

Memo

To: APR (Via Rich Pein)
From: Betsy Morgan, Chair
Date: Spring 2005
Re: Changes to psychology's curricula

In October 2004, the Department of Psychology received a very positive review from an external reviewer. However, the reviewer did have some recommendations for a restructuring of our curriculum.

Below are the changes made to the curriculum in the past year after the reviewer's visit. In terms of the overall major, the changes are primarily a shifting of courses from one category to another and/or a collapsing of categories. It does not substantially change the major, except to drop the overall number of credits to 35.

1. Changes to the program/major.
 - o Collapsed of two categories together – psychopathology, social and personality now together – students take 6 credits (this collapses current categories IV and V – proposed category III).
 - o Dropped the requirements in developmental psychology from 6 to 3 credits.
 - o Narrowing the options in the advanced experimental, psychobiological category (current category VI – proposed category V). All majors must now take 335 (Learning and Memory) OR 435 (Cognitive Processes) + an additional 3 credits.
 - o Additional category of “Application Courses” so that students are required to take one skills-based course (note – no new courses – moved from other categories)
 - o Divided our electives into two categories “general” and “advanced” such that 3 credits of a student's electives have to be at the 400 level.
2. Changes to admission
 - o We have created admissions requirements such that student now need to earn a “C” or better in both Psy100 and Mth145 to be admitted to the program. Students are “prepsychology” majors up until that point. The largest number of major reductions we could expect is 10%.

Thank you for your attention – we merely wanted APR to know that we had already followed up on the bulk of the reviewers recommendation.