

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Form C (Effective February 2003)
ACADEMIC PROGRAM ACTION ROUTING SHEET*
For New or Revised Plan (Major/Minor/Emphasis/Option/Certification)

NEW (Attach appropriate UW System documentation)

X REVISION - Check all that apply

 Plan Title (include new 30 –character abbreviation)

X Units (credits)

X Required Course

 Elective

Discontinuance of Academic Plan (attach a rationale statement which addresses changes which have occurred in Plan, faculty expertise, enrollment trends, availability of resources, and/or foci of the discipline)

X Other

Undergraduate

Plan (Major): _____

Emphasis within Major: _____

Option within Major Emphasis: _____

 Plan (Minor): _____

Emphasis within Minor: _____

Option Within Minor Emphasis: _____

Professional Core (COBA/CON/COEHS): _____

X Graduate

Plan (Program): Psychology _____

Option within Program: Experimental Emphasis

Effective Date: Fall 2008 (Year)

Type of Action Required

- 1) Remove Psych 774 (Psychological Research – 3 units) as a required course
- 2) Add Psych 799 (Candidacy Examination – 0 units) as a required course
- 3) Change minimum number of 700-level credits to graduate to 30

Justification of Proposed Changes

1) Psych 774 is a repeatable graduate seminar offered for 1 credit in the Fall semester and 2 credits in the Spring semester during the first year of graduate training in the Experimental Emphasis. The course requires students to complete 30 hours of collaborative research experiences (i.e., “minor projects”), complete various writing assignments based on course readings, and complete a major collaborative research project (i.e., “major project”). This course presents staffing issues since, as a 1-2-credit course, it must be taught “over load.” The course is also continually under threat of being cancelled, since it is only required of first year students of which there are typically fewer

than eight. Additionally, the extent of the research requirements for the course often prevent students from beginning their theses in a timely manner, since they typically do not begin collecting data for their “major project” until they have completed their “minor project” hours. Much of the “major project,” including data collection, analysis, and manuscript preparation is therefore left to the Spring semester. Because most students are unable to complete the “major project” in one semester they are often forced to take an Incomplete for the course, which they then must make up during the Fall semester of their second year. This very often causes delays in beginning and completing their graduate theses on time, in turn delaying graduation.

2) Psych 799, Candidacy Examination, is currently required by all students in the Industrial/Organizational (I/O) Psychology emphasis prior to their Admission to Candidacy. (The Graduate Studies Office requires students to be admitted to candidacy after having earned a minimum of 9 but no more than 21 degree units.) For the I/O program, this 0-credit course requirement takes the form of a comprehensive examination to be taken at the end of the first year of study. The Experimental Psychology faculty believes that the opportunity for students to conduct a major research project during their first year is excellent preparation for the thesis, and should be mandatory. Therefore, for the Experimental emphasis the course requirement would take the form of a major research project, much like that which was required for Psych 774. Because the removal of Psych 774 as a required course eliminates this requirement, requiring Psych 799 of all first year graduate students as a condition of their Admission to Candidacy would restore this important learning opportunity. Because students would have the entire academic year to complete the project, and would not have the additional course requirements of 774, we anticipate that they will be able to successfully complete this project during their first year of study. It will therefore not delay progress on their theses. Requiring Psych 799 for the Experimental Psychology emphasis will also make the first-year requirements for both graduate emphases more consistent and equitable.

3) The removal of Psych 774 as a required course decreases the minimum number of credits required for graduation in the Experimental Emphasis from 33 to 30. The addition of Psych 799 does not alter degree credit requirements, as it carries 0 credits.

FORM C: ACADEMIC PROGRAM ACTION ROUTING SHEET* -SIDE 2

For a new undergraduate or graduate Plan or a change in an existing undergraduate or graduate plan, provide classification and funding source information.

Plan classification: I ___ II X
Funding Source: New GPR ___ Extramural ___ Base Reallocation ___
Redeployment ___ Enrollment ___ No Change X ___

Classification I: A Plan with significant implications for UW System resource requirements or for interinstitutional planning.
Classification II: A Plan with minimal implications for UW System resource requirements or for interinstitutional planning.

Does this change or impact the requirements for the existing Plan (Major/Minor/Emphasis/Option/Certification)?

 No X Yes- Please explain: Removes Psych 774 from required courses for the Graduate Experimental Emphasis; requires Psych 799 for the Graduate Experimental Emphasis; Decreases maximum number of credits for graduation in the Experimental Emphasis from 33 to 30.

If change impacts a Plan (Major/Minor/Emphasis/Option/Certification) outside the initiating unit, have these units been contacted?

NA

Prior to the initiation of the approval process, please contact the Registrar's office at 3007 for consultation about possible impact of proposed changes.

Registrar: _____
Date: _____

APPROVALS**

Department Chair(s): _____ Date: _____
Division Chair: _____ Date: _____
Curriculum Committee: _____ Date: _____
Dean/College: _____ Date: _____
Graduate Studies: _____ Date: _____
APGES Committee Chair (if applicable): _____ Date: _____
APC Committee Chair: _____ Date: _____
Provost and Vice Chancellor: _____ Date: _____
Chancellor: _____ Date: _____

- * Refer to UW Oshkosh Academic Program Change Matrix in Faculty Handbook for information about forms and routing instructions.
- ** For a new Plan, or change in an existing Plan, approval indicates no duplication of other Plans at the University and consultation with other Deans as appropriate. For discontinuance of an academic Plan, consultation with other relevant Deans is necessary.