Submitted by: Aaron Kupchik phone number 831-3267
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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

Effective term 14F

Current degree Ph.D

Proposed change leads to the degree of: Ph.D.

Proposed name:

Revising or Deleting:

Undergraduate major / Concentration:

Undergraduate minor:

Graduate Program Policy statement change: Attached

Graduate Program of Study: Ph.D. Sociology

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.udel.edu/gened/](http://www.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 ____________________________ Date 11/4/2013
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