

Memorandum

Proposal for Minors in Psychology, Management, and Communication

To: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
From: Bill Gabrenya, Psychology
Barbara Pierce, Management
Carol Shehadeh, Humanities & Communication
RE: Proposal for Minors in Psychology, Management, and Communication
Date: October 8, 2004

We request approval of minors in Communication, Management, and Psychology. The proposed minors have been approved by the New Majors Committee (Cookie Young) and by the Provost.

The Argument for Minors at Florida Tech

Many American universities require students to declare both a major and a minor, or allow a minor as an option. The minor provides students a better educational experience by giving them the opportunity to acquire a carefully focused body of knowledge in an area that they find both interesting and professionally useful. This proposal outlines some arguments supporting the adoption of this academic tradition at Florida Tech.

A minor would enhance recruiting of Freshmen in several ways:

1. Because a minor is a “normal” feature of American universities, Florida Tech will appear more mainstream to prospective students outside of majors such as engineering
2. A minor will partly compensate for Florida Tech’s unusual practice of requiring students to declare a major as first semester Freshmen. While some American engineering programs follow this practice, it is rare in colleges of Arts and Sciences or in Colleges or Schools of Business. (Some universities do not allow entry into a major until the Junior year, and others require an earlier choice but afford considerable flexibility until the Junior year.) By allowing minors, we can assure prospective students that they will be able to study subjects other than their declared majors, and that this outside study will be recognized on their diplomas. The early and, to some extent, binding declaration of major will not be viewed with as much apprehension.

The minor can enhance retention:

1. Students who are too far along in their degree programs to change majors can declare a minor that will be a formal part of their degrees (i.e., appear on their diplomas). The minor can enhance professional opportunities and increase the chances of admission to graduate schools if they decide to venture beyond their majors. As a result, students may be more likely to complete their degrees at FIT than to drop out or to complete their degrees at another university.
2. Students who feel their degrees are too narrowly focused can broaden their educational experiences. More than most universities, FIT curricula are highly structured and inflexible.
3. A minor can be a better solution than a dual major. Psychology, Communication, and the School of Management, for example, have received numerous requests for dual majors over the years. In many cases, the dual major requires one or more years of additional study, which is cost prohibitive. Often, the student’s intellectual or professional needs would be just as well served by an officially recognized minor in one of these fields.

A minor provides a better education:

1. The minor brings breadth along with depth to the undergraduate degree. Better than taking just a few courses in an outside field, the minor provides a curriculum deemed by faculty to be appropriate for the degree.

2. In the School of Management, students taking the general Business Administration degree often ask if they can minor in a particular subject, such as Accounting, Finance, Marketing or Management. At the present time, we have no way to accommodate these students other than to suggest that they dual-major in Business Administration and Accounting because we do not have degrees in Finance, Marketing or Management. Adding minors will give us the opportunity to develop areas of expertise for our own students even when we do not have enough resources to offer the entire degree program.
3. Good citizens are well and broadly educated.

The minor provides a more useful education:

1. Professional workers must be highly flexible, so a broader knowledge may be more useful than a highly focused, narrow educational experience.
2. Employers may recognize the importance of breadth of knowledge, so an official minor may enhance job prospects. Employers recognize the added value that skills in communication, management, or psychology bring to the workplace.

Attachments:

Psychology minors (2)

Business minors (4)

Communication minor (1)

School of Psychology

Requirements for the Minor in Psychology (19 credits)

PSY1411: Introduction to Psychology
PSY3400: Junior Seminar (1 credit)
PSY2511: Introductory Research Methods

One 3-credit course from the experimental bases of behavior set:
PSY3421, PSY3422, PSY3423, PSY4521

One 3-credit course from the social bases of behavior set
PSY2441, PSY2442, PSY3441, PSY3442

Two 3-credit PSY courses at the 3000 level or above

Requirements for the Minor in Forensic Psychology (19 hours)

PSY1411: Introduction to Psychology
PSY2511: Introductory Research Methods
SOC1551: Introduction to Criminal Justice
PSF2551: Survey of Forensic Psychology
PSF3515: Special Topics in Forensic Psychology (1 credit)

One 3-credit course from the social bases of behavior set:
PSY2441, PSY2442, PSY3441, PSY3442

One additional PSF course at the 2000 level or above

NOTE: At least nine (9) hours of the Psychology minor must be taken in the Florida Tech School of Psychology

Department of Humanities and Communication

Requirements for the Minor in Communication (19 hours)

Required (10 hours)

COM 2012 Library Research Methods (1 credit)

COM 2425 Introduction to Communication

COM 2223 Scientific and Technical Communication **OR** COM 2224 Business Writing

COM 3070 Professional Communication for Executives

Choose any 9 hours from

COM 2150 Creative Writing

COM 2241 Journalism

COM 3085 Special Topics in Applied Communication

COM 3210 Editing

COM 3231 Writing about Science

COM 3250 Scriptwriting

COM 3285 Special Topics in Professional Writing and Editing

COM 3425 Mass Communication

COM 3440 Public Relations

COM 3485 Special Topics in Theoretical Communication

COM 3585 Special Topics in Visual Communication

COM 4026 Publishing & The Internet

COM 4085 Communication Technology: Issues & Applications

COM 4424 Advanced Business and Professional Communication

NOTE: At least nine (9) hours of the Communication minor must be taken in the Florida Tech Department of Humanities and Communication

School of Management

Proposed Minors:

1. Business Administration (21 credit hours)

BUS 2211 Introduction to Financial Accounting
BUS 2212 Managerial Accounting
BUS 3401 Corporate Finance
BUS 3501 Management Principles
BUS 3601 Marketing Principles
BUS 4502 Organizational Behavior
Restricted Business Elective (3)

The Business Administration minor is not available for School of Management Students

2. Management (18 credit hours)

BUS 3501 Principles of Management
BUS 3503 Human Resource Management
BUS 4502 Organizational Behavior

3 electives from among the following options (9 hours):

BUS 2703 Business Statistics
BUS 3705 Managing Small Business
BUS 4503 Business Ethics
BUS 4xxx Leadership
BUS 4xxx Employment Law
BUS 4504 Special Topics in Management
PSY 4441 Industrial/Organizational Psychology
AVM 4301 Aviation Labor Law and Employment Standards (AVM 4301)

3. Accounting (18 credit hours)

BUS 2211 Introduction to Financial Accounting
BUS 2212 Introduction to Managerial Accounting
BUS 3211 Intermediate Accounting 1

3 electives from among the following options (9 hours):

BUS 3208 Federal Income Tax 1
BUS 3212 Intermediate Accounting 2
BUS 3213 Cost & Managerial Accounting
BUS 4211 Internal Audit
BUS 4216 Governmental Accounting

4. Management Information Systems (18 credits)

BUS3501 Management Principles
BUS3504 Management Information Systems
BUS4502 Organizational Behavior

3 electives from among the following options (9 credit hours):

BUS3500 Human Computer Interface
BUS3510 Advanced Business Computer Applications
BUS3512 System Design & Development for Business
BUS3514 Introduction to Operating Systems and Networks for Business
BUS4508 Web Based Technologies
BUS4509 Management of Database Systems

For all minors:

- At least 9 credit hours used in the minor must be earned at Florida Tech
- No credit by exam may be used
- Minors not available to School of Management Business Administration students.