THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE FACULTY SENATE

 Senate Document Number
 SD0222F

 Date of Senate Approval
 11/3/2022

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC 1 (PSYC): Change the requirements for declaring a major in Psychology

Effective Date: Fall 2023

UNCA Catalog

1. Delete: On page 287, under Declaration of Major in Psychology:

A major in Psychology may be formally declared after a student has completed PSYC 100 and PSYC 201 with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in these courses.

Add: On page 287, in place of deleted entry:

A major in Psychology may be formally declared after a student has successfully completed PSYC 100 and PSYC 201 and has a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in all psychology courses.

Impact: This change will benefit students, especially students who transfer in credit for Introductory Psychology (PSYC 100), by allowing them to operate with less academic pressure to perform well in the Research Methods I (PSYC 201) course. Frequently, transfer students take PSYC 201 their first semester at UNC Asheville and are in the process of adapting to a (frequently more) challenging academic environment.

The change will also alleviate the pressure that faculty who teach Research Methods I may feel at being unappointed entry-to-the-major "gatekeepers." Finally, the change will ease the burden on university staff—the Psychology chair, Psychology advisors, Registrar staff, and Academic Support staff—that results from students who request exemptions from the major declaration rule thereby initiating a chain of bureaucratic work.

Rationale: Including the grades from all PSYC courses attempted at UNCA (not just the two) in the GPA required to declare the major may result in students being able to declare sooner. It will also avoid instances in which students who receive transfer credit for PSYC 100 and/or other courses (which do not contribute to the UNCA GPA), and then pass PSYC 201, but with a grade less than 2.0, are not able to declare the Psychology major without repeating PSYC 201 in order to raise the currently required cumulative GPA for the two courses to 2.0 or higher.

In the last 3 years, approximately 9 students who later declared a major in Psychology repeated PSYC 201, so not requiring students to repeat PSYC 201 prior to declaring may also slightly reduce the enrollment needs for the course.