

Effective: October 1997

Curriculum Approval Policy
MAJOR and MINOR COURSE and/or PROGRAM CHANGE PROCEDURES

Revised: Deans' Council, August 12, 2009;
Faculty Senate, March 17, 2009

Minor Course Changes

Minor course changes are changes that do not fundamentally alter the nature, function or accessibility of the course, nor impact on the ability of students to complete this or other courses in their program of study. Examples include: updating catalog descriptions, most course numbering changes, and course title changes.

Procedure

1. The school Dean, as the Provost's designee, will decide whether a change is major or minor. Therefore, it is important that the school Dean be notified by the department chairperson of all course changes early in the approval process.
2. Minor course changes affecting department majors only require approval of the department offering the course, the appropriate school curriculum committee, the school Dean, and the Associate Provost for Academic Administration.
3. Minor course changes affecting more than one department also require consultation with the affected departments.
4. Minor course changes in undergraduate, graduate, and in-service teacher education also require approval of the Teacher Education Council (TEC).
5. Minor course changes for courses required of all University students or all students pursuing a particular degree (e.g. BSE) also require approval of the appropriate Faculty Senate committee: Undergraduate Course and Program Review Committee (UCPRC) or Graduate Course and Program Review Committee (GCPRC).
6. Following approval by the appropriate committee (school curriculum, TEC, or senate committee), it is the committee's responsibility to report its approval to the Associate Provost for Academic Administration for final determination and implementation. The Associate Provost will inform the pertinent University offices and Faculty Senate of final disposition.

Major Course Changes

Major course changes are changes that fundamentally alter the nature, function or accessibility of the course, or impact the ability of students to complete this or other courses in their program of study. Examples include: adding most new course prerequisites, adding or deleting significant course content (i.e., General Education course labels, including, but not limited to, Community and Cultural Diversity, G1, G2, G3, Laboratory, Perspectives, and Writing labels), requiring off-campus experiences, or changing the number of credits.

Procedure

1. The school Dean, as the Provost's designee, will decide whether a change is major or minor. Therefore, it is important that the school Dean be notified by the department chairperson of all course changes early in the approval process.
2. Major course changes require approval of the department offering the course, the appropriate school curriculum committee, the appropriate Faculty Senate committee (UCPRC or GCPRC), the Faculty Senate, and the Deans' Council. The Provost will inform the pertinent University offices and Faculty Senate of final disposition.
3. Major course changes required for majors or minors in other departments also require consultation with the affected departments.
4. Major course changes in undergraduate, graduate, and in-service teacher education also require approval of the Teacher Education Council (TEC).

Deletion of Courses or Removal of Designation Labels

When a course is deleted from a department's offerings, or when a label is removed from a course, the chair of the appropriate school committee shall inform the appropriate Faculty Senate committee (UCPRC or GCPRC) of such action. The Faculty Senate committee chairperson will then communicate that action to Faculty Senate.

Prior to the annual printing of the University catalogs, the departmental listing of courses shall be reviewed by the appropriate departmental committee(s). If a course has not been offered in the previous two years or planned for the next two years, the department shall either delete the course from the catalog or list the course as "offered infrequently."

Reinstatement of Courses

A course which has been deleted from the catalog may be reinstated by a departmental request directed to the appropriate school curriculum committee, following notification of the school Dean. The committee shall report its approval to the Associate Provost for Academic Administration.

Minor Program Changes

Minor program changes are changes that do not fundamentally alter the requirements, the length of time, or the academic preparation necessary to complete a particular course of study. Examples of minor program changes are: expanding the number of courses available in an elective block and renaming an option within a major.

Procedure

1. The school Dean, as the Provost's designee, will decide whether a change is major or minor. Therefore, it is important that the school Dean be notified by the department chairperson of all program changes early in the approval process.
2. Minor program changes affecting departmental majors only require approval of the department offering the program, the appropriate school curriculum committee, the school Dean and the Associate Provost for Academic Administration.
3. Minor program changes affecting majors or minors in other departments also require consultation with the affected departments.
4. Minor program changes in undergraduate, graduate, and in-service teacher education also require approval of the Teacher Education Council (TEC).
5. For minor program changes affecting all University students or all students pursuing a particular degree, approval of the appropriate Faculty Senate committee (UCPRC or GCPRC) is required.
6. Following approval by the appropriate committee (school curriculum, TEC, or senate committee), it is the committee's responsibility to report its approval to the Associate Provost for Academic Administration for final determination and implementation. The Associate Provost will inform the pertinent University offices and Faculty Senate of final disposition.

Major Program Changes

Major program changes are changes that fundamentally alter the requirements, the length of time, or the academic preparation necessary to complete a particular course of study. Examples of major program changes are: adding additional requirements to a major, adding an off-campus field experience, and significantly reducing the variety of courses in an elective block.

Procedure

1. The school Dean, as the Provost's designee, will decide whether a change is major or minor. Therefore, it is important that the school Dean be notified by the department chairperson of all program changes early in the approval process.
2. Major program changes require approval of the department offering the program, the appropriate school curriculum committee, the appropriate Faculty Senate committee (UCPRC or GCPRC), the Faculty Senate, and the Deans' Council. The Provost will inform the pertinent University offices and Faculty Senate of final disposition.

3. Major program changes affecting majors or minors in other departments also require consultation with the affected departments.
4. Major program changes in undergraduate, graduate, and in-service teacher education also require approval of the Teacher Education Council (TEC).

Unresolved Issues

Unresolved questions regarding whether a change is major or minor shall be referred to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.