


## GRADUATE CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: March 9, 2023

From: Diana Bolsinger, Department of Criminal Justice

Through: Egbert Zavala, Department of Criminal Justice 

Through: Dean Anadeli Bencomo, College of Liberal Arts

To: Chair, Graduate Council

Proposal Title: Proposed Revision to Graduate Program Requirements in Intelligence and National Security Studies

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We propose to reduce the requirements for the Masters of Science degree in Intelligence and National Security Studies (INSS) from 39 credits to 36. Our survey of the top 25 graduate programs in Intelligence Studies nationwide found that only one required more than 36 credits to graduate. This change would both bring the INSS program in line with the standard for the field and in line with the other two graduate programs in the Department of Criminal Justice.

We have found that the current 39 credit requirement is proving a disincentive for applicants seeking to complete their degrees in two years. To meet our 39 credit requirement, they must take a course over the summer or add an additional semester to the program. This is a particular hardship for the substantial portion of our students serving in the military. They face training obligations during the summer. Students in programs such as the Army's Green to Gold Active Duty Option are not only obligated to train during the summers but also must complete their full degree in four semesters, requiring them to take a course overload.

In short, we judge that the course reduction will have a minimal impact on the value of our INSS degree, given the standard in the field, while making our program more attractive to precisely the students we most want to attract. We hope to make this change during the spring 2023 semester in order to bring our fall 2023 cadre in under the new 36 credit requirement.

## Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Request to Change Semester Credit Hours

**Directions:** An institution shall use this form to request a change in the number of semester credit hours (SCH) required for a degree program already on the institution's program inventory in accordance with Coordinating Board Rules, Chapter 5, Subchapter C, Section 5.55 – Revisions to Approved Programs.

Options:

- 1) Revisions that **reduce** the number of SCH require notification of change and affirmation that the reduction does not fall below the minimum requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, program accreditors, and licensing bodies, if applicable.
- 2) Revisions that **increase** the number of SCH require detailed written documentation describing the compelling academic reason for the increase in the number of required hours.

NOTE: No request or notification is needed if revisions to the degree program curriculum do not result in a change in SCH.

Options 1 and 2 require the signature of the Provost or Chief Academic Officer.

Please submit *Request to Change Semester Credit Hour* via the Online Submission Portal:  
<https://www1.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/proposals/>

Information: Contact the Division of Academic Quality and Workforce at 512/427-6200.

### Administrative Information

1. Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

2. Program Name – *As it appears on the Coordinating Board's program inventory (e.g., Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Accounting):*  
Master of Science in Intelligence and National Security Studies

3. Program CIP Code:  
43.0301.00

4. Contact Person: *Provide contact information for the person who can answer specific questions about the program.*

Name: Egbert Zavala  
Title: Chair, Department of Criminal Justice  
E-mail: [egbertz@utep.edu](mailto:egbertz@utep.edu)  
Phone: 915-747-7943

Notification/Request for Change in Semester Credit Hours (SCH):

Current SCH: 39

Proposed SCH: 36

Implementation Date: August 2023

*Complete Option 1 or 2 as appropriate*

Option 1: Reduction in Semester Credit Hours

Is the change in the number of SCH compatible with the requirements of accreditation for the program?

a. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

☒ YES ☐ NO

b. Program Accreditor(s)

☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA

Name of Program Accreditor: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Licensing Body(ies)

☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA

Name of Licensing Body(ies): \_\_\_\_\_

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Option 2: Increase in Semester Credit Hours

*Provide detailed documentation, such as changes in accrediting agency or licensing body requirements, workforce needs, or academic professional standards and needs, describing a compelling reason for the change in the number of SCH:*

**Signature of Compliance**

I hereby certify that all of the above changes have been approved in accordance with the procedures outlined in Coordinating Board Rules, Chapter 5, Subchapter C, Section 5.55.

Provost/Chief Academic Officer

Date

MS INSS Degree Plan

Required Credits: 36

Deleted: 9

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses:		
<a href="#">INSS 5300</a>	Resrch Methods Intellig & CJ	3
<a href="#">INSS 5304</a>	Intel & Natl Sec Pol & Proc	3
<a href="#">INSS 5305</a>	Intro to Intelligence Analysis	3
<a href="#">INSS 5306</a>	Contemporary Security Studies	3
<a href="#">INSS 5361</a>	Statistics in Intellig & CJ	3
Free Electives:		
Select five courses from the following:		18
<a href="#">INSS 5301</a>	Histl Devlpmt of Intel Commty	
<a href="#">INSS 5303</a>	Legal Issues/Intel & Nat Sec	
<a href="#">INSS 5307</a>	Open Source Intel Analysis	
<a href="#">INSS 5308</a>	Propaganda and Influence Ops	
<a href="#">INSS 5309</a>	Technical Intelligence	
<a href="#">INSS 5310</a>	Intel & Counterterrorism	
<a href="#">INSS 5311</a>	Intelligence and Information	
<a href="#">INSS 5312</a>	Commercial Imagery	
<a href="#">INSS 5313</a>	Social Media Intelligence	
<a href="#">INSS 5315</a>	Intel & Counterproliferation	
<a href="#">INSS 5320</a>	Counterintel & Security	

Deleted: six

Code	Title	Hours
<a href="#">INSS 5323</a>	Invest Interview & Interrogat	
<a href="#">INSS 5325</a>	Political Economy of Terrorism	
<a href="#">INSS 5328</a>	Decision Making Intel & CJ	
<a href="#">INSS 5335</a>	Transnational Criminal Orgs	
<a href="#">INSS 5340</a>	Pro-Seminar Homeland Security	
<a href="#">INSS 5343</a>	Crime & Border Security	
<a href="#">INSS 5351</a>	Professional Skills	
<a href="#">INSS 5355</a>	Geospatial Intelligence	
<a href="#">INSS 5366</a>	Security Studies Internship	
<a href="#">INSS 5380</a>	Selected Problems in Intel	
<a href="#">PAD 5363</a>	Intergovernmental Relations	
<a href="#">POLS 5330</a>	Seminar-International Politics	
<a href="#">POLS 5332</a>	Sem-Foreign Policy Dec Making	
<a href="#">POLS 5347</a>	Sem in International Security	
<a href="#">POLS 5368</a>	Seminar in Conflict Analysis	
<b>Thesis/Project Option:</b>		
Select one of the options		6
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>39</b>
Course List		
Thesis Option		

Code	Title	Hours
<a href="#">INSS 5398</a> & <a href="#">INSS 5399</a>	Thesis and Thesis	6

<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>6</b>
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Course List

Non Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
<a href="#">INSS 5390</a>	Capstone	3
Select one additional free elective from the list above		3

<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>6</b>
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Course List

# CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

## APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: Proposed Revision to Graduate Program Requirements in Intelligence and National Security Studies

College: College of Liberal Arts

Department: Criminal Justice

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Egbert Zavala

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



Signature

3-9-23

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR - Selfa A. Chew-Melendez

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

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Signature

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Date

COLLEGE DEAN – Anadeli Bencomo

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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.

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Signature

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Date