

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD3623S
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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 26 (IST): Add new course, IST 350, McCullough Fellows Colloquium

Effective Date: Fall 2023

1. Add: On page 190, new course, IST 350, McCullough Fellows Colloquium:

350 McCullough Fellows Colloquium (1)

The four focal areas of the McCullough Institute are: land use and conservation; urban planning; sustainable agriculture; and resilience and environmental sustainability. This colloquium, required for all McCullough Fellows, is designed to lead them through the steps of conducting an applied research project, from research question to literature review, to data collection, and results analysis. McCullough Fellows conduct applied individual research and work closely with a faculty advisor and community partner to gather and analyze data, then present it in an academic setting, both orally and in writing. The outcomes of the research include an oral presentation at the campus Undergraduate Research Symposium; drafts of each section of the research paper, individually and then synthesized, as a submission to the campus Undergraduate Research Journal. This course is only offered to McCullough Fellows and permission of instructor is required. Fall.

Impact: The colloquium does not count for any major or minor requirement, but is a supplement to the applied research opportunities at the university. It is always taught by the Director of the McCullough Institute (who is affiliated with the Office of Sustainability at UNC Asheville). There are 4-6 fellows each year, so this will be the class size. The class meets for one hour per week and is in a seminar format. There are also one-on-one meetings outside of class time with the professor and also for peer review assignments. There are no specialized space meetings.

The student learning outcomes are the following:

1. Students will understand the steps of conducting an applied research project, from research question to literature review, to data collection, and results analysis.
2. Students will conduct applied research and work closely with a faculty advisor and community partner to gather and analyze data, then present it in an academic setting – both orally and in writing.
3. Students will present the outcomes of their research through an oral presentation at the campus Undergraduate Research Symposium and a submission to the campus Undergraduate Research Journal.

Alison Ormsby, Director of the McCullough Institute, and Jinhua Li, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies met on October 31, 2022 to discuss this proposal. Dr. Li supports the proposal. Making this course a permanent offering will not affect the submitting department or program's future staffing needs, since it is always taught by the Director of the McCullough Institute (from the Office of Sustainability). The faculty workload is the equivalent of a 4 credit course, as the fellowship goes from May to December.

Rationale: This course is a benefit to the undergraduate experience of students who apply to and are accepted into the prestigious McCullough Fellowship. This will be a new course listing for what is currently IST 371, McCullough Fellows Colloquium. The course has been taught three times as a Special Topics by Dr. Ormsby and now needs to be added to the catalog with an official course number and description.