

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

PROPOSED CURRICULUM CHANGES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request for curriculum changes by the University of Northern Iowa.

Executive Summary: In addition to the proposed course changes, UNI’s request includes five new minors. The proposed changes also include two new programs, one department name change, and one program suspension approved by prior action of the Board; proposals for four program terminations that have been submitted for Board approval as Agenda Items 3l, 3m, 3n, and 3o; and proposals for two program name changes that have been submitted for Board approval as Agenda Items 3p and 3q. The request for the proposed curriculum changes was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan objective (1.1) to “offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students.”

Background:

- ❖ Curriculum change at UNI is an ongoing process of academic program innovation and improvement initiated by faculty. Departments use academic program reviews, student outcomes assessments, and input from a variety of sources to assess program effectiveness, improve programs, and propose new programs. New programs and curriculum changes reflect new knowledge, new demands in professional fields, workforce development needs, student interests, and faculty expertise.
- ❖ The proposed curriculum changes will become part of the 2008-2010 University Catalog.
- ❖ The proposed changes include an addition of 77 new courses and the elimination of 47 courses, resulting in a net increase of 30 courses. The increase is due primarily to the reclassification of courses as multidisciplinary seminars or community-based learning courses for the new Capstone Experience model of the Liberal Arts Core.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CURRICULUM CHANGES

College	New Courses	Dropped Courses	Net Change	Course Number Change	Credit Value Change	Title Change
Business Administration	4	4	0	1	1	8
Education	1	2	-1	2	8	17
Humanities and Fine Arts	10	8	+2	3	1	23
Natural Sciences	31	25	+6	12	6	30
Social and Behavioral Sciences	31	8	+23	20	3	13
Interdisciplinary Programs	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	77	47	+30	38	20	92

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM CHANGES

PROGRAMS ADDED

- ☞ Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry (March 2008)
- ☞ Master of Science in Technology (March 2008)

PROGRAMS DROPPED

- ☞ Master of Arts in Science Education for Elementary Schools (K-6) (Pending Board approval in April-May 2008 – Agenda Item 3l)
- ☞ Master of Arts in Computer Science Education (Pending Board approval in April-May 2008 – Agenda Item 3m)
- ☞ Bachelor of Arts in Sociology - Teaching (Pending Board approval in April-May 2008 – Agenda Item 3n)
- ☞ Bachelor of Arts in Russian and East European Studies (Pending Board approval in April-May 2008 – Agenda Item 3o)

PROGRAM SUSPENSION

- ☞ Master of Arts in Technology (March 2008)

PROGRAM NAME CHANGE

- ☞ Master of Arts in School Library Media Studies to Master of Arts in School Library Studies (Pending Board approval in April-May 2008 – Agenda Item 3p)
- ☞ Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics – Applied to Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics – Computer Science Emphasis (Pending Board approval in April-May 2008 – Agenda Item 3q)

DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE

- ☞ Department of Philosophy and Religion to Department of Philosophy and World Religions (March 2008)

NEW MINORS

- ☞ International Business
- ☞ International Business for Non-Business Majors
- ☞ Bioinformatics
- ☞ Nanoscience and Nanotechnology
- ☞ Gerontology

MINORS DROPPED

- ☞ Sociology Teaching

CURRICULAR TRENDS

-  College of Business Administration.
- ➔ The College adopted an annual strategic planning cycle to formalize its strategic management process.
 - ➔ The College developed a comprehensive student outcomes assessment program, which includes setting program-level learning objectives, collecting data on meeting objectives, and making necessary curricular changes based on the data.
-  College of Education.
- ➔ Course changes reflect trends in literacy, educational media, technology, wellness, health care, leadership, school counseling, and teaching effectiveness.
 - ➔ The College created a certificate program for Technology Facilitators in response to the growing demand for trained technology facilitators.
-  College of Humanities and Fine Arts.
- ➔ Curricular changes, such as extending ethics education into academic programs of other departments, were driven by student outcomes assessment projects, academic program reviews, and future-oriented professional perspectives.
 - ➔ A growing trend in the field of art history structures courses around thematic ideas rather than time periods. This resulted in the addition of one course – “Myth and Narrative in Art.”
-  College of Natural Sciences.
- ➔ Changes to teacher preparation programs are in response to student outcomes assessments, academic program reviews, changes in teacher licensure, and national recommendations.
 - ➔ Curricular changes are designed to improve the ability of graduates to teach effectively in science, mathematics, and technology disciplines.
-  College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.
- ➔ Curricular changes include 10 new Capstone courses for the Liberal Arts Core.
 - ➔ In response to workforce needs, four new certificate programs were created – Certificate in State and Local Government; Certificate in International Peace and Security Studies; Certificate in Psychology of Employee Development; and Certificate in Social Identities, Inequalities, and Intersectionalities.