

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 1820S  
Date of Senate Approval 03/05/20

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 18 (PSYC): Change the Major and Minor Requirements in Psychology**

**Effective date: Fall 2020**

**1. Delete:** On page 273, item I under **Major in Psychology**:

- I. Required courses in the major—10 courses totaling a minimum of 38 hours, including: PSYC 100, 201, 202, 412; three courses from PSYC 200, 208, 214, 216, 290; and three courses at the 300-level with at least one course from each of the following groups:
  - a) Subfields: 307, 319, 322, 328, 329, 343, 347, 362, 367
  - b) Topical Areas: 310, 311, 312, 324, 334, 345, 355, 366

**Add:** On page 273, in place of deleted entry:

- I. Required courses in the major—10 courses totaling a minimum of 38 hours, including: PSYC 100, 201, 202, 412; three courses from PSYC 200, 206, 208, 214, 216, 290; and three courses at the 300-level with at least one course from each of the following groups:
  - a) 310, 322, 324, 328, 329, 347, 362, 367
  - b) 307, 311, 312, 319, 334, 343, 366

**2. Delete:** On page 273, items II-IV under **Minor in Psychology**:

- II. one course from PSYC 200, 208, 214, 216 or 290;
- III. one course from PSYC 307, 319, 322, 328, 329, 343, 347, 362 or 367;
- IV. one course from PSYC 310, 311, 312, 324, 334, 345, 355 or 366

**Add:** On page 273, in place of deleted entry:

- II. one course from PSYC 200, 206, 208, 214, 216 or 290;
- III. one course from PSYC 310, 322, 324, 328, 329, 347, 362, or 367;
- IV. one course from PSYC 307, 311, 312, 319, 334, 343, or 366

**Impact Statement:** This document adds a 200-level course option, and re-labels and redistributes two existing categories of 300-level courses in keeping with current thinking in our discipline and the expertise of our faculty. It does not change the number of credits required for either the major or minor, nor does it require additional faculty or other resources. Virtually all faculty teach multiple courses at the 300-level, and the courses in each category are offered at a similar frequency. The total number of 300-level electives is reduced only slightly from 17 to 15 due to the deletion of two courses from the

curriculum, but the total number of courses offered in each category remains roughly equal. Students will continue to be required to take one course in each group, and a third course from either, for a total of 12 hours.

This change should not present any obstacle to our current majors, with perhaps the exception of those on the verge of graduation. In those instances, the Chair will utilize his/her discretion in approving appropriate substitutions to prevent any delay in graduation that might be caused by this course redistribution.

**Rationale:** Our 300-level menu of courses was based on a curriculum review completed in 2013, which divided those courses into two groups labeled “Subfields” and “Topical.” The purpose of the grouping was to encourage breadth of study in the discipline, and to discourage students who might narrowly restrict their choice of 300-level electives, if given the choice. Courses were distributed into groups based on content comparisons, faculty expertise, and best practices in our discipline at that time.

The department’s pedagogical ideology continues to be that our majors should graduate with balance of breadth and depth of exposure to the discipline, facilitated by two groups of courses at the 300-level. Students with clinical interests should be exposed to neuroscience, just as students who want to be neuroscientists need to understand abnormal psychology. We are doubtful that our majors have more than a superficial understanding of our current labels, Subfields and Topics, and therefore, we are simplifying the labels to “Group A” and “Group B” simply to facilitate comprehension of major requirements.

Beyond the relabeling, we have redistributed 300-level courses into the two groups based on current thinking in our discipline, and the degree to which the content is applied (vs. basic) at the advanced level. Courses in Group A (formerly Subfields) focus more on building blocks of knowledge in a subfield of our discipline, while courses in Group B (formerly Topical) focus on the application of research to a particular topic or subject population.