

# CURRICULUM CHANGE PROPOSAL

## APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: Require a prerequisite leveling course for INSS 5361

College: Liberal Arts          Department: Criminal Justice

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Leanne Alarid

---

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

Leanne F. Alarid

10-8-2019

Signature

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Crystal Herman

---

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

COLLEGE DEAN – Denis O'Hearn

---

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

## GRADUATE CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 10/7/19  
From: Misty Duke, Criminal Justice  
Through: Leanne Alarid, Criminal Justice  
Through: Denis O'Hearn, Liberal Arts  
To: Amy Wagler, Graduate Council

Proposal Title: Require a prerequisite leveling course for INSS 5361

---

INSS 5361 is intended to provide students with an understanding of statistical concepts to enable them to carry out quantitative analysis relative to intelligence and national security-related problems. Quantitative research in these fields often seeks to understand the relationship between naturally occurring variables. Therefore, students are taught how to use multiple regression analysis to predict outcomes from available indicators, while controlling for nuisance variables.

In my experience, approximately half of the students admitted to the MS INSS program have not completed any college-level courses in statistics. Therefore, I must include instruction on very basic statistical concepts in INSS 5361, such as percentiles, means, and standard deviations. This means that the course covers a very broad range of statistical concepts, from basic statistics to hierarchical multiple regression models. Almost every semester, students have complained that there is too much material to cover in the course and that they feel overwhelmed (see the attached course evaluations). The breadth of the material also means that, in some cases, students' understanding of each topic does not achieve sufficient depth to allow them to effectively apply the concepts to real-world issues.

I am requesting that students be required to have taken an introductory statistics course before being admitted to the Master's program in Intelligence and National Security Studies. The introductory course should cover basic statistical concepts and introduce inferential statistical hypothesis testing. Having had an introductory statistics course, students in INSS 5361 would only be taught those inferential statistical hypothesis tests most relevant to intelligence and national security issues (e.g. chi-square analysis, t-tests, correlation tests, multiple regression models, path analysis). More instruction time and application would be devoted to each concept, providing students with greater in-depth understanding and skill.

I propose that students who have not completed an introductory statistics course be conditionally admitted to the program. In order to be fully admitted they must complete a

statistics leveling course within their first nine credit hours in the program. The leveling course will not result in credit towards the Master's degree. The proposed change will only impact INSS 5361.

# COURSE CHANGE FORM

## COPY OF CATALOG PAGE NOT REQUIRED

All fields below are required

---

College : Liberal Arts

Department : Criminal Justice

Rationale for changing the course:

Students must have a prerequisite leveling course prior to taking INSS 5361 to acquaint them with basic statistical concepts that will prepare them to learn the advanced statistical concepts taught in this course.

All fields below are required

---

Subject Prefix and number INSS 5361

Course Title Applied Statistics

Change	From	To
Ex. Prerequisite	Ex. POLS 2310	Ex. POLS 2312
Prerequisite	None	Must earn a B or higher in PSYC 1303, INSS 2304, STAT 1380 or have earned a B or higher in a comparable statistics course prior to admission to the program

These changes will be reflected in Banner, Goldmine, and the catalog

1. I believe there was content overload and also a lack of real-world application that could've been better contextualized by dissecting and analyzing more methodologies used in published quantitative research. Dr. Duke is an amazing lecturer and incredibly knowledgeable in this and other areas, but the course felt somewhat rushed.

2. The course is very challenging, and Dr. Duke is an effective instructor. If I could change anything, I would take it over two semesters as it is a lot of content to fit into one semester.

3. There were times where the course work was extensive and felt overwhelming. Perhaps meeting more than once a week would help understand some of the concepts, or dividing up the course into two sessions a week: one for concepts and one for SPSS as this was a huge hindrance to some of the homework, other than that, the instructor was outstanding

4. It is an interesting but extremely hard course. Dr. Duke is really good at teaching it and explaining all the content in the chapters but it would be a better idea to convert this course into two, Pre-Statistics and Statistics.

| [State Reports](#) | [UT System](#) | [Customer Service Statement](#) | [Site Feedback](#) | [Required Links](#) | [CLERY Crime Statistics](#) |  
The University of Texas at El Paso 500 West University Avenue | El Paso, Texas 79968 | (915) 747-5000 |

# Admission Requirements for the Master of Science (MS)

1. Completion and submission of a graduate admissions application.
2. Submission of official transcripts in accordance with the requirements of the Graduate School. Applicants must have earned a B in at least one undergraduate or graduate statistics course, which must be reflected on the official transcript. Applicants who have not earned a B in a statistics course may be admitted with the condition that they complete and earn a B in an undergraduate statistics course within the first nine hours of enrollment in the MS program. This course will not count towards the MS degree requirement. Acceptable undergraduate statistics courses include INSS 2304, PSYC 1303, and STAT 1380.
3. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
4. Demonstration of academic achievement and potential as indicated by the results of the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). This requirement is waived if the student already possesses an accredited graduate degree.
5. A brief statement of purpose (1-2 pages) that addresses educational and career goals and reasons for pursuing the MS degree.
6. 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.

Note: Admission packages are evaluated utilizing all of the requirements listed above.

## Duke, Misty C

---

**From:** Mariani, Maria C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 10:47 AM  
**To:** Duke, Misty C  
**Cc:** Salayandia, Maria C  
**Subject:** RE: STAT 1380  
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.png; image003.png

Hi Misty, sure we are happy to have your students, please let us know if you need something else.

Dr. Maria C. Mariani  
Chair

Department of Mathematical Sciences  
The University of Texas at El Paso  
500 W. University Ave.  
El Paso, TX 79968  
Office: 915-747-5761  
Fax: 915-747-6502  
math.utep.edu

---

From: Duke, Misty C  
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 3:10 PM  
To: Mariani, Maria C  
Subject: STAT 1380

Dr. Mariani,

I am the Graduate Director and Advisor for the Master's in Intelligence and National Security Studies program. We are instituting some changes with our admission requirements to our Master's program. We are requiring those students who have not taken an introductory statistics course upon admission to the program to take a leveling course that doesn't count towards their degree. I would like to list STAT 1380 as one of several leveling courses that students may take. We get approximately 5-10 new students per semester and approximately half of those students have not taken a statistics course. So, you would probably have no more than 5 students per semester requesting to take the course. Would you allow our students to take that course?

Thanks.

Misty

[UTEP]

Misty C. Duke, PhD  
Graduate Director and Advisor/Lecturer  
Intelligence and National Security Studies

Criminal Justice/National Security Studies Institute The University of Texas at El Paso  
500 W. University Ave.  
El Paso, TX 79968  
Office: 915-747-8573  
<http://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/nssi/>

[Facebook] <https://www.facebook.com/UTEPNSSI/> [Twitter] <https://twitter.com/UTEPNSSI>



## Duke, Misty C

---

**From:** Castaneda, Edward  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2019 4:15 PM  
**To:** Duke, Misty C; Ramos, Lorena; Blum, Anthony J  
**Subject:** FW: PSYC 1303

Misty;

It looks like we have plenty of room to accommodate your students.

Please let your students know that we welcome them enthusiastically...if any of them encounter problems, send them to our Advising Office, Dr. Blum or me.

Eddie

---

**From:** "Blum, Anthony J" <ajblum@utep.edu>  
**Date:** Monday, November 25, 2019 at 3:43 PM  
**To:** "Castaneda, Edward" <ecastaneda9@utep.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: PSYC 1303

Eddie,

Wendy just raised the cap for 1303 sections to 60 and in looking at the sections offered this semester, none of the sections reached that cap. Sections ranged from 2-9 below the cap... except for one section (added late) that was 31 students below the cap. In other words, it doesn't look like a problem.

---

**From:** Castaneda, Edward  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2019 3:32 PM  
**To:** Duke, Misty C; Blum, Anthony J  
**Subject:** Re: PSYC 1303

Hi, Misty.

I'm enthusiastic to serve INSS, but let me check with Tony Blum, our Undergraduate Program Director. The number seems inconsequential, but I don't want to misstep.

Tony, let's talk about this increase in 5 enrollees yo PSYC1303.

Eddie

On Nov 25, 2019, at 2:55 PM, Duke, Misty C <mcduke@utep.edu> wrote:

Hi Eddie,

We are instituting some changes with our admission requirements to our Master's program. We are requiring those students who have not taken an introductory statistics course upon admission to the program to take a leveling course that doesn't count towards their degree. I would like to list PSYC 1301 as one of several leveling courses that students may take. We get approximately 5-10 new students per semester and approximately half of those students have not taken a statistics course. So, you would

probably have no more than 5 students per semester requesting to take the course. Would you allow our students to take that course?

Thanks.

Misty

<image007.png>

**Misty C. Duke, PhD**

Graduate Director and Advisor/Lecturer  
Intelligence and National Security Studies

Criminal Justice/National Security Studies Institute

The University of Texas at El Paso

500 W. University Ave.

El Paso, TX 79968

Office: 915-747-8573

<http://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/nssi/>

[<image008.png>](#)

[<image009.png>](#)