

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 2514S  
Date of Senate Approval 1/23/14

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 13:**                    **Change the description and increase the credit hours of MATH 480;  
Editorial changes to requirements for the Mathematics major**

**Effective Date: Fall 2014**

**1. Delete:** On page 223, the entry for **MATH 480, Mathematics Seminar:**

**Mathematics Seminar (1)**

Seminar in which students read background papers, participate in discussions, and lead one seminar. Prerequisite: MATH 381; or permission of instructor. Fall and Spring.

**Add:** On page 223, in place of deleted entry:

**Mathematics Seminar (2)**

Capstone course in which students research a mathematical topic suitable to their plan of study, write an expository paper, and present their findings to the department. Students must successfully complete MATH 480 as part of the senior competency requirements. Prerequisite: MATH 381. Fall and Spring.

**2. Delete:** On page 219, in items I. under **Concentration in Pure (Theoretical) Mathematics**, and **Concentration in Applied Mathematics:**

I. Required courses in the major – 38-39 hours,

**Add:** On page 219, in place of deleted entry:

I. Required courses in the major – 39-40 hours,

**3. Delete:** On page 220, in items I. under **Concentration in Statistics**, and **Mathematics with Teacher Licensure:**

I. Required courses in the major – 39 hours,

**Add:** On page 220, in place of deleted entry:

I. Required courses in the major – 40 hours,

**Impact:** The main impact of this change is a one-hour increase in the number of credit hours required within the major. We do not expect any resource implication as the teaching and content of MATH 480 is already equivalent to a two-hour course.

**Rationale:** This proposal reflects the change in expectations of our students. When Mathematics Seminar was first conceived students listened to a variety of 1-hour talks given by faculty, and at the end of the semester each student had their turn to give a 20 minute presentation on a mathematical topic. The quality of these presentations varied greatly. At some point this course became an intricate part of our assessment process.

Over the years the department added different elements to the course to improve student performances. Mathematics Seminar now fulfills the department's oral competency requirement, the information literacy intensive requirement, and is part of the senior competency requirement. In addition we have added an extensive writing component. Students are expected to write an expository paper that undergoes serious evaluation. Thus we expect multiple drafts, abstracts, and peer evaluation. The result of these extra responsibilities is that the number of credit hours granted for this class is no longer in line with the work expectations demanded of students and faculty.