

TO: Maria Elena Solino, Chair
Undergraduate Committee

FROM: Christina Gola
Academic Policy and Procedures Subcommittee

APPROVED OCT 03 2012

SUBJECT: UC 11799 12F: Proposal for changes to the change of major requirement for the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

DATE: September 27, 2012

The Academic Policies and Procedures Subcommittee met on Wednesday, September 19th and 26th to consider a proposal to change the change of major requirements into or within the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Participating in one or both discussions were committee members Christina Gola, Willie Munson, Richard Scamell, Lesley Sisk, Stephen Soutullo, and Larry Williams. Ian Evans from NSM attended as a guest.

Background

The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics proposes to increase the requirements for students seeking a change of major into or within the college. The proposed change hopes to recruit higher quality students to increase student success, retention, and graduation rates.

Change of Major Requirements

Students currently enrolled at UH and seeking a change of major into or within NSM must have:

- Established a minimum cumulative UH grade point average of at least 2.50.
- Must have a mathematics and science grade point average of at least 2.50 in all mathematics and science courses taken at the University of Houston that are applicable to a degree in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (*excluded courses listed below).

A. Courses that are excluded from ALL NSM major and minor course requirements and major and minor GPA requirements:

BIOL 1134, BIOL 1144, BIOL 1153, BIOL 1309, BIOL 1310, BIOL 1320, BIOL 1334, BIOL 1344, BIOL 1353, CHEM 1101, CHEM 1102, CHEM 1117, CHEM 1301, CHEM 1302, CHEM 1372, MATH 1300, MATH 1311, MATH 1312, MATH 1313, MATH 2303, MATH 2311, MATH 3303, MATH 3304, MATH 3305, MATH 3306, MATH 3307, MATH 3310, PHYS 1100, PHYS 1305, PHYS 1306, PHYS 2340, PHYS 5311, PHYS 5312, and PHYS 5397

B. Courses that are excluded from SPECIFIC major and minor course requirements and major and minor GPA requirements:

Chemistry: CHEM 1131, CHEM 1132, CHEM 3131, CHEM 3132, PHYS 1101, PHYS 1102, PHYS 1301, PHYS 1302

Computer Science: COSC 1300

Geophysics and Geology: PHYS 1101, PHYS 1102, PHYS 1301, PHYS 1302

Mathematics: MATH 2303, MATH 2311

Physics: PHYS 1101, PHYS 1102, PHYS 1301, PHYS 1302, PHYS 1305, PHYS 1306

In addition students:

- Seeking majors in Biology and Biochemistry, Chemistry, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and Physics must have completed a minimum of three semester hours of mathematics (MATH 1330 or equivalent or higher) and three semester hours of science.
- Seeking majors in Computer Sciences and Mathematics must have completed a minimum of six semester hours in mathematics (MATH 1330 or equivalent or higher).

Discussion

The subcommittee's discussion centered primarily on understanding the changes and parameters of how students will meet this new requirement.

The main change deals with the increased grade point average requirement for both the cumulative GPA and GPA of math and science courses taken at UH that are applicable to the degree. The minimum semester credit hours completed for the specific majors remain unchanged.

Recommendation

The subcommittee unanimously recommends approval of UC 11799 12F, *for implementation in Fall 2013.*