



The University of Georgia

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Psychology

PROPOSAL TO DEACTIVATE MINOR

School/College: Franklin College of Arts & Sciences

Department: Psychology

Proposed deactivation: Minor in Psychology

Proposed Effective Date: As soon as approved

Last Date Students Admitted to Minor: Until Proposal Approved

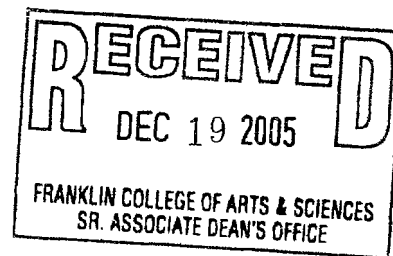
Last Date Students will Graduate with Minor: Spring 2008

Abstract of minor and rationale for deactivation

The minor in Psychology has provided courses for students interested in the field but not seeking to complete the full set of major requirements. The minor consists of two lower-division laboratory courses (Psy 2980, Psy 2990), two upper-division laboratory courses (one from Psy 4100, 4110, 4120, or 4130 and one from Psy 4200, 4210, 4230, 4230, or 4240), and one Psychology elective at the 3000-level or above.

High demand for our upper-division laboratory courses prompted us to seek the locus of this pressure. Information from Michelle Garfield (see attached) revealed a dramatic increase in student interest in the Psychology major, up approximately 300 students over the past two to three years. We are now feeling the pressures very strongly. Our majors must take a total of five laboratory courses and three of the aforementioned 4000-level laboratory offerings, and these upper-division lab sections closed out by the second day of registration for Spring semester 2006. This left many students who had hoped to graduate in the Spring short one or more of the upper-division labs. The Psychology department was able to find instructors to offer a couple of additional 4000-level sections for Spring and to limit enrollments in these (and in other 4000-level courses if seats became available) to seniors planning to graduate in Spring of 2006. Fortunately, we were able to serve these seniors at the cost of preventing less senior psychology students from making timely progress toward the satisfaction of their laboratory requirements. Shortages of seats in the 4000-level laboratory courses stem primarily from the growth in the number of Psychology majors coupled with our loss of teaching faculty in recent years.


In addition to our majors, the Psychology department serves students in other degree programs (e.g., Cognitive Science; Criminal Justice) who may elect psychology courses to satisfy their major requirements. For a number of reasons related to the heavy demand for our courses, the Psychology faculty reached a decision in Fall 2005 to deactivate the minor in Psychology. The faculty decided that it was more important to serve the needs of our majors and other students taking psychology courses to satisfy major requirements than to continue offering a minor.



The primary benefit of deactivation would be to alleviate some of the demand for our laboratory courses, both at the lower-division and upper-division levels. Currently, we serve 75 minors, the majority of whom complete their 4000-level laboratory requirements in their senior year. Deactivation of the minor would provide approximately 120-140 4000-level laboratory seats currently occupied by minors to students majoring in psychology and would help ensure that our majors could make timely progress toward satisfying their degree requirements. Moreover, we have another 35-60 students annually who are contemplating becoming Psychology minors and who sample our 2000-level laboratory courses to further explore their interests in psychology and to see if they can do the work. By occupying 2000-level lab seats, these students contribute to the logjam our majors face in completing their laboratory requirements, for Psy 2980 and 2990 are also required of our majors and are prerequisites for the 4000-level laboratory courses.

Of course, the Psychology department would continue to serve the needs of our existing declared minors, most of whom could be expected to graduate from December 2006 through May 2007. Moreover, students from other majors would remain free to elect other psychology courses to pursue their secondary interests in our discipline. It is expected that most students falling into this latter category would elect 3000-level courses that have only Psy 1101 (Introductory Psychology) as a prerequisite rather than our laboratory offerings, thus keeping laboratory seats more readily available to our majors.

We have proposed to deactivate rather than to terminate the minor because we see some value in this course of study and hope that the issues that stimulated this proposal can be resolved. If additional faculty can be hired over the next few years, we expect to be able to reactivate the minor.


Department of Psychology Head


Dean of Arts and Sciences

Number of Psychology Students
(currently enrolled students only)

Class	# of Majors
Freshmen	215
Sophomores	308
Juniors	370
Seniors	428
total	1321

11/9/2005