

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.

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.

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