EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
May 28, 2013

To be adopted:
Proposal for Change in B.A. in Psychology

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 MATH009A
   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
      (3) Any Geosciences courses except for cultural geography courses
   d) Two additional courses chosen from b), or c) above, any Computer Science course, any Statistics course, any Math course except those listed in a) above
   e) PSYC 001, PSYC 002, PSYC 011, PSYC 012

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 or PSYC 161 or PSYC 162 or

PROPOSED:

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

1. Lower-division requirements (39 units)
   a) One course in Mathematics chosen from MATH 004, MATH 005, MATH 008A, or MATH 009A
   b) One 4 unit course in Biological Sciences (Biochemistry, Biology, Botany and Plant Sciences, Entomology, Nematology, or Plant Pathology)
   c) One 4 unit course in Physical Sciences (Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences, excluding cultural Geography courses)
   d) Two additional 4 unit courses that satisfy the CHASS Natural Sciences and Mathematics breadth requirements.
   e) PSYC 001, PSYC 002, PSYC 011, PSYC 012

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 or PSYC 161 or PSYC 162 or
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 for changes to c1, c2, c3, and d: The current requirements broken down under c1, c2, c3, and d already conform to the CHASS breadth requirements. Thus, we wish to simplify the catalog language to reflect the language in the CHASS breadth section. This will alleviate the need to update the list of eligible courses on an annual basis as new courses are offered in departments.

Justification for change to b: In response to students’ concerns that they have been unable to enroll in these courses due to changes in the numbers of seats offered in these BIOL courses over the past several years, our department conducted a review of the specificity of this lower-division requirement. The review revealed that: (a) students have difficulty meeting the lower-division requirements in a timely fashion, which is affecting their ability to graduate on time, and (b) our requirement for specific lower-division Biology courses is unusual when compared to 16 other, comparable Psychology programs; and (c) much of the biological information related to Psychology specifically is covered in PSYC 001, PSYC 002, and PSYC 110. Thus, we no longer need to require students to take one of these specific BIOL courses as a lower-division requirement.

**APPROVALS:**

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Psychology: March 7, 2013
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: 3/27/2013
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: 4/10/2013