

As stated above, these revisions come at the request of our graduate students. Our prior comprehensive exam system caused unnecessary delay in students' degree progress. The proposed exam system is better oriented toward students' dissertations, and will reduce delays in degree progress. Further, because some examinations had required several courses, students approached these courses with instrumental goals (i.e., how they can prepare for an exam) rather than intellectual or academic goals (i.e., how can I become a better scholar), and students often struggled to enroll in the required curriculum for any particular exam. We therefore propose that no comprehensive exam or qualifying paper requires more than one course in preparation.

This decoupling of courses and exams led to the second aspect of our revision – a required course credit hour minimum. Without the requirement of courses in exam preparation, and with no current course credit hour minimum, students may have been vulnerable to insufficient training

for a PhD, generally, by taking an insufficient number of courses. We have therefore created a 46 credit hour minimum. Replacing a system whereby course requirements were tied to comprehensive exams, with a credit hour minimum instead, will increase scheduling flexibility and encourage more well-rounded scholarship.

Program Requirements:

(Show the new or revised curriculum as it should appear in the Course Catalog. If this is a revision, be sure to indicate the changes being made to the current curriculum and **include a side-by-side comparison** of the credit distribution before and after the proposed change.)

ROUTING AND AUTHORIZATION: (Please do not remove supporting documentation.)

Department Chairperson ___*Kud R. Williams*___ Date ___11/04/2013___

Dean of College_____ Date_____

Chairperson, College Curriculum Committee_____ Date_____

Chairperson, Senate Com. on UG or GR Studies_____ Date_____

Chairperson, Senate Coordinating Com._____ Date_____

Secretary, Faculty Senate_____ Date_____

Date of Senate Resolution_____ Date to be Effective_____

Registrar _____Program Code_____ Date_____

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & International Programs_____ Date_____

Provost _____ Date_____

Board of Trustee Notification_____ Date_____

Revised 02/09/2009 /khs