

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Curriculum Proposal Form #6
Other Curricular Action

Effective Term: 2147 (Fall 2014)

Description of Action: Change in B.S. degree requirement

Sponsor(s): Liz Hachten
Department(s): College of Letters and Sciences
College(s): Letters and Sciences

Proposal Information:
[\(Procedures for form #6\)](#)

Proposal:
Change the B.S. degree requirement to allow students to use statistics courses offered by social science departments in the math/computer science area.

FROM:

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCES BS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A. SELECT 2 4-5 UNIT LAB SCIENCE COURSES DESIGNATED GL FROM 2 DIFFERENT SUBJECT AREAS (includes lab science courses used in University Requirements)

B. SELECT 5 UNITS OF MATH BEYOND 141 OR 3 UNITS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND 3 UNITS OF MATH BEYOND 141.

TO:

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCES BS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A. SELECT 2 4-5 UNIT LAB SCIENCE COURSES DESIGNATED GL FROM 2 DIFFERENT SUBJECT AREAS (includes lab science courses used in University Requirements)

~~B. SELECT 5-6 UNITS OF MATH BEYOND 141 OR 3 UNITS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND 3 UNITS OF MATH BEYOND 141.~~ **OR 6 UNITS CHOSEN FROM TWO OF THE FOLLOWING THREE OPTIONS:**

- 1. 3 UNITS OF MATH BEYOND 141 (EXCLUDING MATH 230 AND MATH 231)**

- 2. 3 UNITS OF STATISTICS CHOSEN FROM MATH 230, MATH 231, PSYCH 215, SOCIOLOGY 295 OR ECON 245**
- 3. 3 UNITS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Justification:

Currently, B.S. degree candidates in the College of Letters and Sciences may use MATH 230 (Introductory Statistics) or MATH 231 (Understanding Probability and Statistics) in partial fulfillment of the B.S. degree requirements. However if a student takes a statistics course offered by one of the social science departments (i.e., PSYCH 215- Basic Statistical Methods, SOCIOLOGY 295 – Basic Social Statistics, or ECON 245 – Business Statistics), that course cannot count in the B.S. degree even though those courses are unerequisites for MATH 230 and MATH 231. This state of affairs creates an inequitable situation for students since their ability to count a statistics class towards the B.S. degree depends on extraneous factors (such as course availability, major/minor requirements, and transfer course equivalencies). As a result, students often appeal to the Dean's office to be allowed to use a social science statistics course towards the B.S. degree.

This proposal to change the B.S. degree requirements is designed to address these inequities. Students would be allowed to use any of the five approved three-credit statistics courses towards the degree, whether the course is offered by Math or by a social science department. All of the approved statistics courses are 200-level courses with prerequisites of MATH 141 or MATH 140.

This proposed change is also in keeping with the LEAP initiative since basic facility with statistics is a key element of the quantitative literacy that our students need for work and citizenship in the 21st century.