

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 4119S
Date of Senate Approval 04/04/19

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 34 (HRST):

**Change the distribution requirements for
the Human Rights Studies minor**

Effective Date: Fall 2019

1. Delete: On page 175, the first two paragraphs under **Requirements for the Minor:**

The Human Rights Studies minor requires a minimum of 18 semester hours, including one course from HRST 201, INTS 214, PHIL 214 or POLS 388. The additional courses should be chosen from the lists below. No more than three courses can come from any one discipline, and no more than two courses can be used from the student's major or other minors. Other appropriate courses with a human rights emphasis may be approved by the program director.

Students should consult with the director of the minor to ensure that the courses selected display a significant degree of coherence and coverage. Students are encouraged to include a human rights-related undergraduate research project, community-engaged scholarship project, internship, and/or study abroad experience, approved by the director of the Human Rights Studies minor, as part of their program of study.

Add: On page 175, in place of deleted entry:

The Human Rights Studies minor requires a minimum of 18 semester hours, including one course from HRST 201, INTS 214, PHIL 214 or POLS 388. The additional courses should be chosen from the lists below. No more than two courses can come from any one discipline or prefix. Other appropriate courses with a human rights emphasis may be approved by the program director.

Students declaring the minor will be required to consult with the director to ensure that the courses selected display a significant degree of coherence and coverage. Students are encouraged to include a human rights-related undergraduate research project, community-engaged scholarship project, internship, and/or study abroad experience, approved by the director of the Human Rights Studies minor, as part of their program of study.

Impact Statement: The requested change will greatly improve the administration of the minor and the ability of interested students to complete the program. It will also remove some unintentional inequities that currently disadvantage students with multiple majors and minors, or interdisciplinary majors or minors. If this proposal is approved, the director would like to make exceptions for the currently declared students to implement these changes.

Rationale: Currently, the catalog states that to graduate with the HRST minor: "No more than three courses can come from any one discipline, and no more than two courses can be used from the student's major or other minors." The second condition of no more than two courses from the student's major or minors has created problems, barriers, and frustration for students and advisors. These are the issues being experienced:

- 1) The no more than two courses from student's majors and minors requirement essentially disadvantages or penalizes double majors, students with another minor, double majors with minors, and especially students in interdisciplinary programs that draw requirements and courses from across the curriculum. An INTS and WGSS double major would essentially never be able to meet the requirements of the minor, as just about all courses in the HRST minor would likely also meet requirements for INTS and WGSS, and as such cannot count toward HRST.
- 2) The administration of the minor (both by the registrar's office in terms of tracking students and their progress toward graduation, and in terms of advisors planning with students) is nearly impossible given the many combinations of student majors, double majors, and minors. Additionally, the no more than two courses from student's majors and minors requirement cannot be implemented in GradPlan which leads to incomplete, misleading, or even wrong information being displayed to students and advisors.

Changing the distribution requirements to no more than two courses from a single discipline/prefix will automatically result in course work from at least three disciplines which will allow for the desired breadth of content for the minor.