Curriculum Subcommittee Agenda, April 5, 2012

Utah State University

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A meeting of the Curriculum Subcommittee of the Educational Policies Committee will be held on 5 April 2012 at 2 p.m. in Old Main 136 (Champ Hall Conference Room).

Approval of the minutes of the 1 March 2012 meeting (see below)

**Utah State University**

*New Course*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USU 5900</td>
<td>Government and Policy Internship Seminar</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>Pass/Fail Only</td>
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<td>Effective Fall 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>USU 5910</td>
<td>Campaign Internship</td>
<td>1-9 cr.</td>
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<td>USU 5920</td>
<td>Washington Internship</td>
<td>1-9 cr.</td>
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<td>USU 5930</td>
<td>State and Local Government Internship</td>
<td>1-9 cr.</td>
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<td>USU 5940</td>
<td>Administrative Internship</td>
<td>1-9 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>USU 5950</td>
<td>International Internship</td>
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**College of Agriculture**

**Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences**

*New Course*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>NDFS 6150</td>
<td>Principles of Food Sanitation</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>Prerequisites: NDFS 5110/6110 and enrollment in the Masters Food Safety and Quality Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>NDFS 6160</td>
<td>Principles of Food Toxicology</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>Prerequisites: NDFS 5110/6110 and enrollment in the Masters Food Safety and Quality Program</td>
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<td>Effective Fall 2012</td>
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</table>
**Department of Plants, Soils and Climate**

**Prerequisite Change**

PSC 3000  
Fundamentals of Soil Science  
Prerequisites: CHEM 1110 or higher and MATH 1050 or higher  
Effective Spring 2013

**Title Change, Course Description Change**

PSC/LAEP 5090/6090  Sustainable Low Water Landscaping  
Previously Low Water Landscaping  
Effective Spring 2013

**Caine College of the Arts**

**Department of Art and Design**

**New Course**

ARTH 6500  Graduate Art History Section  
Repeatable for credit  
Effective Fall 2012

**Course Number Change, Dual List Change**

ARTH 3510  Islamic Visual Cultures  
Previously ARTH 4510  
University Studies Designation: DHA (ARTH 3510)  
Remove dual list of ARTH 6510  
Effective Spring 2013

ARTH 3630  Medieval Art  
Previously ARTH 4630  
University Studies Designation: DHA (ARTH 3630)  
Remove dual list of ARTH 6630  
Effective Spring 2013

**Course Number Change**

ARTH 3760  American Art  
Previously ARTH 4760  
Effective Summer 2013

**Title Change, Course Number Change, Prerequisite Change, Course Description Change, Dual List Change**

ARTH 3610  Classical Art History: Greece and Rome  
Previously Greek and Roman Art, ARTH 4610  
University Studies Designation: CI (ARTH 3610)  
Remove dual list of ARTH 6610  
Prerequisite: ARTH 2710 or permission of instructor  
Effective Spring 2013
Title Change, Course Number Change, Course Description Change, Dual List Change
ARTH 3620  Early Christian and Byzantine Art 3 cr.
Previously Byzantine Art, ARTH 4620
University Studies Designation: DHA (ARTH 3620)
Remove dual list of ARTH 6620
Effective Spring 2013

Course Number Change, Prerequisite Change, Course Description Change
ARTH 3720  Renaissance Art 3 cr.
Previously ARTH 4720
University Studies Designation: CI
Prerequisite: ARTH 2720 or permission of instructor
Effective Spring 2013

Course Number Change, Title Change, Course Description Change
ARTH 3740  Modern Art 3 cr.
Previously Nineteenth Century Art, ARTH 4740
Effective Summer 2013

Course Number Change, Title Change, Prerequisite Change, Course Description Change
ARTH 3750  Contemporary Art 3 cr.
Previously Twentieth Century Art, ARTH 4750
Prerequisite: ARTH 2720
Effective Summer 2013

Title Change, Course Description Change
ARTH 6740  Graduate Modern Art 3 cr.
Previously Graduate Nineteenth Century Art
Effective Summer 2013

ARTH 6750  Graduate Contemporary Art 3 cr.
Previously Graduate Twentieth Century Art
Effective Summer 2013

Title Change, Prerequisite Change, Course Description Change
ARTH 6510  Graduate Islamic Visual Cultures ca. 600-1500 3 cr.
Previously Islamic Visual Cultures
No prerequisites needed
Effective Spring 2013

ARTH 6630  Graduate Medieval Art 3 cr.
Previously Medieval Art
No prerequisites needed
Effective Spring 2013
Credit Hour Change

ID 3760 Commercial Design Studio
Previously 4 cr.
Effective Fall 2012

ID 3770 Residential Design Studio
Previously 4 cr.
Effective Fall 2012

Department of Theatre Arts
Prerequisite Change

THEA 1113 Voice for Theatre
Prerequisites: THEA 1033 and 1713
Effective Spring 2013

THEA 1430 Movement for Actors I
Prerequisites: THEA 1033 and 1713
Effective Spring 2013

THEA 2430 Movement for Actors II
Prerequisites: THEA 1430, 1713 and 2033
Effective Spring 2013

THEA 2440 Introduction to Dance for Theatre
Prerequisites: THEA 1033, 1430 and 1713
Effective Spring 2013

THEA 2480 Intermediate Voice and Speech for Theatre
Prerequisites: THEA 1033, 1113 and 1713
Effective Spring 2013

THEA 2490 Intermediate Acting: Shakespeare
Prerequisites: THEA 1113, 1430, 1713 and 2033. BFA Acting majors only
Effective Spring 2013

THEA 5400 Advanced Acting: Period Styles I
Prerequisites: THEA 1713, 2490, 3230 and 3240. BFA Acting majors only
Repeatable for credit
Effective Spring 2013

THEA 5420 Advanced Acting: Period Styles II
Prerequisites: THEA 1713, 2490, 3230 and 3240. BFA Acting majors only
Repeatable for credit
Effective Spring 2013
THEA 5440  Advanced Acting: Musical Theatre and Audition Techniques 3 cr.
Prerequisites: THEA 1713, 2490, 3230 and 3240. BFA Acting majors only
Effective Spring 2013

THEA 5470  Advanced Acting: Modern Methods 3 cr.
Prerequisites: THEA 1713, 2490, 3230 and 3240. BFA Acting majors only
Effective Spring 2013

Title Change, Credit Hour Change, Prerequisite Change, Course Description Change
THEA 4750  Production Projects 1-2 cr.
Previously Advanced Production Practicum, 1-3 cr.
Repeatable for credit
Prerequisite: Theatre major or permission of department
Effective Spring 2013

Title Change, Prerequisite Change, Course Description Change
THEA 4850  Production Assignments 1-3 cr.
Previously Advanced Production Projects
Repeatable for credit
Prerequisite: Theatre major or permission of department
Effective Spring 2013

Huntsman School of Business
Department of Economics and Finance
New Course
FIN 5800  Financial Analysis 3 cr.
Effective Summer 2012

FIN 6415  Fundamentals of Corporate Finance 1.5 cr
Prerequisite: Acceptance into a Huntsman School of Business master’s degree program
Effective Summer 2012

Department of Management
Prerequisite Change
MGT 3560  New Venture Planning 2 cr.
Prerequisites: MGT 3510; admittance to a USU major, cumulative GPA of 2.67 or higher, completion of at least 40 credits
University Studies Designation: CI
Effective Spring 2013
Delete Course
MGT 4520  New Venture Planning      3 cr.
Effective Fall 2012

Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
Department of Psychology
Pass/Fail Only
PSY 2250  Introductory Cooperative Work Experience      1-6 cr.
Pass/Fail Only
Repeatable for credit
Effective Fall 2012

PSY 4250  Advanced Cooperative Work Experience      1-12 cr
Pass/Fail Only
Repeatable for credit
Effective Fall 2012

PSY 4910  Undergraduate Research Creative Opportunity      1-3 cr.
Pass/Fail Only
Repeatable for credit
Effective Fall 2012

PSY 4920  Practicum      1-3 cr.
Pass/Fail Only
Repeatable for credit
Effective Fall 2012

PSY 5900  Independent Study      1-3 cr.
Pass/Fail Only
Repeatable for credit
Effective Fall 2012

PSY 5910  Independent Research      1-3 cr.
Pass/Fail Only
Repeatable for credit
Effective Fall 2012

PSY 5930  Instructional Apprenticeship in Psychology      1-3 cr.
Pass/Fail Only
Repeatable for credit
Effective Fall 2012
Prerequisite Change, Pass/Fail Only

PSY 6900  Independent Study  1-3 cr.
          Pass/Fail Only
          Repeatable for credit
          No prerequisite needed
          Effective Fall 2012

PSY 6910  Independent Research  1-3 cr.
          Pass/Fail Only
          Repeatable for credit
          No prerequisites needed
          Effective Fall 2012

PSY 7900  Independent Study  1-3 cr.
          Pass/Fail Only
          Repeatable for credit
          No prerequisites needed
          Effective Fall 2012

PSY 7910  Independent Research  1-3 cr.
          Pass/Fail Only
          Repeatable for credit
          No prerequisites needed
          Effective Fall 2012

College of Engineering
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Multiple List Change
CEE/PSC 5003/6003  Remote Sensing of Land Surfaces  4 cr.
Remove multiple list of WATS 5003/6003
Effective Spring 2013

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Title Change, Course Description Change, Course Number Change
ECE 5600  Introduction to Computer Networks  3 cr.
Previously ECE 4740, Computer and Data Communications
Effective Spring 2013

Title Change, Course Description Change
ECE 6600  Wireless and Mobile Networking  3 cr.
Previously Computer Networking I
Effective Spring 2013
Department of Engineering Education
New Course
EED 6910 Special Topics in Engineering Education 1-3 cr.
Repeatable for credit
Effective Spring 2013

Delete Course
EED 7040 Dynamic and Network Engineering Processes for Technology Education 3 cr.
Effective Spring 2013

EED 7400 Occupational Analysis and Curriculum Development 3 cr.
Effective Spring 2013

EED 7600 Academic Issues and Politics in Higher Education 3 cr.
Effective Spring 2013

College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of History
Add Multiple List
ARTH/CLAS/RELS 3210 Classical Mythology 3 cr.
Add Multiple List of HIST 3210
Effective Fall 2012

University Studies Request
HIST 4711 Northern Ute History 3 cr.
University Studies Designation: DHA
Effective Summer 2012

Department of Languages, Philosophy and Communication Studies
Add Multiple List
ARBC/RELS 3030 Introduction to Islam 3 cr.
Add Multiple List of HIST 3030
Effective Fall 2012

Department of Political Science
New Course
POLS 5900 Government and Policy Internship Seminar 3 cr.
Pass/Fail Only
Effective Fall 2012

Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology
New Course
SOC 3520 Sociology of Mental Illness 3 cr.
Effective Fall 2012
SOC 7350  Political Sociology  3 cr.
Effective Fall 2012

Dual List Change
ANTH 6420  Lithic Analysis  1-3 cr.
Repeatable for credit  
Dual List with ANTH 5420  
Effective Fall 2012

**College of Natural Resources**

**Department of Environment and Society**

New Course

ENVS 4550  Recreation Use Monitoring and Assessment  3 cr.
Prerequisites: ENVS 4500, STAT 2000 or permission of instructor
Effective Fall 2012

**College of Science**

**Department of Biology**

Prerequisite Change, Course Description Change

BIOL 3030  Genetics and Society  3 cr.
University Studies Designation: DSC
Prerequisite: BIOL 1010 or BIOL 1610 or USU 1350 or AP Biology score of 3 or greater. Not open to Biology majors or those with credit in BIOL 3060.
Effective Spring 2013

**Other Business**

Request from the Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology Department, in partnership with USU-Eastern, to offer a minor in Criminal Justice (see below)

Request from the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department to reduce the number of PhD dissertation credits (see below)

Request from the College of Science, (the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Geology and Physics), to reduce the number of credits required for the following PhD programs: Biology, Ecology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Geology and Physics (see below)

Election of 2012-2013 Curriculum Subcommittee Chair
## EPC and Curriculum Subcommittee Schedule for 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Items Due</th>
<th>EPC and Curriculum Subcommittee Meetings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 23, 2012</td>
<td>September 6, 2012</td>
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CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES  
1 March 2012

A meeting of the Curriculum Subcommittee of the Educational Policies Committee was held on 1 March 2012 at 2 p.m. in Old Main 136 (Champ Hall Conference Room).

Present:  Ed Reeve, Chair, College of Engineering  
Tom Bunch, Agriculture  
Darrin Brooks, Caine College of the Arts  
Jeff Doyle, Huntsman School of Business  
Scott Hunsaker, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services  
Patricia Gantt, College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Nancy Mesner, College of Natural Resources  
Richard Mueller, College of Science  
Travis Peterson, Regional Campuses and Distance Education  
David Cassidy, USU-Eastern (representing Michelle Fleck)  
Wendy Holliday, Libraries  
Steve Beck, Graduate Council (representing Shelley Lindauer)  
Norm Jones, General Education Subcommittee Chair  
Roland Squire, Registrar’s Office  
Cathy Gerber, Registrar’s Office

Absent:  Tanner Wright, Academic Senate President  
Cami Jones, Graduate Studies Vice President

Visitors:  Larry Smith, Vice Provost  
Michele Hillard, Provost Office  
Noelle Cockett, Dean, College of Agriculture

Tom Bunch moved to approve the minutes of the 2 February 2012 meeting. Darrin Brooks seconded, motion approved.

Tom Bunch moved to approve the business of the College of Agriculture. Darrin Brooks seconded; motion approved.

College of Agriculture  
Department of Agricultural Systems Technology and Education  
School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education  
Prefix Changes  
The following changes are effective Spring 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OLD Dept</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>NEW Dept</th>
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Department of Agricultural Systems Technology Education

Prerequisite Change

ASTE 6100  Research Methods in Agricultural Systems  3 cr.
Prerequisites: PSY 2800; STAT 2000; STAT 3000; SOC 3120 or permission of instructor
Effective Spring 2013

Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences
School of Veterinary Medicine

New Course

VM 7499  Veterinary Practicum  1 cr.
Pass/Fail Only
Repeatable for credit
Effective Fall 2012
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>VM 7500</td>
<td>Animals, Society and the Veterinarian</td>
<td>1 cr.</td>
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<td>VM 7510</td>
<td>Veterinary Microscopic Anatomy</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VM 7512</td>
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<td>VM 7519</td>
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<tr>
<td>VM 7520</td>
<td>Veterinary Physiology II</td>
<td>5 cr.</td>
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<td>VM 7521</td>
<td>Foundations of Veterinary Neurology</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>VM 7534</td>
<td>Veterinary Immunology</td>
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<td>VM 7545</td>
<td>General Pathology</td>
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<tr>
<td>VM 7568</td>
<td>Animal Handling and Agricultural Animal Orientation</td>
<td>2 cr.</td>
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<td>VM 7580</td>
<td>Basic Nutrition</td>
<td>1 cr.</td>
<td>Pass/Fail Only</td>
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</table>
VM 7586  Principles of Surgery  
Pass/Fail Only  
Effective Fall 2012  

VM 7598  Introduction to Clinics  
Pass/Fail Only  
Effective Fall 2012  

Prerequisite Change  
ADVS 6600/7600  Advanced and Molecular Toxicology  
No prerequisites needed  
Effective Fall 2013  

Department of Applied Economics  
Delete Course  
APEC 6000/7230  Macroeconomic Theory I  
Effective Fall 2012  

Department of Plants, Soils and Climate  
Title Change, Course Description Change  
PSC 3400  Arboriculture  
Previously Landscape Management Principles and Practices  
Effective Spring 2013  

Prerequisite Change  
PSC 3420  Landscape Irrigation Design  
University Studies Designation: QI  
Prerequisite: PSC 2620  
Effective Spring 2013  

Darrin Brooks moved to approve the business of the Caine College of the Arts. Richard Mueller seconded; motion approved.  

Caine College of the Arts  
Department of Art and Design  
University Studies Request  
ARTH 3840  Race and Visual Culture  
University Studies Designation: CI  
Effective Summer 2012  

ARTH 4520  Discourses of Empire and Nation  
University Studies Designation: CI  
Effective Summer 2012  

5
Jeff Doyle moved to approve the business of the Huntsman School of Business. Richard Mueller seconded; motion approved.

**Huntsman School of Business**

**Department of Economics and Finance**

New Course

- **ECN 5700** Economics of Public Choice
  - Prerequisite: ECN 4010
  - Effective Summer 2012

Title Change, Course Number Change, Prerequisite Change, Multiple List Change

- **ECN 5020** Macroeconomic Theory
  - Previously Macroeconomic Theory I, ECN 6000
  - Remove multiple list of ECN 7230
  - Prerequisites: ECN 4010 and 4020
  - Effective Spring 2013

Prerequisite Change

- **ECN 5500** Public Finance
  - University Studies Designation: CI
  - Prerequisite: ECN 4010
  - Effective Fall 2013

**Department of Management**

New Course

- **MGT 2900** Entrepreneurship: Starting Your Own Business
  - Effective Fall 2012

Scott Hunsaker moved to approve the business of the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services. Pat Gantt seconded; motion approved.

**Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services**

**Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education**

Title Change, Prerequisite Change

- **COMD 4250** Practicum in Deafblindness
  - Previously Cooperative Practicum/Work Experience
  - Prerequisites: COMD 4660/6660 and COMD 4840/6840
  - Effective Spring 2013

Prerequisite Change

- **COMD 4840/6840** Children with Combined Vision, Hearing Loss, and Multiple Disabilities
  - Prerequisite: COMD 4660/6660
  - Effective Spring 2013
### Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

#### Prerequisite Change

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PEP 4100</td>
<td>Exercise Physiology</td>
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<td>Prerequisites: BIOL 2320, 2420, PEP 2000 or 2020, and MATH 1050 or higher or Math ACT score of 25 or higher</td>
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<td>PEP 4200</td>
<td>Biomechanics</td>
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<td>University Studies Designation: QI</td>
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<td>Prerequisites: BIOL 2320, 2420, PEP 3250; and MATH 1050 or higher or Math ACT score of 25 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEP 4900</td>
<td>Methods of Physical Education</td>
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<td>University Studies Designation: CI</td>
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<td>Prerequisite: PEP 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corequisites: PEP 3300 or 4300</td>
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<td>Effective Spring 2013</td>
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</table>

Richard Mueller moved to approve the business of the College of Engineering. Nancy Mesner seconded; motion approved.

### College of Engineering

#### Prefix Change

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<tr>
<td>ENGR 2270</td>
<td>Computer Engineering Drafting</td>
<td>2</td>
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### Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

#### Prerequisite Change, Corequisite Change

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEE/PUBH 3610</td>
<td>Environmental Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prerequisite: CHEM 1210; BIOL 1610 or Breadth Life Sciences course; MATH 1210</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No corequisite needed</td>
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### Department of Engineering Education

#### Prefix Change

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<tr>
<td>EED 7010</td>
<td>The Role of Cognition in Engineering and Technology Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Previously ETE 7010</td>
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<tr>
<td>EED 7020</td>
<td>Design Thinking in Engineering and Technology</td>
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<td>EED 7030</td>
<td>Engineering Design and Analysis for Technology Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>EED 7040</td>
<td>Dynamic and Network Engineering Processes for Technology Education</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EED 7230</td>
<td>Foundations of Engineering and Technology Education</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>EED 7400</td>
<td>Occupational Analysis and Curriculum Development</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>EED 7460</td>
<td>Finance and Grant Writing</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>EED 7500</td>
<td>Internationalizing Institutions of Higher Education</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EED 7600</td>
<td>Academic Issues and Politics in Higher Education</td>
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<td>EED 7810</td>
<td>Research Seminar</td>
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<td>EED 7900</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>1-3 cr.</td>
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<td>EED 7970</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>1-15 cr</td>
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EED 7990  Continuing Graduate Advisement  1-3 cr.
Previously ETE 7990
Repeatable for credit
Pass/Fail only
Effective Spring 2013

Pat Gantt moved to approve the business of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.
Wendy Holliday seconded; motion approved.

**College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Department of History**

New Course

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 3481</td>
<td>China’s Cultural Revolution</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 3482</td>
<td>Ancient China to 1800</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 3483</td>
<td>Modern China, 1800 to Present</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 3560</td>
<td>Modern East Asia</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 4822</td>
<td>The Vietnam War</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>HIST 4885</td>
<td>ST: History and Visual Media</td>
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<td>HIST 4989</td>
<td>History Research Methods</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>RELS 3050</td>
<td>Introduction to Christianity</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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Inactivate Course

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<td>HIST 3310</td>
<td>Balkans Since 1389</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 4400</td>
<td>History of Aviation and Aeronautics</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>HIST 4780</td>
<td>American Financial History</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>Effective Fall 2012</td>
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Delete Course
HIST 3480  History of China  3 cr.
Effective Fall 2012

Department of Languages, Philosophy and Communication Studies
New Course
ARBC 3010  Advanced Arabic I  3 cr.
Prerequisite: ARBC 2020 or permission of instructor
Effective Fall 2012

LANG 2100  Languages of the World  3 cr.
Effective Fall 2012
Prefix Change
The following changes are effective Spring 2013

January 20, 2012

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Bradford ‘J’ Hall, Department Head

Re: Prefix change for Communication Studies

On January 9, 2012 the name of the Speech Communication program was officially changed to Communication Studies. As part of that change, we are requesting that all courses offered by the program have the prefix of “SPCH” changed to “CMST” (for examples, CMST 1020, CMST 2110, etc.). The courses impacted by this change are listed below:

- SPCH 1020 - Public Speaking (BHU) 3
- SPCH 2110 - Interpersonal Communication (BHU/HR) 3
- SPCH 2120 - Small Group Communication (HR) 3
- SPCH 2250 - Introductory Internship/Co-op 1-6
- SPCH 2270 - Argumentation and Debate 3
- SPCH 2330 - Communication In a Global Era 3
- SPCH 3000 - Speech Communication, Teaching Practicum 1
- SPCH 3050 - Technical and Professional Communication (DSS) 3
- SPCH 3250 - Organizational Communication (CI) 3
- SPCH 3300 - Clinical Experience I 1
- SPCH 3330 - Intercultural Communication (DSS) 3
- SPCH 3400 - Persuasion (CI) 3
- SPCH 3500 - Communication and Leadership 3
- SPCH 3600 - Communication and Conflict 3
- SPCH 4200 - Language, Thought, and Action (DSS) 3
- SPCH 4250 - Advanced Internship/Co-op 1-6
- SPCH 4300 - Clinical Experience II 1
- SPCH 4350 - Organizations and Social Change 3
- SPCH 4460 - Communication Criticism 3
- SPCH 5000 - Studies in Speech Communication 1-5
- SPCH 5100 - Theories of Speech Communication (CI) 3
- SPCH 5250 - Communication, Social Justice and the Environment 3
- SPCH 5280 - Communication Education Theory 3
- SPCH 5300 - Visual Rhetoric 3
- SPCH 5370 - Methods in Teaching Speech Communication 3
- SPCH 5400 - Advanced Persuasion 3
- SPCH 5950 - Global Communication Practicum 3
SPCH 2280 Listening 2 credits (Currently Inactive)
Department of Political Science
New Course
POLS 4840 Regulatory Politics 3 cr.
Effective Fall 2012
POLS 6215 Seminar on Comparative Grand Strategies 3 cr.
Effective Fall 2012

Nancy Mesner moved to approve the business of the College of Natural Resources. Darrin Brooks seconded; motion approved.

College of Natural Resources
Department of Watershed Sciences
New Course
WATS 6260 Watershed Sciences Graduate Student Induction Course 1 cr.
Effective Fall 2012
WATS 6850 Geomorphic Change Detection: Restoration Monitoring 1 cr.
Effective Fall 2012
WATS 6860 Partnering with Beaver in Restoration Design 1 cr.
Effective Fall 2012

Prerequisite Change
WATS 4931/6921 GIS Research Projects
2 cr.
No prerequisites needed
Effective Spring 2013

Richard Mueller moved to approve the business of the College of Science. Pat Gantt seconded; motion approved.

College of Science
Department of Biology
New Course
BIOL 4040/6040 Programming and Database Management for Biologists I 3 cr.
Effective Fall 2012
BIOL 4050/6050 Programming and Database Management for Biologists II 3 cr.
Prerequisite: 4040/6040 or permission of instructor
Effective Fall 2012

Other Business
Tom Bunch moved to approve the request from the College of Agriculture and the College of Natural Resources to create a Sustainable Systems Minor. Noelle Cockett, Dean of the College of Agriculture, presented the information. Wendy Holliday seconded; motion approved pending minor changes. The revised request will be sent to Larry Smith. (see below)

Meeting adjourned 2:30 p.m.
Ed Reeve conducted the meeting.
Cathy Gerber recorded the minutes.
Institution Submitting Proposal:
Utah State University College, School or Division in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department(s) or Area(s) in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology

Program/Administrative Unit Title:
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: 43.0107 Certificate, and/or Degree(s) to Be Awarded: Minor in Criminal Justice

Proposed Beginning Date:
January 1, 2013

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate): Department Chair Dean or Division Chair

Career and Technical Education Director Graduate School Dean

Council on Teacher Education

Date:
Criminal Justice Minor
Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology Department
College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the USU Eastern campus

Section I: Request

The Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology (SSWA) department in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in partnership with USU Eastern would like to create a minor in Criminal Justice (CJ) to be offered on the Utah State University Campus, at all Regional Campuses of Distance Education and the USU Eastern campus. There would be a five-course requirement (described below) which will give students a background to pursue a major in several disciplines as well as basic marketable skills for a wide range of employment in the criminal justice arena.

Section II describes the need and current interest in the criminal justice discipline. There is also a description of the course sequence to be taken for this minor.

Section III will outline the minimal impact this minor will have on the staff and institution while attracting more students to the University through various sites. Criminal Justice has been rated in the top 10 popular areas of study at Universities across the nation for several years. The current USU Criminal Justice program, located on the Eastern campus, is one of the top USU Eastern top programs, comprising 5-10% of graduates at USU Eastern annually.

Section II: Need

The Criminal Justice field across the United States employs over 2.4 million individuals spending over $2.5 billion each year (2007 US Bureau of Justice Statistics). With the exception of the past few years during the economic recession in the U.S., there has consistently been a demand for individuals to work in the various criminal justice fields, including, Courts, Corrections, and Police. There is a strong demand for employees, for example in the Corrections field, where employment has grown over 500% in the last two decades. Average starting wage for corrections officers across the nation is approximately $40,000.

There are several CJ programs throughout the state of Utah, all of which focus on face-to-face instruction. USU Eastern (formerly College of Eastern Utah) has offered a two year associates degree program for a little over 10 years and has found this to be a very popular program. It has grown to be one of the largest programs on the Eastern campus. The CJ program now serves USU Eastern students with face-to-face instruction and students on other USU campuses through interactive broadcast. In spring 2012 semester the first CJ course was broadcast to the USU Logan campus. With strong distance education technology and support, the USU Criminal Justice program has the ability to expand instruction in this field. In addition to the CJ Associate Degree now offered across the USU campuses, we well positioned to offer a Criminal Justice minor that will provide criminal justice emphasis for students across a wide range of majors. Students in many undergraduate majors, including Social Work, Family Life, Psychology, Journalism, and Political Science, among others, would find focused criminal justice training valuable both academically and in terms of employment opportunities after graduation.
One difference between the current programs in Utah and the Criminal Justice minor proposed here is that this program is located in the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology and includes several criminal justice related Sociology courses in its curriculum, including Criminology, Social Deviance, Juvenile Delinquency, and Criminal Law and Justice. This offers additional educational opportunities in theoretical and research-related topics central to Sociological Criminology beyond the more applied courses in the Criminal Justice curriculum.

Below is a listing of the existing criminal justice programs in Utah and any emphasis they have in their degree:

**University of Utah**

- No criminal justice degree

**Utah Valley University**

- A.A.A.S. Pre-Major in Criminal Justice
- in Criminal Justice
- in Forensic Science

These degree programs focus largely on training individuals to move into the criminal justice field of law enforcement. The program degree description includes a job opportunities list all of which are law enforcement oriented. All courses are on campus delivery of instruction.

**Dixie State College of Utah**

- A.S. in Criminal Justice
- B.A/B.S. in Criminology Emphasis (new program in 2011)
- B.A/B.S. in Digital Forensics Emphasis (new program in 2011)

All courses are on campus delivery of instruction. Their emphasis is strongly towards the digital forensics.

**Southern Utah University**

- AAS in Criminal Justice
- B.A/B.S. in Criminal Justice
- B.A/B.S. in Criminal Justice Forensic Science Emphasis

This B.S. degree program has a strong focus on Forensic Science, specifically criminal laboratory work. It is associated with the Political Science & Criminal Justice department.
Snow College

A.A.I.A.S. in Criminal Justice

This program is may be discontinued.

Salt Lake Community College

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice
Associate of Science Degree in Criminal Justice

Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) has a strong connection between their two year program and the four year degrees available at Weber State. Weber even has a distance campus on the SLCC campus. They have not set a focus for emphasis in their program and appear to allow the student to set their emphasis once they reach Weber.

Weber State University

AS/AA Criminal Justice
BS/BA Criminal Justice with one of the following concentrations:

- Corrections
- Forensic Science
- Law and Justice
- Law Enforcement

Weber State University does offer an AS/AA in criminal justice; however they do rely heavily on the two year program from SLCC for the base of their 4 year CJ degree. They have recently altered their program to have four concentrations where the only had two prior. The minor in CJ requires a similar course work to USU with 18 hours total credits hours required, 12 of which are required from four classes. The entire 18 hours comes from the CJ discipline.

Utah State University Eastern

The proposed requirements for a minor in Criminal Justice include five courses totaling 15 credit hours. Two courses are required, with one additional course selected from a set of three courses on different aspects of the criminal justice system, and two courses chosen as electives from a set of courses in the Criminal Justice and the Sociology curricula.

The first required course is CJ 1010: Introduction to Criminal Justice. It is designed to give students a broad understanding of the criminal justice system in the United States. It reviews the current practices of law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. The second required course is SOC 3420: Criminology. This is an upper division Sociology course focused on analysis of theories of crime causation, different types of crime, and methods of research in the field. The third required course will be a choice by the students of one of three CJ courses focused specifically on law enforcement ("Police and Society" course currently being developed), corrections (CJ 1300: Introduction to Corrections) or criminal law and the court system.
The student will then have the choice of two more elective courses from the list below, including a second upper division Sociology course and a Criminal Justice Course.

**CJ 1010 Introduction to Criminal Justice (8SS)**
Designed for all students. Introduces students to the history, processes and functions of the American criminal justice system and its primary components, namely law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Students will generally understand the history, process, and functions of the police, courts, and corrections as they relate to the operation of our criminal justice system and key constitutional provisions.

**CJ 1300 Introduction to Corrections**
Examines the history and the administration of corrections in America. Emphasis will be placed on the philosophies of punishment, sentencing strategies, prison community, alternatives to incarceration, and various reform efforts. Critical issues facing corrections will also be examined. Students will generally understand the evolution and administration of corrections in America.

**CJ 1330 Criminal Law (prerequisite CJ 1010)**
Designed mainly for, but not limited to the student majoring in Criminal Justice. It surveys the American criminal justice system. Elements of crime, defenses, historical foundation, limits, proposes and functions of criminal law are discussed. Students will understand the key general principles that relate to criminal law, criminal liability, complicity, uncompleted crimes, defenses to criminal liability and the various crimes in our legal systems. They will also learn how to read and use statutes and analyze fact situations in light of the law.

**CJ 1340 Criminal Investigations (Prerequisite CJ 1010)** Introduces students to the criminal, investigation process. Legal, scientific, and administrative aspects of this process will be explored and students will come to appreciate the complexity of conducting a thorough investigation and be able to deal with potential obstacles that are commonly encountered. Course is a valuable precursor to taking Criminalistics. Objective is to acquaint the student with the fundamentals of criminal investigations.

**CJ 1350 Introduction for Forensic Science (Prerequisite CJ 1010)**
Mainly designed for the student majoring in Criminal Justice. Includes interrogation and interview, sources of information (electronic/traditional), crime scene procedure, introduction to identification, collection and preservation of evidence, laboratory techniques and case preparation. Students will understand the functions and duties of the forensic scientist and learn basic skills that related to evidence collection, preservation and analysis.

**CJ 1355 Crime Scene Processing (Prerequisite CJ 1010 -USU Eastern Campus only)** Covers the duties and responsibilities of a crime scene technician at the scene of a crime. Includes instruction on the proper collection, handling and storage of evidence. Report writing, proper requests for examination as well as laboratory methods are an integral part of this course.
CJ 2110 Security
Designed as a requirement mainly for the student majoring in Criminal Justice. Examines the diverse components which make up the security function, as well as principles and concepts in physical security, loss control and crime prevention. Students will know and understand the historical and professional principles of public and private security and crime prevention, as well as risk management and loss control principles.

CJ 2330 Juvenile Justice
Designed mainly for the student majoring in Criminal Justice. Studies the origin, philosophy, and development of the juvenile justice system, particularly the juvenile court. Emphasis is placed upon laws, detention, adjudication, probation, after-care, foster homes, and other alternative correctional practices. Students will understand the nature and origins of juvenile law and the guiding principles that drive the system.

CJ 2340 Survey of Criminal Procedure (Prerequisite CJ 1010)
Introduces students to the following concepts; historical development of laws and crime causation, historical development of the Justice System, the arrest, the initial appearance, pretrial proceedings, place and time of trial, the trial, confrontation and assistance of counsel, pretrial motions, hearings and plea negotiations, the trial and the roles of major participants, the jury, trial procedure, the jury instructions and deliberation, the verdict, appeals and appellant citations, the sentence and correctional procedures, sentencing philosophy and clemency, extradition process, juvenile system focus and victims' rights.

CJ 2350 Laws of Evidence (Prerequisite CJ 1010)
Designed mainly for the student majoring in Criminal Justice. Deals with the principles and rules of law emphasizing evidentiary problems related to criminal cases. An introduction and overview of the court process and problems related to the fact finding process of juries. Explores the courtroom procedures as they relate to evidence and its uses in the courtroom, with emphasis upon the introduction of evidence and the rules pertaining thereto. Students will understand the value of the rules of evidence in the law and be able to understand and apply them to fact scenarios.

CJ 2360 Juvenile Law and Procedure
Designed mainly for the student majoring in Criminal Justice. Covers the juvenile justice system emphasizing Utah law and procedure. Studies differences between juvenile and adult systems, delinquent acts, juvenile treatment as adults and role and function of probation, youth corrections, family services and the community. Students will generally understand the nature and origins of juvenile law, the principles and laws that pertain to juvenile delinquency; neglect, abuse and dependency proceedings; and status offenses. They will also learn how to read and use statutes and analyze fact situations in light of the law.

CJ 2370 Child Abuse and Neglect
Overview of causes, identification, reporting, and legal issues pertaining to children who are abused and/or neglected. Cycle of domestic violence and its effects on children will be discussed. Primary objectives are to assist students in gaining an insight of what constitutes child maltreatment and domestic violence, assess underlying causes of abuse and neglect, and how it is addressed within the criminal justice system.

CJ XXXX: Police Operations In proposal process
SOC 3410 Juvenile Delinquency
Focuses on nature, extent, and causes of delinquent behavior. Examines workings of juvenile justice system and programs for delinquency prevention.

SOC 3420 Criminology
Examines theoretical explanations for crime in the U.S. Describes characteristics of major forms of criminal behavior.

SOC 3430 Social Deviance
Examination of sociological perspectives on deviance as they apply to lifestyles, commitment, and social control in American society.

SOC 4420 Criminal Law and Justice
Sociological analysis of relationship between law and social control and social change, especially regarding law enforcement, courts, and corrections.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The proposed minor will offer the first focused education and training program in the field of criminal justice across the entire USU set of campuses. Building largely on existing resources, including instructional capacity and distance learning technology, the program will provide excellent training of both academic and professional career value to students across a wide range of majors in the social and behavioral sciences, education, law, and social services. It will enable students to tap largely existing courses and educational experiences to develop a clear criminal justice emphasis in their undergraduate training and credentials.

Section IV: Finances

Funding for the Criminal Justice Minor will come from a combination of USU Easter and the RCDE Program. The cost for delivery of the program will be labor. The technology, infrastructure, and structure to deliver the program are in place. The chart below makes several assumptions: (1) All courses are either taught as part of load or EasternISSWA department are reimbursed for faculty; (2) Each course will have a total of 60 students (25 at Eastern with 35 at other USU Campuses; (3) all courses are 3 credits each,
### Source of Funding: Eastern and RCDE

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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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**Total** | $27,585 | $62,690 | $90,275 |
Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University
Proposed Title: Mechanical Engineering, PhD
Currently Approved Title: Mechanical Engineering, PhD
School or Division or Location: College of Engineering
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code¹ (for new programs): 14.1901
Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 14.1901
Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): 08/27/2012
Institutional Board of Trustees’ Approval Date: MM/DD/YEAR

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

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Reduce required number of PhD dissertation credits.

*Requires “Section VI: Program Curriculum” of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:
I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Signature

Date: MM/DD/YEAR

Printed Name: Name of CAO or Designee

¹ CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55.
Institution Submitting Proposal: Utah State University

College, School or Division in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: College of Engineering

Department(s) or Area(s) in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Program/Administrative Unit Title: Mechanical Engineering, PhD

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: 14.1901

Certificate, and/or Degree(s) to Be Awarded: Mechanical Engineering, PhD

Proposed Beginning Date: 08/27/2012

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate):

Department Chair

Dean or Division Chair

Career and Technical Education Director

Graduate School Dean

Council on Teacher Education

Date:
Program Request - Abbreviated Template
Utah State University
PhD, Mechanical Engineering
08/27/2012

Section I: Request
To reduce the number of PhD dissertation credits from 39 to 21, while maintaining the same level of required coursework. This will reduce the minimum credits required for the PhD degree in Mechanical Engineering from 90 to 72 for students with a BS degree, and from 60 to 42 for students with a MS degree. Itemized credit requirements are listed in the table at the bottom of this document. Course requirements will remain the same.

Section II: Need
Many peer western land grant institutions (Washington State, Reno, Wyoming, Colorado State University, University of Arizona, Montana State University, Idaho, and New Mexico State University) require a minimum of 72 credits for a Mechanical Engineering PhD degree. In order for USU’s Mechanical Engineering PhD program to remain competitive the minimum number of required credits must be reduced.

Section III: Institutional Impact
This change will have no institutional impact as the required coursework will not change, and the expectation for the dissertation will remain the same.

Section IV: Finances
This change will have no effect on finances because costs with neither increase nor decrease. No additional courses will need to be taught.

Current Credit Requirements and Proposed Credit Requirement for PhD
(Course requirements remain the same)

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Current Credit Hour Requirements</th>
<th>Proposed Credit Hour Requirements</th>
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<td>PhD beyond MS: 60</td>
<td>PhD beyond BS: 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>6000</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation credits</td>
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<td>39</td>
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<td>5000, 6000, or 7000 level Classes</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>Total Credits</td>
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<td>90</td>
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March 30, 2012

Requests for Restructuring of the
PhD Programs in the Department of Biology

Executive Summary

The Department of Biology requests restructuring of its two doctoral programs, the PhD in Biology and PhD in Ecology, as detailed in the two attached R401-Abbreviated Templates. The purpose of this request is to render our doctoral programs more competitive by reducing the credit hours required for completion of the doctoral degree to a level consistent with that of biology programs at many other land grant universities.

Reducing our required number of credits from the current 90 credits to the proposed 60 credits will allow us to maintain our currently rigorous standards while attaining or approaching the much lower credit requirements of competing institutions. This, in turn, will assist our programs in attracting the best doctoral students, thereby helping us to grow our graduate programs. No additional instructional, administrative, or financial resources will be needed in order to implement the proposed restructuring.

Submitted on behalf of the Department of Biology by:

Alan H. Savitzky, Ph.D.
Professor and Head
Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University
Proposed Title: PhD in Biology
Currently Approved Title: PhD in Biology
School or Division or Location: College of Science
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Biology
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code¹ (for new programs): 26.0101 (Biology)
Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 26.0101 (Biology)
Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): 08/27/2012
Institutional Board of Trustees’ Approval Date:

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

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¹CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55.

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

____________________________________
Signature
Date:

Printed Name:

____________________________________
Institution Submitting Proposal: Utah State University

College, School or Division in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Science

Department(s) or Area(s) in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Biology

Program/Administrative Unit Title: Biology

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: 26.1010 (Biology

Certificate, and/or Degree(s) to Be Awarded: PhD in Biology

Proposed Beginning Date: August 27, 2012 (fall semester)

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate):

Alan H. Savitzky, Department Head, Biology

James A. MacMahon, Dean, College of Science

Mark R. McLellan, Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies

Date:
Section I: Request

The Department of Biology proposes to restructure its PhD in Biology. For this degree program the current credit hour requirements are 60 credits for incoming students with a MS degree and 90 credits for students without a MS degree. We propose reducing required credit hours for both programs to 60 credit hours for the PhD degree, regardless of whether or not a student has a MS.

Section II: Need

Flexibility in designing a program of study is a core strength of the PhD programs offered through the Biology Department. In terms of formal coursework, the Department only requires students to complete a 1-credit orientation course; the remainder of coursework is aimed at building core competencies and skills specific to a student’s research interests. Indeed, the PhD degrees offered through the Biology Department are awarded on the basis of the student’s ability to conduct cutting-edge, original research. Most PhD students in our programs finish their degree within 5-6 years. Assuming full-time status is 6 credits/semester, a student could complete 60 credit hours in 5 years. Thus, reduction of credit hours to 60 credits would impact only the number of hours of dissertation research (BIOL 7970) for which students typically register. This credit change will fully maintain the academic rigor of the Biology PhD program because there is no change in coursework requirements, or in expectations for research productivity. At the same time we expect this change will enhance competitiveness for recruiting graduate students.

We see no need to require fewer credit hours for students who already have a MS degree. While students with a MS might be more mature and better prepared to complete the PhD than a post-baccalaureate student, they typically do not complete their research at a faster pace. Completion time more frequently reflects the nature of the dissertation project than the number of classes taken. Limiting the coursework requirement to 60 credit hours for both groups of PhD students would put them on an even playing field; if their research can be completed more quickly than 5 years, 60 credits could be taken over a shorter time frame, such as 9 credits per semester and/or enrolling in coursework over the summer. If a student requires more than 5 years to complete the research, they can enroll in Continued Graduate Advisement for up to 9 credits.

Analysis of 21 other land-grant universities (see appendix) shows that 60 credit hours for a PhD in the biological sciences is a very reasonable proposal. The range of credit hours among these institutions is 18-108, with a mean value of 57.4; the median and modal values are 60 credits (Figure 1). Currently our requirement of 90 credits for the PhD without the MS is tied with Virginia...
Tech for the highest rank outside of Oregon State University, which is on the quarter system and requires 108 credit hours toward the PhD. More than half (11 of 21) of these institutions require 60 or fewer credit hours (Figure 1).

Section III: Institutional Impact

We anticipate that reduction of required credit hours toward the PhD will increase our ability to recruit and retain top graduate students from around the country, because competing programs require fewer credits. Thus we expect this change will help the Department of Biology meet institutional goals of increasing graduate student enrollments over the next several years. The proposed change will not affect existing administrative structures. We do not anticipate that any changes in faculty or staff will be necessary as a consequence of this restructuring.

Section IV: Finances

No additional costs are anticipated as a result of this change. The Department of Biology already receives more applications from highly qualified students than we can support. By reducing the number of required credit hours from 90 to 60, we anticipate that we will be able to grow our PhD program while replacing students who cycle out more rapidly with their degrees.

Appendix

Land-grant institutions included in analysis

Auburn
Clemson
Colorado State University
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Mississippi State University
Montana State University
New Mexico State University
North Carolina State University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
University of Alaska
University of Arizona
University of Idaho
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Nevada-Reno
University of Vermont
University of Wyoming
Virginia Tech
Washington State University
West Virginia University
Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University
Proposed Title: PhD in Ecology
Currently Approved Title: PhD in Ecology
School or Division or Location: College of Science
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Biology
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for new programs): 26.1301 (Ecology)
Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 26.1301 (Ecology)
Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): 08/27/2012
Institutional Board of Trustees’ Approval Date:

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

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2 CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55.
5.1.9  Graduate Certificate

*Requires “Section VI: Program Curriculum” of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:
I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

____________________________________
Signature

Date:

Printed Name:
Institution Submitting Proposal: Utah State University

College, School or Division in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Science

Department(s) or Area(s) in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Biology

Program/Administrative Unit Title: Biology/Ecology

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: 26.1301 (Ecology)

Certificate, and/or Degree(s) to Be Awarded: PhD in Ecology

Proposed Beginning Date: August 27, 2012 (fall semester)

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate):

Alan H. Savitzky, Department Head, Biology  
James A. MacMahon, Dean, College of Science

Mark R. McLellan, Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies

Date:
Section I: Request

The Department of Biology proposes to restructure its PhD in Ecology. For this degree program the current credit hour requirements are 60 credits for incoming students with a MS degree and 90 credits for students without a MS degree. We propose reducing required credit hours for this program to 60 credit hours for the PhD degree, regardless of whether or not a student has a MS.

Section II: Need

Flexibility in designing a program of study is a core strength of the PhD programs offered through the Biology Department. In terms of formal coursework, the Department only requires students to complete a 1-credit orientation course; the remainder of coursework is aimed at building core competencies and skills specific to a student’s research interests. Indeed, the PhD degrees offered through the Biology Department are awarded on the basis of the student’s ability to conduct cutting-edge, original research. Most PhD students in our programs finish their degree within 5-6 years. Assuming full-time status is 6 credits/semester, a student could complete 60 credit hours in 5 years. Thus, reduction of credit hours to 60 credits would impact only the number of hours of dissertation research (BIOL 7970) for which students typically register. This credit change will fully maintain the academic rigor of Biology’s PhD program in Ecology because there is no change in coursework requirements, or in expectations for research productivity. At the same time we expect this change will enhance competitiveness for recruiting graduate students.

We see no need to require fewer credit hours for students who already have a MS degree. While students with a MS might be more mature and better prepared to complete the PhD than a post-baccalaureate student, they typically do not complete their research at a faster pace. Completion time more frequently reflects the nature of the dissertation project than the number of classes taken. Limiting the coursework requirement to 60 credit hours for both groups of PhD student would put them on an even playing field; if their research can be completed more quickly than 5 years, 60 credits could be taken over a shorter time frame, such as 9 credits per semester and/or enrolling in coursework over the summer. If a student requires more than 5 years to complete the research, they can enroll in Continued Graduate Advisement for up to 9 credits.

Analysis of 21 other land-grant universities (see appendix) shows that 60 credit hours for a PhD in the biological sciences is a very reasonable proposal. The range of credit hours among these institutions is 18-108, with a mean value of 57.4; the median and modal values are 60 credits (Figure 1). Currently our requirement of
90 credits for the PhD without the MS is tied with Virginia Tech for the highest rank outside of Oregon State University, which is on the quarter system and requires 108 credit hours toward the PhD. More than half (11 of 21) of these institutions require 60 or fewer credit hours (Figure 1).

Section III: Institutional Impact

We anticipate that reduction of required credit hours toward the PhD will increase our ability to recruit and retain top graduate students from around the country, because competing programs require fewer credits. Thus we expect this change will help the Department of Biology meet institutional goals of increasing graduate student enrollments over the next several years. The proposed change will not affect existing administrative structures. We do not anticipate that any changes in faculty or staff will be necessary as a consequence of this restructuring.

Section IV: Finances

No additional costs are anticipated as a result of this change. The Department of Biology already receives more applications from highly qualified students than we can support. By reducing the number of required credit hours from 90 to 60, we anticipate that we will be able to grow our PhD program while replacing students who cycle out more rapidly with their degrees.

Appendix

Land-grant institutions included in analysis

Auburn
Clemson
Colorado State University
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Mississippi State University
Montana State University
New Mexico State University
North Carolina State University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
University of Alaska
University of Arizona
University of Idaho
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Nevada-Reno
University of Vermont
University of Wyoming
Virginia Tech
Washington State University
West Virginia University
Requests to Restructure the PhD Programs in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Executive Summary

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry requests a restructuring of its doctoral programs in Chemistry and in Biochemistry, as described in the two attached R401-Abbreviated Templates. The goal is to reduce the number of credit hours required for completion of these two doctoral programs to a level that is consistent with those of comparable institutions, including the USU peer group of Western Land Grant Institutions.

We propose to reduce the number of required credits from the current 90 for students entering with a BS degree to 60, and reduce the number of credits for those who enter with the MS degree from the current 60 credits to 30. There will be no change in either case in formal coursework expectations, research requirements, nor any other of the benchmarks that must be met for awarding of these doctorate degrees. The only change will be in the number of credits of Dissertation Research that students will register for over time as they complete their body of original research.

These changes will put our credit requirements well within the ranges of our peer institutions. This will assist us in recruiting the most qualified doctoral students to our graduate programs. No changes in instructional, administrative, or financial resources will be needed to implement these changes.

Alvan Hengge
Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template

Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University
Proposed Title: PhD in Chemistry (no change from current title)
Currently Approved Title: PhD in Chemistry
School or Division or Location: College of Science
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code1 (for new programs): 40.0501 (Chemistry)
(no change from current)
Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 40.0501 (Chemistry)
Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): 08/27/2012
Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

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*Requires “Section VI: Program Curriculum” of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:
I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

________________________________________  ________________________
Signature                                      Date:

Printed Name:

1 CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55.
Institution Submitting Proposal: Utah State University

College, School or Division in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: College of Science

Department(s) or Area(s) in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Chemistry and Biochemistry

Program/Administrative Unit Title: Chemistry and Biochemistry

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: 40.0501 (Chemistry)

Certificate, and/or Degree(s) to Be Awarded: PhD in Chemistry

Proposed Beginning Date: August 27, 2012

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate):

_________________________  ____________________________
Alvan Hengge, Department Head,  James MacMahon, Dean, College of Science
Chemistry and Biochemistry

Mark R. McClellan, Vice President for Research
and Dean of Graduate Studies

Date:
The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry requests a reduction in the number of credits required for the doctoral degree in Chemistry. The current requirements are 90 credits for students who enter with the BS degree, and 60 credits for those with an MS. We propose to reduce the required credits for both tracks by 30 credits, to 60 for students who enter with a BS, and to 30 credits for those who enter with the MS.

Section II: Need

This credit requirement reduction is needed to make our programs competitive with peer institutions. This will assist in recruiting, particularly for domestic graduate students. A survey of credit requirements at 13 other western universities, that includes all members of the USU peer group of Western Land Grant Institutions, shows an average of 62 credits for PhD degrees in Chemistry for students starting with a BS degree. The range of credit requirements among these institutions on the semester system is 18 to 78. Other than USU, the only institution with a credit requirement outside this range is Oregon State University, which is on a quarter system, and requires 108 quarter credits. Thus, 60 credits for the PhD is reasonable and consistent with peer institutions.

The coursework requirements for our PhD and MS degrees are the same, and consist of ~15 credits of formal coursework and 1 credit/year of seminar. Students typically complete their coursework by the end of their second year. The remaining credits on Programs of Study are dissertation research. Awarding of the doctoral degree is not based on completion of a set number of credits, but rather, on demonstration of subject mastery by a series of written and oral examinations, and completion of a body of original research. The only effect of the credit reduction will be that students will register for fewer CHEM 7970 dissertation research credits over the years they work on their research project. The reduction in credit requirement will have no effect on coursework requirements. The expectations in terms of the amount of research to be completed, requirement of a first author publication, and mastery of the subject as determined through rigorous annual reviews and oral exams, will not be affected. We take pains to make it clear to students that they should not expect to be awarded a doctorate after completion of a set number of research credits, or a set number of semesters.
Our Chemistry doctorate students complete their doctorates in an average of 5.3 years. Since full time status for domestic as well as international students is attained with 6 credits/semester, 60 credits in 5 years is reached with 12 credits/year. Students who complete their research in less than 5 years can adjust their program of study accordingly in their final year, and those who need an extra semester or two can register for Continuing Graduate Advisement (CGA) credits.

The reduction in credits from 60 to 30 for students who enter with the MS degree is consistent with the advanced level of research experience and coursework of such entering students, and maintains the existing difference of 30 credits between the credit requirements of these two classifications of entering students. Working with their major professor and supervisory committees, these students typically craft a Program of Study with a reduced coursework requirement when they have taken graduate courses that are equivalent to those required by our doctorate program, which is the norm (like many institutions, we have the same formal coursework requirements for the MS and PhD degrees). These students also enter with much more research experience and make more rapid research progress in their early years. These different levels in preparation are manifested in degree completion times; Chemistry students entering with an MS typically complete their doctorate a year or more earlier than those who enter with a BS.

Section III: Institutional Impact

By reducing our credit requirements into line with those of peer institutions, we expect the change to aid our ability to recruit more and superior graduate students, particularly domestic students. This will assist us in doing our part in the University-wide goal of increasing graduate student enrollments in future years.

There will be no change to administrative structures.
There will be no change in faculty or staff requirements.
The academic requirements of this doctoral program will not be affected or changed.

Section IV: Finances

No costs are anticipated to result from this change.
Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University
Proposed Title: PhD in Biochemistry (no change from current title)
Currently Approved Title: PhD in Biochemistry
School or Division or Location: College of Science
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code\(^2\) (for new programs): 26.0202 (Biochemistry) (no change from current)
Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 26.0202 (Biochemistry)
Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): 08/27/2012
Institutional Board of Trustees’ Approval Date:

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

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*Requires “Section VI: Program Curriculum” of Abbreviated Template*

**Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:**
I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

______________________________  __________________
Signature                        Date:

Printed Name:
Institution Submitting Proposal: Utah State University

College, School or Division in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: College of Science

Department(s) or Area(s) in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Chemistry and Biochemistry

Program/Administrative Unit Title: Chemistry and Biochemistry

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: 26.0202 (Biochemistry)

Certificate, and/or Degree(s) to Be Awarded: PhD in Biochemistry

Proposed Beginning Date: August 27, 2012

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate):

Alvan Hengge, Department Head, Chemistry and Biochemistry

James MacMahon, Dean, College of Science

Mark R. McClellan, Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies

Date:
Section I: Request

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry requests a reduction in the number of credits required for the doctoral degree in Biochemistry. The current requirements are 90 credits for students who enter with the BS degree, and 60 credits for those with an MS. We propose to reduce the required credits for both tracks by 30 credits, to 60 for students who enter with a BS, and to 30 credits for those who enter with the MS.

Section II: Need

This credit requirement reduction is needed to make our programs competitive with peer institutions. This will assist in recruiting, particularly for domestic graduate students. A survey of credit requirements at 13 other western universities, that includes all members of the USU peer group of Western Land Grant Institutions, shows an average of 62 credits for PhD degrees in Chemistry for students starting with a BS degree. The range of credit requirements among these institutions on the semester system is 18 to 78. Other than USU, the only institution with a credit requirement outside this range is Oregon State University, which is on a quarter system, and requires 108 quarter credits. Thus, 60 credits for the PhD is reasonable and consistent with peer institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Alaska Fairbanks*</th>
<th>University of Colorado</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon State University*</td>
<td>University of Idaho*</td>
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<tr>
<td>(108 quarter credits; equivalent to 72 semester credits)</td>
<td>University of Nevada, Reno*</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Arizona*</td>
<td>University of New Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California-Davis*</td>
<td>University of Wyoming*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado State University*</td>
<td>Washington State University*</td>
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* Indicates members of the USU Peer Group of Western Land Grant Institutions, listed on: http://usu.edu/aaa/dashboard_student_fac.cfm

The coursework requirements for our PhD and MS degrees in Biochemistry are the same, and consist of 15 credits of formal coursework and 1 credit/year of seminar. Students typically complete their coursework by the end of their second year. The remaining credits on Programs of Study are dissertation research. Awarding of the doctoral degree is not based on completion of a set number of credits, but rather, on demonstration of subject mastery by a series of written and oral examinations, and completion of a body of original research. The only effect of the credit reduction will be that students will register for fewer CHEM 7970 dissertation research credits. The reduction in credit requirement will have no effect on coursework requirements. The expectations in terms of the amount of research to be completed, requirement of a first author publication, and mastery of the subject as determined through rigorous annual reviews and oral exams, will not be affected. We take pains to make it clear to students that they should not expect to be awarded a doctorate after completion of a set number of research credits, or a set number of semesters.
Our Biochemistry students complete their doctorates in an average of 5.5 years. Since full time status for domestic as well as international students is attained with 6 credits/semester, 60 credits in 5 years is reached with 12 credits/year. Students who complete their research in less than 5 years can adjust their program of study accordingly in their final year, and those who need an extra semester or two can register for CGA credits.

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Section III: Institutional Impact

By reducing our credit requirements into line with those of peer institutions, we expect the change to aid our ability to recruit more and superior graduate students, particularly domestic students. This will assist us in doing our part in the University-wide goal of increasing graduate student enrollments in future years.

There will be no change to administrative structures.
There will be no change in faculty or staff requirements.
The academic requirements of this doctoral program will not be affected or changed.

Section IV: Finances

No costs are anticipated to result from this change.
Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University
Proposed Title: Restructuring of Geology PhD Program
Currently Approved Title:
School or Division or Location: College of Science
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Department of Geology
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code1 (for new programs):
Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 40.0601
Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): MM/DD/YEAR
Institutional Board of Trustees’ Approval Date: MM/DD/YEAR

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

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Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:
I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Signature ___________________________ Date: MM/DD/YEAR

Printed Name: Name of CAO or Designee

1 CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55.
Institution Submitting Proposal: Utah State University

College, School or Division in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: College of Science

Department(s) or Area(s) in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Department of Geology

Program/Administrative Unit Title: Department of Geology

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: 4 0 . 0 6 0 1

Certificate, and/or Degree(s) to Be Awarded: PhD in Geology

Proposed Beginning Date: July 1, 2012

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate):  
Department Chair  

W. David Liddell

Career and Technical Education Director  

James A. MacMahon

Dean or Division Chair  

Graduate School Dean

Council on Teacher Education

Date: March 8, 2012
Program Request - Abbreviated Template
Utah State University
PhD in Geology
03/08/2012

Section I: Request

The Department of Geology requests a restructuring of our PhD Program wherein the number of credits required for the PhD (from BS) will be reduced from 90 to 72 credits and for the PhD (from MS) from 60 to 42 credits.

Section II: Need

This restructure is necessary to make the Department of Geology more competitive in recruiting PhD students. The vast majority of our peer institutions require far fewer credit hours for the PhD (72 is the modal number) than does our institution (refer to table below). The only other institution in the state that grants the PhD in Geology is the University of Utah. The University of Utah does not have a minimum number of required credits, but does require, “about 20 semester hours of course credits” for the PhD with prior MS degree.

This change will not affect the rigor of our PhD program. This change will not affect the core courses required for the PhD students, nor will it affect the effort devoted to their PhD dissertation projects. The students will simply be signing up for fewer dissertation or continuing advisement credits.

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<td>Iowa State Univ</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<td>“4 yr”</td>
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<td>U CA Davis</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<td>Univ Utah</td>
<td>3 yr/ 20 cr min</td>
<td>NA – MS required</td>
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<td>VPI</td>
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<td>Washington State U</td>
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<td>MEAN</td>
<td>46 (based on 5 with actual credits listed)</td>
<td>78 (based on 7 with actual credits listed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDIAN</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section III: Institutional Impact

The proposed program restructure should result in an increase in applications to the Geology Department by qualified PhD applicants. This will “raise the bar” for an already excellent program.
This change should not affect affiliated departments or programs. No changes in faculty, staff or equipment will be required by the change. Students who are already enrolled in the PhD program will have the option of completing under the old or the new credit requirements.

Section IV: Finances

No additional costs are associated with this change. The change will result in more efficient utilization of resources (e.g. PhD graduate tuition awards).

Section V: Program Curriculum

***THIS SECTION OF THE ABBREVIATED TEMPLATE REQUIRED FOR EMPHASES AND MINORS ONLY.***

All Program Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track/Options (if applicable)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Number of Credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Courses to Be Added in the Next Five Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Course Prefix and Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(List courses – use one row per course)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>(List courses – use one row per course)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue with Semesters for Entire Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Schedule
Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University
Proposed Title: PhD in Physics
Currently Approved Title: PhD in Physics
School or Division or Location: College of Science
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Physics
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for new programs): 40.0801 (Physics)
Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 40.0801 (Physics)
Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): 08/27/2012
Institutional Board of Trustees’ Approval Date: MM/DD/YEAR

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1.5.2</td>
<td>Minor*</td>
<td>6.1.1</td>
<td>Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.1.1</td>
<td>New Emphasis on an Existing Degree*</td>
<td>6.1.5</td>
<td>Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2</td>
<td>Certificate of Proficiency Not Eligible for Financial Aid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3</td>
<td>Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.4</td>
<td>Name Change of Existing Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5</td>
<td>Program Transfer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.6</td>
<td>Program Restructure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Program Consolidation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.7</td>
<td>Program Discontinuation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.8</td>
<td>Administrative Unit Creation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative Unit Transfer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative Unit Consolidation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.8</td>
<td>New Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.9</td>
<td>New Institute</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Bureau</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate Certificate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Requires “Section VI: Program Curriculum” of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:
I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

__________________________________________
Signature

______________________________
Date: MM/DD/YEAR

Printed Name: Name of CAO or Designee

1 CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55,
Institution Submitting Proposal: Utah State University

College, School or Division in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Science

Department(s) or Area(s) in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Physics

Program/Administrative Unit Title: Physics

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: 40.0801 (Physics)

Certificate, and/or Degree(s) to Be Awarded: PhD in Physics

Proposed Beginning Date: August 27, 2012 (fall semester)

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate):

Jan J. Sojka, Department Head, Physics

James MacMahon, Dean, College of Science

Mark R. McClellan, Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies

Date:
Section I: Request

The Department of Physics proposes to restructure its PhD degree in Physics. The current credit hour requirement is 90 credits for an incoming student with a BS degree. We propose reducing the minimum credit hours to 72 credit hours.

Section II: Need

Academic departments at USU carried out an in-depth review of their graduate degree programs during the Spring Semester 2012. Data was supplied to the departments from an NRC National study and each department was requested to review this information in the context of their own programs. The USU Physics PhD program, like most others in the nation has two components, advanced course and research requirements. The advanced course requirement in Physics is a core of 32 credit hours and this was found to be similar to that of most other physics departments. Analysis of the research credit requirement was quite different. At the present time, the USU minimum credit requirement to complete a PhD is set at 90 credit hours. In the NRC survey, the range of minimum credits is quite variable, however the 90 credit hour minimum is one of the largest in the survey. In comparison with USU peer institutions and with land grant schools, our 90-credit requirement is one of the largest. No statistical average number is identified since some of the schools do not define a minimum. Within our peer group, 6 schools specify a 72 credit minimum requirement.

Nationally, physics PhD programs take 5 to 6 years to complete, with the first two years being used to complete coursework at about 9 credits per semester. The subsequent 3 to 4 years are devoted to research at about 6 credits per semester. However, at USU and at other schools, the research is not measured by credit hours, but rather by research accomplishments such as refereed publications and presentations at national meetings. In this context the USU Physics program’s time to completion, as well as academic course work and research requirements are consistent with those of our peer institutions, but our minimum credit requirement is significantly higher.

The need to align our Physics PhD minimum credit hour requirement with our peers is based on the need to recruit the best possible graduate students. When comparing the USU Physics Department’s 90-credit requirement with those of our peer institutions, potential graduate students would note that ours is significantly longer. This puts USU’s physics program at a recruiting disadvantage.

The request to reduce the minimum credit hours from 90 to 72 will not change our course requirements, nor the method by which a student’s research accomplishments are evaluated.

Section III: Institutional Impact

Anticipate that reduction of required credit hours toward the PhD will increase our ability to recruit and retain top graduate students from around the country, because competing programs require fewer credits.
Section IV: Finances

No additional costs are anticipated from this change.