



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE

DAVIE HALL
CAMPUS BOX 3270
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3270

T 919.843.5467
F 919.962.2537
psychology.unc.edu

August 24, 2015

Dr. James Thompson, Associate Dean
Office of Undergraduate Curricula
CB# 3504

Dear Dr. Thompson and Members of the Administrative Boards:

Faculty in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience recently reviewed our course requirements for the undergraduate BA and BS Psychology majors. In order to keep our curriculum up-to-date with changes in the field and also provide a well-balanced and rigorous program of studies for our majors, we are requesting approval of several changes in major requirements.

The following changes are requested to BS Psychology requirements:

1. The requirement of one course from each of these two groups: [220, 225] and [222, 225, 230] be changed to one course from each of these two groups: [220, 222, 225] and [225, 230]. This change is requested because content of PSYC 222 (Learning) was more closely allied with the subfield of Cognitive Psychology in the past, whereas now it is more closely linked to Biological Psychology/Behavioral Neuroscience.
2. One of the two required Psychology courses numbered 400-650 must be a PX, PL, or QR course, thus ensuring that BS majors have a stronger foundation in physical and life sciences and/or quantitative reasoning.
3. The number of elective Psychology courses will be dropped from 2 to 1, giving BS majors greater flexibility in pursuing other areas of academic interest. With this change, 9 Psychology courses will be required for BS majors beyond the Introductory course.
4. Out-of-department requirements will include the addition of one of the following: CHEM 101 and 101L, PHYS 114, PHYS 118.
5. The out-of-department requirement of 4 non-psychology physical and life science courses including one with a lab and one chosen from a specific list will be changed to

the following: 4 non-psychology physical and life science courses including one with a laboratory OR 3 non-psychology physical and life sciences courses, including one with a laboratory and 1 of COMP 401, 416; LING 455; PHIL 155, 455; STOR 112, 113, 215. This change is requested so that BS majors have the option of meeting this requirement partially with a course that is strong in quantitative reasoning.

Requested changes to the BA major requirements are the following:

1. The requirement of one course from each of these two groups: [220, 225] and [222, 225, 230] be changed to one course from each of these two groups: [220, 222, 225] and [225, 230].
2. The number of elective Psychology courses will be dropped from 2 to 1. With this change, 9 Psychology courses will be required for BA majors beyond the Introductory course.
3. Because the General Education requirements already include a requirement of three social and behavioral science courses with at least one historical analysis (HS) course, we propose dropping that requirement from our list of out-of-department BA course requirements. Please note that this change does not result in a change to students' requirements for the BA; rather, it simply makes the list of BA major requirements more succinct.

We are proposing these changes because of strong shifts within the field of Psychology to a greater emphasis on the biological underpinnings of behavior, significant shifts in Psychology that necessitate a better understanding of physical science and chemistry, a stronger emphasis on mastery of quantitative analysis in understanding research results, and a recognition of increased emphasis on inter-disciplinary approaches to an understanding of human behavior (hence the shift from two electives to one elective).

Attached are letters of support from the Chemistry and Physics Department Chairs and proposed copy for the Undergraduate Bulletin description of major requirements with edited content highlighted in yellow. Please let us know if you need additional information for this review.

Sincerely,



Donald T. Lysle, Ph.D.
Kenan Distinguished Professor
Chair, Psychology and Neuroscience



Beth Kurtz-Costes, Ph.D.
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Professor, Psychology and Neuroscience



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THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

CAMPUS BOX 3290 T 919.966.4575
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3290 O 919.962.4358
www.chem.unc.edu F 919.962.2388
joetemp@unc.edu

JOSEPH L. TEMPLETON
Venable Distinguished Professor and Interim Chair

June 4, 2015

Professor Donald T. Lysle
Chair
Department of Psychology
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3270

Dear Don,

This letter is in support of your Department's goal of adding CHEM 101 and CHEM 101L as out-of-department course requirements for your B.S. majors. Valerie Ashby, our previous Chair, supported this curriculum change, and I agree with her about moving this forward through our UNC approval processes.

The decision to add a minor in Neuroscience to your curriculum is a forward looking shift for your department and for Carolina. It is essential that our course requirements reflect advances in our disciplines, and adding chemistry to your BS requirements seems like a natural extension of our collaborative efforts past and future.

Thanks for allowing me to provide input in this important undergraduate curriculum arena. We are eager to deliver CHEM 101 and CHEM 101L to your BS majors, and I fully support your academic curriculum plan.

Sincerely,

Joe



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of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

August 18, 2015

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
AND ASTRONOMY
272 PHILLIPS HALL
CAMPUS BOX 3255
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3255

T 919.962.2079
F 919.962.0480
clemens@physics.unc.edu
www.physics.unc.edu

CHRIS CLEMENS
Department Chair

Donald Lysle, Ph.D. and Chair
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
Davie Hall | CB #3270

Dear Don,

I have received the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience's updated undergraduate major requirements. I understand that part of the new requirements for the B.S major in Psychology include CHEM 101 and 101L or a choice of PHYS 114 or 118.

I have reviewed the impact of this new requirement for your department and, on behalf of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, I support your proposal.

Please let me know if you need anything further during this approval process. I wish you and your department success with these changes to the curriculum.

Sincerely,

Chris Clemens
Professor and Chair
Department of Physics and Astronomy