Communication PhD-Revisions

The following correspondence should be attached. As well, the following things should be changed as a result:

- The PACER form should indicate a program of 85 semester hours and thus a change in credit hours of 5 and not 11. The minimum credit hours offered by the unit should be 70, I believe, with a change in CH of 3.3. The maximum credit hours offered by the unit should be 85 with a change in CH of 5.
- Below the PACER form, this paragraph exists and the following new paragraph should be inserted:

In the current program, we assume registration only in AU, WI, and SP quarters, with candidacy exams normally taking place in SP quarter. In the revised program we are anticipating exams to take place during May-mester so that students may do their exams without the typical burden of GA assignments. Our current program places candidacy exam credits and a broader range of research activity credits under a single umbrella of "Independent Study". The current program request creates a more precise and accurate system by establishing a foundation of "directed research" credit hours within the program (12 hours) and 9 credit hours during May-mester for "Directed Reading" which will reflect the candidacy exam process. The inclusion of the 9 May-mester credit hours represents the majority of the increase in the minimum number of credits hours (91 credit hours) for completion of the Ph.D. (above the standard 120-to-80 credit hour conversion metric). As for the additional two-credit hour differential, courses in semester conversion are primarily three-credit hours. We have two options within this framework -- be one credit short of the direct translation (net the candidacy exam prep), or two credits above it. Given the minimum registration requirements by quarter to be full time, it works out that to maintain the same level of elective course requirements in the program (which is a priority for our faculty) that we add on the additional 2 credit hours of elective course content.

In the current program, we assume registration only in AU, WI, and SP quarters, with candidacy exams normally taking place in SP quarter. In the revised program we are anticipating exams to take place during May-mester so that students may do their exams without the typical burden of GA assignments. Our current program places candidacy exam credits and a broader range of research activity credits under a single umbrella of "Independent Study". The current program request creates a more precise and accurate system by establishing a foundation of "directed research" credit hours within the program (12 hours) and 3 credit hours during May-mester for "Directed Reading" which will reflect the candidacy exam process. The inclusion of the 3 May-mester credit hours represents the majority of the increase in the minimum number of credits hours (85 credit hours) for completion of the Ph.D. (above the standard 120-to-80 credit hour conversion metric). As for the additional two-credit hour differential, courses in semester conversion are primarily three-credit hours. We have two options within this framework -- be one credit short of the direct translation (net the candidacy exam prep), or two credits above it. Given the minimum registration requirements by quarter to be full time, it works out that to maintain the same level of elective course requirements in the program (which is a priority for our faculty) that we add on the additional 2 credit hours of elective course content.
• On page 7 this paragraph should be changed to the new paragraph below:

It was our goal to retain nearly every aspect of our current Ph.D. program and retain relative ratios of required and elective courses. Slight changes are due to alterations in the treatment of "independent study" credits (formerly up to 20 credits of which counted toward internal elective requirements). We now divide independent study credits into "Directed Research" credits (maximum 12 semester credits toward the degree) and "Directed Reading" credits (maximum 9 semester credits toward the degree). "Directed Reading" credits may be taken in the semester prior to (or the semester of) the candidacy exam to facilitate exam preparation with additional readings as well as to facilitate the exam process itself. Directed research credits will compose approximately 25% of required elective courses to encourage students to work collaboratively and independently conducting scholarly research to improve their research skills and enhance their value on the job market.

• Page 9: the following should be changed to the new sentence below:

2. At least 60 credit hours of electives (minimum 45 within the School [no more than 12 credits of Directed Research, and 9 credits of Directed Reading to count toward this requirement], and a minimum of 15 additional electives)

2. At least 60 credit hours of electives (minimum 45 within the School [no more than 12 credits of Directed Research, and 3 credits of Directed Reading to count toward this requirement], and a minimum of 15 additional electives)

Everything below the transition plan should be deleted. It is a duplication of what is found in the PACER table and in the answer to “Explain any change in credit hours if the difference is more than 4 semester credit hours between the values listed in columns B and C for any row in the above table” below the PACER table. Of course, if deleting this affects the PACER table or
the answer below the table, it should not be deleted, but accordingly changed to match the above changes.

Here is the correspondence to attach:

Niraj- The proposal indicates that directed reading for 9 credit hours will take place during the May session for a student's candidacy exam. Is 9 hours possible during the May session? It seems like a lot. As well the 3 week session doesn't seem to be enough time to prepare for the candidacy exam. If you could clarify, we would appreciate it.

Dr. Holbert- The entire candidacy exam process will take place over the course of an adjoining spring semester and may-mester. The spring semester will be the time when the doctoral student will be taking on the reading lists for his/her exams, while the may-mester is the point in time when the formal exams will be administered and the student responses defended orally. The combination of the reading lists being taken on in the spring semester prior to what we have defined as "directed reading" credits in the may-mester, along with the taking and defending of the formal exams during the may-mester, reflects a time commitment that warrants the 9 credit hours signed up for by the student for the may-mester.

Dr. Lar sen- I am a member of the Subcommittee reviewing your semester conversion proposal for CAA. I have read your response to Niraj regarding our inquiry about the 9 credits of enrollment for a maymester to prepare for the candidacy exam. It appears that you are having students sign up for credits in May that are partially completed during the Spring quarter. Is that right? Why aren't they signing up for those credits in Spring? If they are expected to complete them all in May, it seems unlikely that they will complete the equivalent of full-time graduate student workload for an entire semester (9 credits) in the 18 days of the May term. Can you please clarify the time commitment needed within those 3 weeks that justifies the 9 credits? You should review the May Session Credit Hours information on the CAA web page (http://oaa.osu.edu/may-session-credit-hours.html). Since the hours that the students are signing up for are not "in class" hours but rather independent study, which typically is a 3 to 1 conversion for hours committed to the activity consistent with this statement: One credit hour shall be assigned for each three hours per week of the average student's time, including class hours, required to earn the average grade of "C" in this course. That would mean that the students would need to spend the equivalent of 27 hrs (3 hrs x 9 credits) x 14 wks (the length of a semester) = 378 hrs of dedicated time in just 4 weeks, which if my math is correct would be 94.5 hrs/week. So, please let us know how you calculated the credits or if we are misunderstanding your proposal. Thank you.

Dr. Holbert- Thanks for bringing to our attention your concern over the number of "directed reading" credit hours we have listed for the may-mester within which one of our PhD students would be completing his/her candidacy exams. It would be perfectly acceptable for us to convert the proposed 9 credit hours of "directed reading" for the may-mester to just 3 credit hours of "directed reading" to reflect the student taking his/her candidacy exams (while also meeting the university credit hour requirement for being enrolled during may-mester). The total number of credits for our proposed PhD program currently stands at 91. The shifting from 9 to 3 credit hours of "directed reading" for the may-mester would place the total number of credit hours for the degree at 85, still above the minimum number of hours required by the university (i.e., 80).
Explain any change in credit hours if the difference is more than 4 semester credit hours between the values listed in columns B and C for any row in the above table.

In the current program, we assume registration only in AU, WI, and SP quarters, with candidacy exams normally taking place in SP quarter. In the revised program we are anticipating exams to take place during May-semester so that students may do their exams without the typical burden of GA assignments. Our current program places candidacy exam credits and a broader range of research activity credits under a single umbrella of “Independent Study”. The current program request creates a more precise and accurate system by establishing a foundation of “directed research” credit hours within the program (12 hours) and 9 credit hours during May-semester for “Directed Reading” which will reflect the candidacy exam process. The inclusion of the 9 May-semester credit hours represents the majority of the increase in the minimum number of credit hours (91 credit hours) for completion of the Ph.D. (above the standard 120-to-80 credit hour conversion metric). As for the additional two-credit hour differential, courses in semester conversion are primarily three-credit hours. We have two options within this framework -- be one credit short of the direct translation (net the candidacy exam prep), or two credits above it. Given the minimum registration requirements by quarter to be full time, it works out that to maintain the same level of elective course requirements in the program (which is a priority for our faculty) that we add on the additional 2 credit hours of elective course content.

**Program Learning Goals**

Note: these are required for all undergraduate degree programs and majors now, and will be required for all graduate and professional degree programs in 2012. Nonetheless, all programs are encouraged to complete these now.

**Assessment**

Assessment plan includes student learning goals, how those goals are evaluated, and how the information collected is used to improve student learning. An assessment plan is required for undergraduate majors and degrees. Graduate and professional degree programs are encouraged to complete this now, but will not be required to do so until 2012.

- Is this a degree program (undergraduate, graduate, or professional) or major proposal? Yes
- Does the degree program or major have an assessment plan on file with the university Office of Academic Affairs? No
DIRECT MEASURES (means of assessment that measure performance directly, are authentic and minimize mitigating or intervening factors)

INDIRECT MEASURES (means of assessment that are related to direct measures but are steps removed from those measures)

USE OF DATA (how the program uses or will use the evaluation data to make evidence-based improvements to the program periodically)

Program Specializations/Sub-Plans

If you do not specify a program specialization/sub-plan it will be assumed you are submitting this program for all program specializations/sub-plans.

Pre-Major

Does this Program have a Pre-Major? No

Attachments

- PhDupload.pdf
  (Program Proposal Owner: McDonald,Daniel Gary)
- Division Letter for Communication.doc: Division Letter
  (Letter from the College to OAA Owner: Mumy,Gene Elwood)

Comments

- Need to reconcile differences in credit hours in tabled and what the advising sheet indicates; and maybe eliminate a couple of items, as suggest in my email and attachment of 5-19-11

Gene Mumy (by Mumy,Gene Elwood on 05/20/2011 12:12 PM)

Workflow Information

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Chairs of Arts and Sciences CCI and CAA

Dear Chairs:

At the undergraduate level the School of Communication has two major programs:

   The Communication Bachelor of Art with three areas of concentration: 1) Strategic Communication; 2) New Media and Communication Technology; and 3) Communication Analysis and Practice.

   The Public Affairs Journalism Bachelor of Art (a tagged degree).

In her cover letter, School Director Carroll describes the careful consideration given by the School to the semester conversion plans for all programs, especially these two majors and the minimal changes made to the majors in the conversion. The only changes worth noticing at all are the repackaging of some courses into more concentrated modules.

It also needs to be noted that even though the Journalism BA is a tagged degree students taking that degree do the regular GE for BAs in Arts and Sciences. As a result the credit hour table in PACER is filled in following the rules for an untagged degree rather than accounting for all of the GE in hours for the major.

The conversion plans for both majors were reviewed and endorsed by the Social Sciences Disciplinary Advisory Panel (SS DAP). As a result I approve Communication’s conversion plans for its two majors and submit them for CCI’s consideration.

At the undergraduate level Communication also has four minors. In addition to the General Communication minor, there are three specialized minors:

   A) Communication Technology
   B) Media and Society
   C) Organizational Communication

The three specialized minors were developed during 2007 and were approved as new minors in Spring 2008; and the general minor was reassessed at the same time. Because of technical issues with PACER the Communication Technology and Organizational Communication minors are listed as new, when they are in fact straight conversions of the minors approved in 2008 at 20 quarter credit hours. Indeed all of the minors are straight conversions because they are new or were reconsidered as part of the 2007-2008 process. As a result the SS DAP has endorsed the semester versions and I have approved them and submit them for CCI’s consideration.

At the graduate level Communication offers the Ph.D. and MA. In her letter, School Director Glynn notes that much thought was given to the structure of the programs but in the end the faculty was satisfied with the current structure of the programs and both were converted with very minimal change.
The approval process for all Ph.D. and MA programs in SBS was that all of them were first examined and discussed for feedback and improvement by the SBS Graduate Committee, which is made up of the graduate directors. When ready for final consideration in the Division they move to the Social Sciences Disciplinary Advisory Panel (SS DAP). For other graduate programs in SBS the departments work with the associate dean and then the programs are sent to the SS DAP when ready.

The SS DAP has approved the Communication Ph.D. and MA programs after minor changes and I endorse that decision and now submit them to CAA and the Graduate School for their consideration.

Sincerely,

Gene E. Mumy
Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences/Social and Behavioral Sciences
Date: January 14, 2011
To: Reviewing Committee
From: Carroll Glynn
       Director
       School of Communication

Subject: Program Conversion

The School of Communication is pleased to recommend the adoption of the enclosed materials for semester conversion. These materials include templates for the following programs:

Program:
Ph.D., Communication
M.A., Communication
BA, Communication (sub-plan in Strategic Communication)
BA, Communication (sub-plan in New Media and Communication Technology)
BA, Communication (sub-plan in Communication Analysis and Practice)
BA in Journalism, Public Affairs Journalism

Minors:
Communication (general)
Organizational Communication
Communication Technology
Media and Society

Our conversion, as with all major curriculum initiatives and revisions, followed the School of Communication Pattern of Administration guidelines through discussions and deliberations involving all department faculty. In this instance, these discussions and deliberations were pursued by our Semester Conversion Committee, discussions with all departmental faculty by area and at faculty meetings, discussions amongst the chairs of the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies committees with the department chair, and solicited input (including focus group discussions) from undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, we sought advice and information about experiences from benchmark institutions that had undergone calendar conversion in recent years.

Our Associate Director for Planning and Research and our Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies worked with our Undergraduate Program Coordinator and members of the faculty representing each area of study to develop our undergraduate plans. The Director of Graduate Studies and members of the School of Communication Graduate Studies Committee worked together to put together the M.A. and Ph.D. semester conversion graduate programs.

Votes were taken within committees and at faculty meetings to develop consensus in support of the programs. The plans were presented to the full School of Communication faculty and
feedback was provided and taken into account in revisions. A final vote was taken and results were strongly supportive of the proposed semester conversions of our undergraduate and graduate programs as reflected in these documents.

We believe that we have followed all guidelines and provided what is required at upper administrative levels. While our programs fall within the scope of 'minimal programmatic changes,' our faculty and staff had put a great deal of thought and effort into the conversion. In addition, we have sought input from our graduate and undergraduate students, conducted focus groups on semester conversion as well as on what they would like to see changed, examine potential overlap in courses with the transition to semester, run simulations for course enrollments for majors and non-majors with the move to semesters. In addition, we have developed plans for staffing courses with faculty and graduate teaching assistants, assessing our needs and running simulations based on projected enrollments. The results reflect, I think, the best programs we can develop that will insure that all of our students can remain on track for graduation while obtaining a high-quality education in Communication and Journalism.

A number of courses have been dropped, or merged, there are several new courses, and we have considered the implications of all the changes for our undergraduates. Minimal programmatic change also reflects the fact that our curriculum has been in continual update and change for the past 10 years. We have seen a number of programs at our peer institutions follow our lead in developing concentrations within communication, and reforming our journalism major to keep pace with industry evolution. Because of these efforts, much of our work was focused on maintaining the integrity of our programs while converting to semesters, identifying weak spots and/or potential problems, and ensuring that students in the transition years will not be harmed by the process.

I recommend approval of our plan for semester conversion.
1. **Rationale for PhD Program Conversion**
   
a. It was our goal to retain nearly every aspect of our current Ph.D. program and retain relative ratios of required and elective courses. Slight changes are due to alterations in the treatment of "independent study" credits (formerly up to 20 credits of which counted toward internal elective requirements). We now divide independent study credits into "Directed Research" credits (maximum 12 semester credits toward the degree) and "Directed Reading" credits (maximum 9 semester credits toward the degree). "Directed Reading" credits may be taken in the semester prior to (or the semester of) the candidacy exam to facilitate exam preparation with additional readings as well as to facilitate the exam process itself. Directed research credits will compose approximately 25% of required elective courses to encourage students to work collaboratively and independently conducting scholarly research to improve their research skills and enhance their value on the job market.

   b. Date of last significant revision: 2002

2. **List of Courses in Program:**

   6661: Statistical Applications in Communication
   6669: Communication Research Methods
   6763: Qualitative Research Methods
   6806: Contemporary Theories of Communication
   6807: Foundations of Communication Theory
   7711: Design Applications in Human Computer Interaction
   7713: Political Communication (cross-listed with Poli Sci 7168)
   7789: Survey Research Practicum (cross-listed)
   7790: Statistical Applications in Communication II
   7802: Narrative and Communication
   7805: Communication Law and Policy
   7813: Public Opinion and Communication
   7820: Foundations of Interpersonal Communication
   7830: Foundations of Organizational Communication
   7840: Mass Communication and the Individual
   7841: Mass Communication and the Social System
   7850: Communication Technology
   7860: Language and Social Interaction
### Program Advising Sheets

Semester Program Plan: PhD Course Requirements

Complete a minimum of 91 graduate credits, including 6 credits for the dissertation.

1. **21 credits required core**
   a. **9 credits in Communication Theory**
      i. 6806 - Contemporary Theories in Communication
      ii. 6807 - Foundations of Communication Theory
      iii. 7927 - Theory Construction
   b. **12 credits in Research Methods for Communication**
      i. 6661 - Statistical Applications in Communication
      ii. 6760 - Communication Research Methods
      iii. 6763 - Qualitative Research Methods
      iv. 7790 - Statistical Applications in Communication II
2. At least 60 credit hours of electives (minimum 45 within the School [no more than 12 credits of Directed Research, and 9 credits of Directed Reading to count toward this requirement], and a minimum of 15 additional electives)
3. Four semesters of COMM 7890 - Colloquium accounting for a total of 4 credits
4. Two semesters of dissertation credit (COMM 8999) accounting for a total of 6 credits

Current Advising Sheet (Quarters):
Ph.D. Course Credit Requirements

Complete a minimum of 120 graduate credits, including 9 credits for the dissertation.

1.) 35 credits required core
   15 credits in Communication Theory:
       806 - Contemporary Theories in Communication (5)
       807 - Foundations of Communication Theory (5)
       927 - Theory Construction (5)

   20 credits in Research Methods for Communication:
       661Z - Statistical Applications in Communication (5)
       760 - Communication Research Methods (5)
       763 - Qualitative Research Methods (5)
       790 - Statistical Applications in Communication II (5)

2.) At least 70 credit hours of electives (minimum 50 from within the School and no more than 20 credits being independent studies)

3.) 6 quarters of COMM 900 - Communication Colloquium (6)

4.) Dissertation credit (9, maximum of 3 credits per quarter)
4. Transition Policy

Because all of the required courses for our Ph.D. program - both current and proposed - are offered in the first year, and there are no changes in required courses for the proposed program, students enrolled in the program during the conversion will not encounter any difficulties or delays. Changes in electives credit hours also will not increase the length of time in the program for students who begin our program under the quarter system.

Appendix a. Table to aid CAA reviewers

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<th># of Credit Hours in Current Program (Quarters)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Double counted credit hours that meet two or more requirements</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free elective credit hours</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Rationale for a change in credit hours if the difference is more than 4 semester credit hours.

a. In the current program, we assume registration only in AU, WI, and SP quarters, with candidacy exams normally taking place in SP quarter. In the revised program we are anticipating exams to take place during May-semester so that students may do their exams without the typical burden of GA assignments. Our current program places candidacy exam credits and a broader range of research activity credits under a single umbrella of "Independent Study". The current program request creates a more precise and accurate system by establishing a foundation of "directed research" credit hours within the program (12 hours) and 9 credit hours during May-semester for "Directed Reading" which will reflect the candidacy exam process. The inclusion of the 9 May-semester credit hours represents the majority of the increase in the minimum number of credits hours (91
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credit short of the direct translation (net the candidacy exam prep), or
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