

Attachment 2C-1
LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 5

DELETION

(Certificate, Degree, Option, Organizational Unit)

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
2. Contact person/title: Dr. Sharon Gaber, Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, ADMN 422, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701
3. Phone number/e-mail address: (479) 575-2151 / sgaber@uark.edu
4. Proposed effective date: August 2013
5. Title of certificate, degree program, option, or organizational unit: Minor in Psychology
6. CIP Code: 42.0101
7. Degree Code: PSYC-M
8. Reason for deletion:

The Department of Psychology has approximately 700 majors and 170 minors, which represents an increase of over 25% in the number of majors and minors over the last two to three years. We are committed to serving our students, but the number of minors has become too large to accommodate. All majors and minors are required to take the nine-hour sequence of General Psychology (PSYC 2003), Statistics (PSYC 2013), and Research Methods (PSYC 3073). It is imperative that our majors complete this sequence early in their careers, because these classes are building blocks for the advanced classes, particularly Advanced Research (PSYC 328V) and Advanced Seminar (PSYC 4283). Until last fall minors and other students outside the department and college were free to enroll without restriction in the Statistics and Research Methods classes, and because they usually waited until their senior year, they would enroll early, thereby preventing many of our majors and minors from enrolling. Our solution to that problem was to make Psychology Major a prerequisite for both Statistics and Research Methods. Now minors can only enroll using the override process, and only if there are available seats. However, due to the large number of majors, there is little or no room for minors. During registration for Spring 2012, there were at least 17 minors who could not enroll in Research Methods and therefore would have been unable to graduate that semester. We made a special, one-time accommodation for these students by allowing them to substitute another upper-level Psychology course to complete the minor.

Research Methods is the lynchpin course in our curriculum, and we cannot continue to offer a minor that does not include this foundational course. The course is writing and labor intensive and taught by faculty only. Students learn to think critically, to conduct their own research, and to write like psychologists. Large sections are not a viable option, so enrollment is capped at about 20 students. Because minors cannot access this course in a timely manner, they will experience unreasonable delays in their graduation. If we are committed to providing students a high quality education, it makes little sense to continue to offer the minor in Psychology. Thus, the most reasonable solution is no longer to offer the minor.

Deleting the Psychology minor should have no impact on other departments or colleges, as the minor is not required. Students will still be able to enroll in Psychology courses which do not have the major as a prerequisite.

9. Number of students still enrolled in program: 159

10. Expected graduation date of last student: May 2016

11. Name of courses which will be deleted as a result of this action: N/A

12. How will students in the deleted program be accommodated: N/A

13. Are funds available for reallocation? N/A

Board of Trustees Approval Date:

Chief Academic Officer:

Date: