To be adopted:

Proposal for Change in Psychology minor

PRESENT:

Prerequisites for the minor in Psychology are PSYC 001, PSYC 002, PSYC 011, and PSYC 012, with an average grade of “C” or better, with no grade below a “C-”.

Requirements for the Psychology minor are as follows (21 units):
1. Twenty-one (21) upper-division Psychology units
   a) PSYC 110 or CBNS 106
   b) PSYC 132 or PSYC 134
   c) PSYC 140 and PSYC 150
   d) PSYC 160

See Minors under the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences in the Colleges and Programs section of this catalog for additional information on minors.

PROPOSED:

Prerequisites for the minor in Psychology are PSYC 001, PSYC 002, PSYC 011, and PSYC 012, with an average grade of “C” or better, with no grade below a “C-”.

Requirements for the Psychology minor are as follows (21 units):
1. Twenty-one (21) upper-division Psychology units
   a) PSYC 110 or CBNS 106
   b) PSYC 132 or PSYC 134
   c) PSYC 140 and PSYC 150
   d) PSYC 160 or PSYC 161 or PSYC 162 or PSYC 163

See Minors under the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences in the Colleges and Programs section of this catalog for additional information on minors.

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: 2012F
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