

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: Fast-Track Program Between the BA-Security Studies and Master of Defense and Strategic Studies.

College: Liberal Arts

Department: Criminal Justice and Security Studies

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Dr. Egbert Zavala

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.



Signature

9-10-25

Date

COLLEGE GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Dr. Caitlyn Muniz

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature

Date

COLLEGE DEAN – Dr. Anadeli Bencomo

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

Signature

Date

CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 4-5-25

From: Dr. Egbert Zavala, Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies
Dr. Paul Ashby, Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies

Through: Dr. Egbert Zavala, Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies

Through: Dr. Anadeli Bencomo, College of Liberal Arts

To: Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee or Graduate Council

Proposal Title: Fast-Track Program: BA-Security Studies and Master of Defense and Strategic Studies

Select the proposal content (select as many as apply) and provide the rationale.

Content

- ☐ New program or ☐ Program Change
- ☐ Bachelor's
 - ☐ Master's
 - ☐ Doctoral/Professional
 - ☐ Certificate
 - ☒ Fast Track
 - ☐ Minor
 - ☐ Concentration/Track
- ☐ New Course
- ☐ Closure (program, certificate, minor, concentration)
- ☐ Change
- ☐ CIP Code
 - ☐ Program/certificate SCH
 - ☐ Course Title
 - ☐ Course Description
 - ☐ Graduate Program Admission Requirements

Rationale

There is room to increase recruitment in the Bachelor of Security Studies and Masters of Defense and Strategic Studies programs through the creation of a fast-track path between these two 100% online

degrees. This will offer an attractive, expedited path for talented undergraduate students to be able to complete a master's degree in the Security Studies field.

Both these programs fall under 'Security Studies' more broadly and are deeply complementary to each other academically, and in the career fields they connect with. Students in both programs seek to embark on or enhance careers within or connected to national and international security.

Further, currently, the MDSS largely has a military and/or professional, maturer student body. Connecting the MDSS with the BASS would tap into a wider, younger student body, increasing the size of the recruitment pool. It also creates the opportunity for fully online students outside of the El Paso region to "fast-track" in this way, tapping into a geographically wider pool of students and increasing academic options for them.

Fast-Track Program Request

1. Indicate the undergraduate and graduate academic programs in the college that agree to participate in the dual credit program.
2. Undergraduate students in the program must have successfully completed at least 90 hours of undergraduate coursework toward their major with a minimum of 24 of those hours at UTEP, and must have and maintain an undergraduate GPA equal or greater than 3.30/4.00.
3. Each participating graduate academic program must determine which 5000 level courses will be included in the fast track program, and each participating undergraduate academic program must determine which 5000 level courses will count toward the undergraduate degree.

College: Liberal Arts, Extended University

Graduate Degree: Master of Defense and Strategic Studies

Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Security Studies

Program Admission Requirements:

Minimum GPA (3.30/4.00 or higher): 3.30 or higher

Maximum Number of Graduate Credit Hours Allowed (up to 15 hours): 9

Other:

Graduate Course Inventory Approved for Dual Credit

Course Prefix & No. **DSS 5300**

Title: **US National Security**

Course Prefix & No. **DSS 5301**

Title: **Strategic Theory and Modern Warfare**

Course Prefix & No. **DSS 5302**

Title: **Global Security**

Acceptance into the Graduate Program

☐ Students in this Fast Track program are automatically accepted into this graduate program upon accepted application to the FT program.

☒ Students in this Fast Track program need to meet the following additional requirements to be accepted to this graduate program:

Students will need to complete an application to the UTEP Graduate School and meet the established requirements for acceptance to the MDSS graduate program (minus their official undergraduate transcript at the application stage).

As per the current catalog, they will need to provide:

1. Completion and submission of a graduate admissions application.
2. Submission of official transcripts in accordance with the requirements of the Graduate School.
3. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
4. A brief statement of purpose (1-2 pages) that addresses educational and career goals and reasons for pursuing the MS degree.
5. Three academic letters of recommendation from instructors who can evaluate the ability to succeed in a rigorous graduate program. A minimum of two letters of recommendation are required for students who have been out of school for two or more years. Letters of recommendation from employers or work supervisors are acceptable for applicants who have been out of school for five years or more.

All applications will be reviewed by the committee for the MDSS program