May 7, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Townshend
Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

FROM: Elizabeth Beise
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Curriculum of the Honors Program in Psychology (PCC log no. 12025)

The proposal to modify the curriculum of the Honors program in Psychology has been administratively approved. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The change is effective Fall 2013. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, including the program’s four-year plan (contact Lisa Kiely at lkiely@umd.edu for more information), and that all advisors are informed.

MDC/

Enclosure

cc: William Idsardi, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
Reka Montfort, University Senate
Erin Howard, Division of Information Technology
Donna Williams, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment
Anne Turkos, University Archives
Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
Robert Gaines, Undergraduate Studies
Kathy Beardsley, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Jack Blanchard, Department of Psychology
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM/UNIT PROPOSAL

• Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

• Please submit the signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.

College/School: BSOS
Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits: 01202800
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hypprod.umd.edu/Html_Reports/units.htm

Department/Program: PSYC
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits: 1282501

Type of Action (choose one):

- Curriculum change (including informal specializations)  New academic degree/award program
- Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration
- Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration
- Suspend/delete program

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:

Modify the curriculum of the Psychology Honors program.
imple curricular changes (e.g. substitution of one course for another because of course updating or numbering changes, etc.) will require the following information should be included in most proposals for a change in a program's curriculum requirements:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Foundation</strong></th>
<th>Current Honors Program Requirements</th>
<th>Proposed Honors Program Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Honors GPA</strong></td>
<td>Earn a 3.30 GPA (both cumulative and in psychology) for Honors</td>
<td>Earn a 3.50 GPA (both cumulative and in psychology) for Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>High Honors GPA</strong></td>
<td>Earn a 3.70 GPA (both cumulative and in psychology) for High Honors, including completing an honors thesis of exceptionally high quality as determined by the thesis committee.</td>
<td>Earn a 3.80 GPA (both cumulative and in psychology) for High Honors, including completing an honors thesis of exceptionally high quality as determined by the thesis committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Honors Courses</strong></td>
<td>Two honors seminars (300-level or higher). A graduate seminar (600-level or above) or a second 400-level laboratory course may be substituted for an honor seminar with permission of the Department.</td>
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<td>One credit of PSYC468 H, normally in the spring semester of the senior year.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thesis</strong></td>
<td>Six credits of honors thesis research (PSYC 469 and PSYC 499) followed by an oral defense of the thesis before two or more faculty members.</td>
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</table>
| **Breadth** | Two 400-level courses in at least two (of the four) areas  
- Biological & Sensory  
- Social & Cognitive  
- Personality & Developmental  
- Industrial/Organizational | One 400-level course in each of the three themes  
- Mind, Brain & Behavior  
- Mental Health & Interventions  
- Social, Developmental & Organizational Studies |

The proposed changes to the Honors Program requirements are being made to reflect changes in our overall degree requirements (from four areas to three themes) and to advance the scientific rigor of the program. The Bachelor of Science degree requires more rigorous scientific training and better prepares students to develop and conduct scientific research at this level. In most cases students pursuing the Honors Program in Psychology are already pursuing the B.S. degree option, so implementing this change reflects what is already an established norm for these distinguished majors.

In terms of GPA requirements for Honors and High Honors, the proposed GPAs of 3.5 and 3.8 respectively seem more in line with the qualifications of our current students.