

Memorandum

To: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
From: William Gabrenya, Chair, Undergraduate Programs
Through: Mary Beth Kenkel, Dean of CoPaLA
Subject: Revision of Forensic Psychology Curriculum (7146)
Date: July 28, 2006

The School of Psychology proposes to modify the curriculum of its Forensic Psychology degree (major code 7146).

The Forensic degree was developed and approved by the UGCC in 2003. It was the second program of its kind in the nation, and remains one of very few such programs. Unlike most other degrees offered in American universities, no models existed at that time after which this type of major could be patterned, and few exist at this time. Following several years of experience with the major, and with input from new faculty in the area, we believe it is time to revise the curriculum to reflect an emerging conception of the field and the needs of students.

Several principles underlay this revision:

1. The field of forensic psychology is developing gradually at the undergraduate level, differentiating from its related fields of criminology, criminal justice, and clinical forensic psychology. The new curriculum represents an effort to define this new field in a distinctive manner. Much discussion has gone into defining the domains of the field and its relationships to allied fields.
2. The new curriculum is more flexible, allowing students to choose restricted electives that best prepare them for careers in divergent fields such as law, clinical forensic psychology, the court system, and law enforcement.
3. The revision reflects our experience in preparing and teaching courses in the field, eliminating redundancy and focusing better on the emerging domains of the field.

This curriculum has four components: General education requirements, including the University Core; Psychology courses; Forensic courses, and Free Electives.

General education requires are unchanged

Psychology courses are unchanged except one of the two internships is eliminated

Forensic course structure is extensively changed, although many of the same courses are still either required or included in restricted elective sets

Free electives are increased from 10 to 16

The total number of credits to graduate is unchanged and matches the B.A. and B.S. Psychology majors (7144, 7141).

New Forensic Psychology Curriculum
Major code: 7146

Forensic Courses (30 credits)

<i>Forensic Core</i>		15
SOC1551	American Criminal Justice	3
SOC2541	Juvenile Delinquency	3
PSF2551	Survey Forensic Psychology	3
PSF3551	Theories of Crime	3
PSF4591	Critical Issues in Forensic Psychology	3
<i>Special topics (take 3 credits from the following courses)</i>		3
PSF3515	Special Topics in Forensic Psychology	1
PSF4515	Advanced Special Topics	1
<i>Theory and Practice Area Choose one:</i>		3
PSF3512	Forensic Behavior Identification	3
PSF4551	Advocacy	3
<i>Research and Applications Choose one:</i>		3
PSF3511	Introduction to Crime Analysis	3
PSY4511	Program Development and Evaluation	3
<i>Restricted Electives Choose two:</i>		6
PSY3512	Interviewing and Assessment	3
PSF456x	Clinical Forensic Psychology	3
PSY4461	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSF3512, PSF4551, PSF3511, PSY4511, and PSF45aa (if different topic) may be used as restricted electives if not used in the Theory and Practice or Research and Applications categories		
<i>Total Forensic Courses</i>		30

Psychology Courses - 26 credits

(The only change in this category is the elimination of one Internship course)

<i>Psychology Core + Social Psychology</i>		14
PSY1411	Introductory Psychology	3
PSY1400	Freshman Seminar	1
PSY3400	Junior Seminar	1
PSY2511	Introductory Research Methods	3
PSY3511	Advanced Research Methods	3
PSY3441	Social Psychology	3
<i>One course in the social bases of behavior category</i>		3
PSY2441	Child and Adolescent Development	3
PSY2442	Adult Development and Aging	3
PSY2541	Group Behavior	3
PSY3442	Personality	3

<i>Two courses in the natural science bases of behavior category</i>		6
PSY3422	Cognition and Perception	3
PSY3423	Physiological Psychology	3
PSY3421	Learning and Motivation	3
PSY4521	Animal Learning and Behavior	3
AHF3101	Aviation Human Factors	3
PSY4411	Internship	3

General Education - 48 credits

(These courses are unchanged from the current catalog)

<i>Communication and Languages</i>		21
COM1101	Comp and Rhetoric	3
COM1102	Writing About Lit	3
COM3070	Prof. Communication	3
Foreign Language (2 semesters)		6
Communications Electives		6
<i>Humanities and Social Sciences</i>		12
HUM2051	Civilization 1	3
HUM2052	Civilization 2	3
Humanities Elective (3 credits)		3
Social Science Elective (3 credits)		3
<i>Science, Math</i>		15
MTH1701: Algebra or MTH1000: Precalculus		3
Statistics: BUS2703 or MTH2401		3
Physical Science (Physics, chemistry, oceanography, geology, etc.)		3
Life Science (Biology, ecology, anatomy, etc.)		3
Science Elective (physical or life)		3

Free Electives - 16 credits

(Free electives are increased from 10 to 16 credits)

Total credits to graduate: 120