

Department of Psychology
March 1, 2015

Proposal for an Accelerated Professional Psychology Degree Plan in Psychology

Description

An increasing number of ACU departments and programs are offering qualified undergraduates the opportunity to integrate undergraduate and professional training by counting graduate course work toward both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Other prestigious universities are also following this path. Currently the number of graduate hours accepted toward ACU undergraduate degrees range from 6 to 24. The Department of Psychology is proposing to offer an integrated Accelerated Professional Psychology Degree Plan (APPDP) which will permit qualified students to count up to 24 hours of graduate study toward elective hours in the BS in Psychology and toward University general electives.

The 24 hours of graduate course work will be chosen from the required courses in the MS degrees in Counseling Psychology and Clinical Psychology and in the Specialist in School Psychology degree. Students who participate in this degree plan may take up to six semester hours of graduate work in the Summer, Fall, and Spring semesters after they have achieved 90 semester hours with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5. Students will be advised to take no more than 12 hours including the graduate courses in a regular semester and will not be permitted to take more than 15. Students will be awarded their BS degree upon completion of 128 hours.

Rationale and advantages

The most important advantage of the APPDP is that it will change the relationship between undergraduate and professional study in psychology at ACU. Beginning with degree advising in their first year psychology majors will be able to see their ACU career as a seamless program concluding in a respected professional credential. This is the professional aspiration most often expressed by beginning psychology majors. For the students who choose the APPDP we believe that the choice will change the way they view their undergraduate years from being "more school" to "professional training."

The fact that ACU undergraduates will be able to elect graduate courses will enhance the challenge of their undergraduate experience.

We believe the APPDP is a unique opportunity for students which will be a strong advantage for recruiting students to ACU who might otherwise choose competing schools. It will also be a strong incentive to ACU undergraduates to continue at ACU for professional training. No other “competitor” institutions have similar programs.

We have an advising and course scheduling plan to integrate 18 graduate hours into students’ degree programs in Fall 2015. Beginning in Fall 2016 the flexibility to add the additional 6 hours will allow us to create a true BS + MS integrated program so that students can achieve a professional degree and be eligible to apply for licensure in 5 years. The APPDP will allow us to accomplish this within a developmentally sound “ACU experience.”

Catalogue text — Accelerated Professional Psychology Degree Plan

Students who are committed to pursuing graduate training as a professional counselor or to pursuing doctoral study in psychology may participate in the Accelerated Professional Psychology Degree Plan (APPDP). Students who meet the admission requirements for the APPDP may take up to 24 hours of graduate course work in their senior year. The graduate course work will count toward both the undergraduate degree and toward an ACU masters degree in psychology.

Interested students may seek pre-admission to the APPDP after they have completed 30 semester hours. Students must apply for full admission to the ACU Psychology graduate program in the Fall semester after they have completed 60 hours and have a GPA of 3.50.

When accepted into the APPDP and after they have completed 90 semester hours, students may take six hours of graduates course work in the Summer and six graduate course hours in each of the Fall and Spring semesters. No more than 12 hours per semester – 6 undergraduate and 6 graduate hours – is recommended. Graduate courses will count as general electives or electives in the psychology major and may not be substituted for required courses in the psychology major. Individual students' academic programs must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies of the department each semester a student participates in the APPDP.

Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I= Information Item¹ R= Advise & Respond²

Course Number _____ or Degree Plan(s) BS in Psychology

State the requested change and reason. A memo may be attached if more space is necessary.

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Circle the number that corresponds to the requested change. Degree plan changes are on the second page.

		COUNCIL ³								
	Change to a Course	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	President
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A		I			I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A		I			I	I
3.	Content (substantive change)	A	A	A		I			A	A
4.	Number of hours (lecture, lab, contact)	A	A	A		A			A	A
5.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I		I			I	I
6.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A		A			A	A
7.	Prerequisites	A	A	A		I			I	I
8.	Course fee(s)	A	--	A		--			A	I
9.	From U to G <i>or</i> G to U	A	A	A		A			A	A
10.	Cross list with another department: U or G level	A	A	A		A			A	A
11.	Department of record	A	A	A		A			A	A
12.	Open or close a course	A	A	A		A			A	A
13.	New course — See website for application and process. This change includes combining or splitting a course(s).	A	A	A		A			A	A

Note: When an academic unit does not have a council, the UGEC and/or UUAC will serve as its academic council, depending on the nature of the issue.

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		COUNCIL ³							Board of Trustees
Change to a Degree Plan		Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	
1.	University Requirements — Change in approved course content ⁶	A	A	A		A		A	--
2.	University Requirements — Add or drop a required course from the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A		A		A	A
3.	University Requirements — Add or drop a course from a menu within the University Requirements ⁶	A	A	A		A		A	--
4.	University Requirements — Change hours within a menu on the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A		A		A	A
5.	Major — Revision of major ^{4,5}	A	A	A		A		A	--
6.	Major — Adopt or change admission requirements	A	A	A		A		A	--
7.	Major — Add ^{4,5}	A	A	A		A		A	A
8.	Major — Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A		A		A	A
9.	Major — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)				See below.				
10.	GPA — Revise major or cumulative requirement	A	A	A		A		A	A
11.	Minor — Revise course selection	A	A	A		I		I	--
12.	Minor — Add	A	A	A		A		A	--
13.	Minor — Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A		A		A	--
14.	Minor — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)				See below.				
15.	Degree — Add	A	A	A		A		A	A
16.	Degree — Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A		A		A	A
17.	Degree — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)				See below.				
18.	Any change to a graduate degree program	A	A	A		A		A	--

		COUNCIL ³							Board of Trustees
Provost-Proposed Change		Provost	Department	Dean	TEC	UUAC	Graduate	Faculty	
1.	Major/Graduate Program — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R		A		A	A
2.	Minor — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R		A		--	A
3.	Degree — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R		A		A	A

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COUNCIL ¹									
	Change to the Catalog Information	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	President
1.	General requirements for graduation including course requirements that are common to all majors for all degrees ⁷	--	--	--		A		A	A
2.	Admission requirements	--	--	--		A		A	A
3.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	--	--	--		A		A	A
4.	Requirements for graduating with honors	--	--	--		A		A	A
5.	Other academic policy changes	--	--	--		A		A	A

¹ Councils may request additional information about "Information" items. These items are approved as "Consent Agenda."

² The Dean and Department should respond to the Provost's recommendation to close a program in writing. Advise & Respond (R) requires that the voting body should receive the written responses at least one week prior to the vote.

³ All courses that meet University Requirements for general education must go through UGEC. Courses or degrees offered only to students seeking teacher certification must go through the Teacher Education Council. All undergraduate changes must go before the UUAC. All graduate degree plan changes must go through the Graduate Council.

⁴ A minimum of 30 hours is required for a major. A maximum is specified for each degree (e.g., BA, BS). The university minimum for elective hours is 6, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible.

⁵ Program or course changes that apply to any major that includes Teacher Certification will be reviewed by the college, the Teacher Education Council (TEC), and then the UUAC.

⁶ Courses that satisfy ACU's University Requirements (General Education) will normally have lower-level numbering, be free of prerequisites and co-requisites, appeal to more than one or two majors, and "not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession" (SACS 2.7.3). Departments may request exceptions to the first three criteria.

⁷ The UUAC approved the clarification that "general requirements for graduation" means the enumerated items in the "General Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees" section of the catalog.

Revised 10-16-13

Curriculum/Catalog Changes Signature Page

Department/School Chair(s)	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

College Academic Council(s)	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Dean(s)	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Teacher Education Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

General Education Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Undergraduate Academic Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Graduate Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Provost	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Faculty	
_____ <i>Chair of faculty senate</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

President	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>