

Recommendations regarding Family Studies Proposals
CBS College Academic Council
March 5, 2012

Preliminary note. On March 5, the CBS College Academic Council voted unanimously to change the name of the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy to the Department of Marriage and Family Studies. The new departmental name had the unanimous approval of all the current faculty members both in MFT and in Family Studies.

On March 5, 2012, the CBS College Academic Council reviewed six proposals from the Family Studies faculty. We understand that it is the prerogative of the CASAC to approve or deny these proposals. We offer here our consensus on each proposal for your consideration.

1. **Proposal:** Include FAM 251 Introduction to Family Studies on the list of approved social science elective courses for undergraduates.

Rationale: The university has depended on SOCI 111: Intro to Sociology to be offered as a social science elective. With the structural changes that have occurred, however, this course will not be readily available to students. FAM 251: Intro to Family Studies is a course would be an appropriate replacement and/or addition to the list of approved social science elective courses. The course description is as follows:

"This course provides an introduction to the study of relationships, marriages and families as a social science. It examines interpersonal relationships and the dynamics of marriage and family life with an emphasis on the formation of healthy relationships and the maintenance of marital and family strengths."

CBS CAC recommendation:

(1) CBS endorses this proposal.

(2) We anticipate that we would tentatively be able to offer one section of FAM 251 each year for majors only, and two sections each year for non-majors who need a social science elective, with a tentative cap of 50 students per section.

2. **Proposal:** Drop SOCI 460: Social Ethics from the Family Studies degree plan and add BIBP 486: Introduction to Ethics

Rationale: The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) requires substantive content in ethics for certification as an approved academic program. This content has been addressed by SOCI 460: Social Ethics in previous years; however, this course will not be offered in the foreseeable future. Therefore, it is requested that SOCI 460: Social Ethics be dropped from the degree plan and BIBP 486: Introduction to Ethics be added to the degree plan to address this content area.

CBS CAC recommendations:

(1) CBS accepts this proposal on the understanding that BIBP 486 is a philosophy course and not a course in professional ethics and that NCFR has indicated that BIBP 486 will satisfy their requirement for the Family Studies degree.

(2) We note that this change will create logistical issues for us in terms of the number and size of sections we need to offer in this already popular course.

3. **Proposal:** Drop FAM 454: Aging and the Family from the Family Studies degree plan and add BIBM 413: Seminar in Adolescent Moral/Sexual Issues.

Rationale: The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) review of the Family Studies Program curriculum resulted in a finding that the program's content in the area of adolescent development needed to be strengthened. The content of FAM 454: Aging and the Family is not required for the NCFR program certification. Therefore, dropping FAM 454 and adding BIBM 413: Seminar in Adolescent Moral/Sexual Issues will address this deficiency prior to renewal of the program's certification in Fall, 2012.

CBS CAC recommendation:

(1) CBS is willing to accept BIBM 413 Seminar in Adolescent Moral/Sexual Issues as part of the degree plan for Family Studies majors.

(2) We note that this change will create some logistical issues for us in terms of the number and size of sections that we might need to offer in order to accommodate both DBMM and FAM majors who need the course. Further, we are likely to bring a proposal for a course name change, dropping the word "Seminar" from the course title.

4. **Proposal:** Revised list of electives for a minor in Family Studies. Students would be required to take any three of the following elective courses:

Required Core (9 hours)

FAM 251: Introduction to Family Studies

COMS 376: Family Communication

FAM 452: Parenting and Family Skills

Electives (9 hours)

FAM 265: Introduction to Child Development

FAM 356: Human Intimacy*

FAM 362: Families in Society*

FAM 432: Family Finances*

FAM 453: Family Crisis and Resiliency

FAM 455: Ministry to Fathers

*added to the menu in March, 2012

CBS CAC recommendations:

(1) CBS is willing to accept the idea of a revised menu of electives for a minor, but with the following considerations:

(2) We would encourage the Family Studies faculty and the relevant faculty from DBMM to discuss whether it would make sense to include BIBM 434 Developing Faith in Children and/or BIBM 435 Adolescent Spiritual Formation in this menu. We anticipate that the menu could be revised again next year, pending further discussion among these faculty members.

5. **Proposal:** Cross-list GERO 352/552: Adult Development and Aging with FAM 352/552: Adult Development and Aging.

Rationale: This course was created for the expressed purpose of providing content related to life-span human development in order to satisfy the Family Studies Program certification requirements of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). The course is primarily populated by Family Studies majors; for example, in Fall 2011 there were 48 students

enrolled in the class of which 39 were FAM majors. The FAM and GERO programs have shared a departmental affiliation for the past 15 years; however, with the realignment of academic programs the two will be in different colleges in the future. As such, it is desirable to establish a FAM prefix for the course as it is required of all FAM majors in the Department of Marriage and Family Studies and in order to meet the certification requirements of NCFR.

CBS CAC recommendation:

- (1) CBS is willing to accept a cross-listing of a course FAM 352 Adult Development and Aging.
 - (2) CBS is **not** willing to support a course FAM 552, because there is already a course on the books FAM 352 Parenting and Family Skills, and because there is no graduate program in Family Studies that warrants adding another 500-level course in that discipline, and because we prefer to maintain a clear distinction between graduate and undergraduate courses.
 - (3) CBS recommends that it would make sense to consult with the EHS CAC on this matter, if, as we understand it, the Gerontology program is assigned to that college.
6. **Proposal:** Change the department of record for SOCI 362/562: Families in Society to the Department of Marriage and Family Studies and cross-list the course with FAM 362: Families in Society.

Rationale: The content provided by the course Families in Society is required to meet requirements of the Family Studies Program certification by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). For the past six years the course has been taught exclusively by a member of the Family Studies faculty, Dr. Heidi Morris. In addition, the course is primarily populated by Family Studies majors; for example, in Fall 2011 there were 47 students enrolled of which 35 were FAM majors, one was SOCI, one was SOCJ, and 10 were miscellaneous majors. The course is not required of Sociology majors; however, the SOCI program would like to maintain a cross-listing.

CBS CAC recommendation:

- (1) CBS is willing to take ownership of FAM 362: Families in Society, which we can offer with faculty who are credentialed in Family Studies.
- (2) CBS is **not** willing to support a course number FAM 562, because there is no graduate program in Family Studies, and because we prefer to maintain a clear distinction between graduate and undergraduate courses.
- (3) CBS has no objection, if CAS wishes to maintain a course SOCI 362 on their books, but we cannot guarantee that a course offered in CBS would be taught by a faculty member credentialed in the field of Sociology. The CAS CAC might consider whether it would create a false impression among Sociology students that the course with a SOCI prefix was taught by someone with credentials in Sociology.