To be adopted:

Proposal for Change in Psychology B.A. major

PRESENT:

The major requirements for the B.A. degree in Psychology are as follows:

1. Lower-division requirements (40 units)
   a) One course in Mathematics chosen from MATH 004, MATH 005, MATH 008A, or MATH 009A
   b) One course in biological sciences chosen from BIOL 002 or both BIOL 005A and BIOL 05LA, BIOL 003 or BIOL 005B, BIOL 005C, BIOL 034
   c) One course in physical science chosen from (1) CHEM 001A, CHEM 001B, CHEM 001C (and CHEM 01LA, CHEM 01LB, CHEM 01LC), CHEM 003
      (2) PHYS 002A, PHYS 002B, PHYS 002C, PHYS 007, PHYS 008, PHYS 010, PHYS 012, PHYS 016, PHYS 018, PHYS 020, PHYS 021, PHYS 022, PHYS 024, PHYS 040A, PHYS 040B, PHYS 040C
   d) Two additional courses chosen from b) or c) above, any Computer Science course, any Statistics course, any Mathematics course except those listed in a) above
   e) PSYC 001, PSYC 002, PSYC 011, PSYC 012

PROPOSED:

The major requirements for the B.A. degree in Psychology are as follows:

1. Lower-division requirements (40 units)
   a) One course in Mathematics chosen from MATH 004, MATH 005, MATH 008A, or MATH 009A
   b) One course in biological sciences chosen from BIOL 002 or both BIOL 005A and BIOL 05LA, BIOL 003 or BIOL 005B, BIOL 005C, BIOL 034
   c) One course in physical science chosen from (1) CHEM 001A, CHEM 001B, CHEM 001C (and CHEM 01LA, CHEM 01LB, CHEM 01LC), CHEM 003
      (2) PHYS 002A, PHYS 002B, PHYS 002C, PHYS 007, PHYS 008, PHYS 010, PHYS 012, PHYS 016, PHYS 018, PHYS 020, PHYS 021, PHYS 022, PHYS 024, PHYS 040A, PHYS 040B, PHYS 040C
   d) Two additional courses chosen from b) or c) above, any Computer Science course, any Statistics course, any Mathematics course except those listed in a) above
   e) PSYC 001, PSYC 002, PSYC 011, PSYC 012

2. Upper-division requirements (37 units)
2. Upper-division requirements (37 units)

a) PSYC 110 or CBNS 106
b) PSYC 140, PSYC 150
c) PSYC 132 or PSYC 134
d) PSYC 160

e) Four additional 4-unit, upper-division Psychology courses. Only one 4- to 5-unit quarter of PSYC 198G, or one 4- to 8-unit quarter of PSYC 198I may be included. No 190-series courses other than PSYC 198G or PSYC 198I may be used.

Students planning for graduate school Should take into consideration any specific graduate school requirements when choosing these elective Psychology courses.

Note Students who have taken general or introductory Psychology courses other than PSYC 001 and PSYC 002 must consult with a departmental advisor.

JUSTIFICATION:

Justification: At present, the department requirement of one developmental course for the major is fewer than the requirement in the other areas of psychology. Given that PSYC 161, PSYC 162, and PSYC 163 all cover material that would be appropriately considered as core knowledge in Developmental Psychology, approval of these courses as core will allow our faculty to teach introductory developmental psychology from any of these perspectives. Additionally, student interest in psychological development and their future goals may be met better by enrolling in PSYC 161, PSYC 162, or PSYC 163 rather than PSYC 160, which is a sweeping survey course of the entire lifespan. By adding these courses as options for the area’s core, our area can provide a greater number and variety of core courses for our majors. Finally, this plan will not only reduce demand on PSYC 160, it will also help shrink its size (which is currently quite large) and more evenly distribute our upper division majors across a range of developmental courses that would best fill their learning needs. In summary, if these 4 courses (160, 161, 162, and 163) were all on the list of developmental courses that majors could take to satisfy graduation requirements, it would distribute the students more evenly in the 4 courses, help students graduate in a more timely fashion, and allow the Developmental Area of the Psychology Department to contribute more than one undergraduate course to satisfy majors’ core requirements. All the courses on the proposed side are verified active and in the catalog.

APPROVALS:

Effective: Fall 2012
Approved by the faculty of the Department of Psychology: December 7, 2011
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: 25 January 2012
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: March 7, 2012