

APPROVED APR 22 2009
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TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell
Degree Programs Committee: Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal UC 10218 08F

DATE: April 15, 2009

The Committee met on Wednesday, February 18 to consider Proposal UC 10218 08F to create a minor degree in Quantitative Social Science. Participating in the discussion were committee members Betty Barr, Christina Hughes, Iain Morrison, and Richard Scamell. Scott Bassinger attended the meeting as a guest. It should be noted that this report contains a number of changes from the original version of UC 10218 08F.

By offering a minor in Quantitative Social Science, UC 10218 08F aims to unite the Departments of Economics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology, each with different areas of specialization and expertise, in an alliance to train undergraduate students in quantitative methods. As proposed, the minor would require a minimum of 18 semester hours. The shaded material and courses shown below are intended to describe requirements and courses proposed for the 2010 catalog. Material that is not shaded represents what is proposed for the 2009 catalog. Should the Quantitative Social Science minor be approved, the shaded courses shown with the QSS designator will be submitted for review by the Degree Programs: CBM 003 Committee in the Fall 2009 semester.

1. Three hours of statistical concepts and basic statistical analysis
 - ECON 2370: Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis
 - MATH 2311: Introduction to Probability and Statistics
 - POLS 3316: Quantitative Methods
 - PSYC 3301: Introduction to Psychological Statistics
 - SOC 3400: Introduction to Social Statistics
 - **QSS 2300: Statistical Concepts and Analysis**

Upon approval and implementation of the Quantitative Social Science minor, this requirement will state that QSS 2300 can be replaced by the five previously listed courses.

2. Three hours of regression analysis *any of*
 - ECON 4365: Introduction to Econometrics
 - **QSS 3301: Regression Analysis**

Upon approval and implementation of the Quantitative Social Science minor, this requirement will state that QSS 3301 is the required regression analysis course.

3. Three hours of research design and data collection
 - COMM 2300: Communication Research Methods
 - POLS 3312: Introduction to Research Methods in Political Science
 - PYSC 2301: Introduction to Methods in Psychology
 - SOC 3401: Introduction to Sociological Research
 - **QSS 3302: Research Design**

Upon approval and implementation of the Quantitative Social Science minor, this requirement will state that QSS 3302 can be replaced by the four previously listed courses.

- 3a. Three hours of research quality assurance and data management
 - **QSS 3303: Research Quality Assurance**

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4. Three hours completing a directed research project (QSS 4300). This requirement may be met by credit for a senior honors thesis or through use of a 4000-level special problems course approved by the Director of the Quantitative Social Science minor. This requirement is intended to serve as a capstone course and to be completed after the required course on research design, the required course on research quality assurance, and the two required courses on statistical analysis.
5. The remaining hours will be constituted by approved electives at the 3000-level or higher in the areas of economics, political science, psychology and sociology. A list of approved courses, updated each semester, will be available from the Director of the Quantitative Social Science minor. Credit for appropriate selected topics or selected problems courses offered by any department may be granted by petition.

Creation of a Quantitative Social Science minor carries with it several benefits. First, social sciences departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences would benefit as it would allow these departments to coordinate their course offerings and ensure that highly motivated students receive the training they seek. Second, faculty members would benefit as it would allow them to identify potential research assistants and junior collaborators, which would help enhance the reputation of the university's social sciences students. Third, students interested in pursuing graduate degrees or working in research-oriented positions would have a solid quantitative background in conducting research.

All students in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences are required to take a minor. At the moment, it is anticipated the majority of students choosing the Quantitative Social Science minor will come from the Department of Economics. Rough enrollment projections in terms of headcount and full-time student equivalent (FTSE) for the first five years of the program are expected to be:

| YEAR | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Headcount | 30 | 50 | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| FTSE | 15 | 25 | 35 | 35 | 35 |

Initially the number of students choosing the Quantitative Social Science minor is expected to be low because most students will most likely choose to remain in the minor they have been pursuing. It is anticipated, however, that in two or three years perhaps as many as one-half of the economics majors may select the Quantitative Social Science minor.

More than a dozen faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences have participated in the Quantitative Social Science initiative. Thus the cost of creating the Quantitative Social Science minor is anticipated to be low.

Recommendation

The Degree Programs Committee unanimously endorses UC 10218 08F.