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PROPOSAL
for a
Minor Curriculum Change to Graduate Programs in the College of Education

Details

Proposal Title: Delete Basic Professional Component

Sponsor: Thomas C. Monahan (on behalf of the Graduate Program Coordinators and Department Chairs in the College of Education)

Rationale for the Minor Curriculum Change

Need: For more than three decades, there has been a requirement that all master’s degree programs include component of basic professional study. This component included 16 graduate courses distributed into four fields of study: (a) research methods and educational statistics; (b) historical, philosophical, and social foundations; (c) educational and developmental psychology; and (d) curriculum and curriculum development. An excerpt of a recent edition of the Graduate Catalog reads, “These studies provide the student with a set of contexts for understanding educational problems at a broader level than required in initial preparatory programs. In most graduate programs, a minimum of one course is required in each of two foundation areas. Some programs may require a course in the research methods and educational statistics area. Additional choices are also available in basic curriculum study. Basic professional component requirements vary among programs.”

In recent years, all new graduate degree programs outside the College of Education have routinely ignored this requirement, and most graduate programs in the College of Education continue to face a changing, standards-based, environment in which programmatic decisions are driven in large part by accreditation requirements. The Special Program Associations (SPAs) that are aligned with NCATE have specific requirements that often drive curricular decisions. The requirements of the Basic Professional Component add to programmatic requirements and credit hours without adding substantively to the merits of the programs. A number of new or revised programs in recent years (e.g., M.S.T., M.A. in Higher Education, M.Ed. in Standards-based Practice, M.A. in School and Public Librarianship) have requested and been granted a waiver for compliance with the Basic Professional Component.

The Basic Professional Component provides a level of redundancy that is no longer necessary. Many of the courses in the various banks will continue to be offered and will continue to enjoy robust enrollments. For example, the course Statistics in Educational Research and Theories of Learning will continue to be included within the M.A. in School Psychology, and Tests and Measurement and Applied Tests and Measurement will be continued to be included within the M.A. in Counseling in Educational Settings, and Fundamentals of Curriculum Development will continue to be included in various programs. However, this is primarily because of the inherent values of these courses to selected programs and not because they are included in the Basic Professional Component. They will continue to be offered whether the Basic Professional Component exists or not.
In academic year 2004-05, the dean of the College of Education commissioned a review of the Basic Professional Component to ascertain its continued viability and usefulness. An excerpt from the minutes of the College of Education Chairperson’s Meeting reads in part, “After review, the College of Education Graduate Advisors Group felt that the Basic Professional Component was no longer necessary across the College. Removing the Basic Professional Component would help streamline graduate programs. [Research done on this issue included] a breakdown by years and semesters of the courses of the Basic Professional Component and their enrollments. Many programs no longer require those courses to be offered due to certification changes….In lieu of the BPC, each department will make the decision on what is needed for that program’s needs….A motion was made that the Basic Professional Component be removed as a requirement from the College of Education graduate programs. The motion was seconded and approved.”

**Curricular Effect:** The effects of this minor curriculum change are twofold. First, the deletion of the requirement to include a minimum of 6 s.h. of courses from within the Basic Professional Component will help departments to streamline their graduate programs and to better provide for alignment with accreditation requirements. In potentially reducing the number of credits necessary for program completion, this change will also benefit students. However, while (as discussed above), many of the courses within the Basic Professional Component will continue to be offered, the deletion of the Basic Professional Component may potentially reduce enrollments in selected courses if departments elect to eliminate courses that are now included in those banks..

**Changes:** Only one change, as follows, is proposed:

To delete from the Graduate Catalog the requirement that all graduate degree programs in the College of Education require courses in the Basic Professional Component.

**Results of Consultations**

Consultations were sought from the graduate program coordinators of all graduate degree programs in the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (as appropriate) as well as from the chairs of departments likely to be affected. The requests for letters of consultations are attached. The letters of consultation that were received are also attached.
LETTERS OF CONSULTATION REQUESTED & RECEIVED
Monahan, Thomas

From: Monahan, Thomas  
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2005 2:33 PM  
To: Willett, Holly G.; Fopeano, Richard J; McHenry, Sandra L.; Hasit, Cindi; McBee, Robin H.  
Subject: FW: Minor Curriculum Change Proposal - Deleting the Basic Professional Component

This is an e-mail that I sent to all graduate program advisors. I would appreciate if you would consider offering a letter of consultation as well. Thanks.

From: Monahan, Thomas  
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2005 4:36 PM  
To: Davis, Sharon; Ognibene, Gerald; Rios, Hector M.; Williams, Barbara Bole; Klanderman, John; Willett, Holly G.; Molinari, Louis; Hasit, Cindi; Capasso, Ronald; Hespe, David C; Xin, Joy F.; Gallagher, John; Walpole, MaryBeth; Benevento, Jacqueline D.; Fopeano, Richard J; Moss, Janet G.; Sisco, Burton R.; Margolis, Jeffrey A.  
Cc: Sharp, Carol; Meyers, David Mark  
Subject: Minor Curriculum Change Proposal - Deleting the Basic Professional Component

At a meeting of the COE chairs on May 5, 2005, the chairs and the dean agreed to support a curriculum change in which COE programs would no longer be required to include courses within the Basic Professional Component in existing or future graduate degree programs. In the interest of bringing closure to this issue, I have volunteered to construct the minor curriculum change proposal. I am writing to determine if anyone has any objections to my doing this. To get this proposal done, we will need to have letters of consultation from each of the graduate programs in the COE. So, this e-message requests two things: (1) if you have any objections to my drafting a curriculum proposal, please let me know. Certainly, I will share the draft with all graduate program advisors and department chairs as soon as it's done; (2) if you support this change (or even if you don't support it), can you give me a brief letter of consultation? Obviously, it doesn't have to be long. It can simply say that you are aware of the proposal and that you either support it or not. The proposal will be similarly simple: it will say that, after consultation with the graduate advisors, the department chairs voted to remove the Basic Professional Component as a requirement in COE graduate degree programs. You can send the letter of consultation to me. If anyone objects to my drafting this curriculum proposal, contact me by e-mail, phone, or in person, whichever you prefer. Thanks.
Monahan, Thomas

From: Monahan, Thomas
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2005 11:26 AM
To: Stoeckig, Keiko
Subject: Request for letter of consultation

Keiko: I have volunteered to put together this minor curriculum proposal for the COE. Since some of the courses in the Basic Professional Component are psychology courses, I am asking for your letter of consultation. You can simply address it to the College of Ed. Curriculum Committee. Thanks.
October 4, 2005

Dr. Thomas C. Monahan  
Department of Educational Leadership  
College of Education

Dear Dr. Monahan:

I support your minor curriculum change proposal for deleting the basic professional component as a requirement for graduate degree programs in the College of Education. The need for this change was first recommended by the graduate program coordinators in the College of Education and then endorsed by the College’s Chairs Group. In light of the College’s accreditation requirements, this change is appropriate in that it provides more flexibility in addressing standards. Thank you for taking the necessary steps to bring this needed proposal through the curricular process.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Sharp, Ph.D.  
Dean

Office of the Dean  
College of Education  
201 Mullica Hill Road  
Glassboro, NJ 08028-1701  
856-256-4250  
856-256-4918 fax
To: Dr. Thomas Monihan  
From: Gerald L. Ognibene  
Re: Basic Professional Course Requirement  
Date: October 04, 2005

This memo is a follow-up to our discussions about the College of Education’s requirement for a Basic Professional Course(s) component in Master’s degree programs. I concur with the recommendation being made that the Basic Professional Course requirement be deleted; each graduate program is still able to include such courses that are compatible with program needs. In the case of the Counseling in Educational Settings graduate program, we are using a minimum of 9 SH of psychology courses, which in effect are a part of the current Basic Professional Course concept.

I support the recommendation to delete the Basic Professional Course requirement.
Department of Secondary Education/Foundations of Education
Program in School and Public Librarianship
September 29, 2005

Dr. Thomas Monahan
Department of Educational Leadership
Robinson Hall
Rowan University
Glassboro, NJ 08028-1701

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your work on the proposal regarding the Basic Professional Component Courses in the College of Education. As a graduate program coordinator, I have understood the rationale for the Basic Professional Component course requirements for some graduate programs, but often the selection of courses has not been appropriate for students in the library education program. The course hours represented by the courses have sometimes hindered the program's curriculum development.

In the revision of the program last spring, I was grateful that the members of various curriculum committees recognized these difficulties and allowed the school library media program to be exempt from the Basic Professional Component courses. Otherwise, my students would have had to complete 45 credits because of increased competencies required by the NJ Department of Education. The new program allows students to select one graduate education course in order to meet personal learning agendas.

In sum, increased specialization requirements and the desire to have master's degree programs of reasonable length support the proposal to relinquish the Basic Professional Component Courses in the College of Education. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Cordially,

Holly G. Willett, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Program Coordinator
September 28, 2005

Dr. Thomas Monahan
Professor
Educational Leadership Department
Rowan University
201 Mullica Hill Rd.
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Dear Dr. Monahan,

I am aware of the curriculum proposal to delete the basic professional component, and I support it.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

MaryBeth Walpole, PhD
Associate Professor
Doctoral Program Facilitator
Educational Leadership Department
Rowan University
201 Mullica Hill Rd.
Glassboro, NJ 08028
To: Thomas Monahan, Educational Leadership Department, and the College of Education Curriculum Committee

From: Keiko Stoeckig, Chairperson, Psychology Department

Date: October 5, 2005

Re: proposed to delete Basic Professional Component

The Psychology Department has reviewed the proposal to delete from the Graduate Catalog the requirement that all graduate degree programs in the College of Education require courses from the Basic Professional Component. The Psychology Department offers several courses that have been included in the Basic Professional Component bank; however, due to the nature of many of these courses, the demand will continue without the inclusion of the Basic Professional Component in the Graduate Catalog. Therefore, the Psychology Department supports this proposal to delete the Basic Professional Component.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your course proposals. If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at x4821 or stoeckig@rowan.edu.
October 6, 2005

Dr. Thomas Monahan
Educational Leadership Dept.
Rowan University
201 Mullica Hill Rd., Robinson Hall
Glassboro, New Jersey 08028

Dear Tom:

In response to your request for each of us to give you feedback in writing, I am confirming my endorsement of the deletion of the Basic Professional Component for our graduate programs. The M.A. in Learning Disabilities will continue to require some of these courses as required by our various accreditation agencies and the departments involved are aware.

Thank you for spearheading this curricular change. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 856-256-4500, ext. 3796 or bianco@rowan.edu.

Yours truly,

Sharon Davis Bianco, Ed.D., Coordinator
Graduate Program in Learning Disabilities
TO:        Dr. Tom Monahan, Educational Leadership
FROM:    Dr. Jane Graziano, Academic Advisor, MA SMT: Art
             Art Department
RE:    Minor Change Proposal
          Deleting the Basic Professional Component
DATE:  October 3, 2005

This letter is in support of the minor curriculum change proposal submitted by the College of Education’s graduate advisors to eliminate the required Basic Professional Component totaling nine semester hours from its masters degree programs.

An increase in state requirements and professional standards necessitates the addition of courses that specifically provides graduate students with the opportunity to meet the competencies of their specializations. The courses within the Basic Professional Component total nine credit hours that do not fulfill the requirements of the state and professional organizations. These credit hours could be replaced with courses specific for a given specialization. Doing so, would greatly improve the integrity of study for our graduate students. As academic advisor for the Masters of Arts in Subject Matter Teaching Art, I support the changes requested by this proposal.

cc: Dr. Holly Willett, Chair, Secondary Education/Foundations of Education
    Dr. Donna Jorgensen, Chair, Curriculum Committee, Secondary Education
    Dr. Mark Meyers, Associate Dean, College of Education
    Professor Skeffington Thomas, Chair, Art Department
    Dr. Donald Gephardt, Dean, Fine & Performing Arts
October 5, 2005

Re: Minor Curriculum Change: Delete Basic Professional Component

Dear Dr. Monahan:

The Department of Special Educational Services/Instruction supports this proposed curriculum change. While we are pleased that the courses will continue to be available, this change will afford additional flexibility in our graduate programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our approval of this timely change.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. McHenry, Chair
Monahan, Thomas

From: Davis, Sharon
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2005 8:06 PM
To: Monahan, Thomas
Subject: Re: Minor Curriculum Change Proposal - Deleting the Basic Professional Component

Tom, in response to your request for each of us to give you feedback in writing, I am confirming my endorsement of the deletion of the Basic Professional Component for our graduate programs. The MA in LD will continue to require some of these courses as required by our various accreditation agencies and the departments involved are aware.

I will type this on our letterhead and forward a copy to you.

Thank you for spearheading this curricular change.

Best regards,
Sharon Davis Bianco

From: "Monahan, Thomas" <Monahan@rowan.edu>
Date: Tue, 20 Sep 2005 16:35:56 -0400
To: "Davis, Sharon" <Bianco@rowan.edu>, "Ognibene, Gerald" <Ognibene@rowan.edu>, "Rios, Hector M." <Rios@rowan.edu>, "Williams, Barbara Bole" <williamsb@rowan.edu>, "Klanderman, John" <Klanderman@rowan.edu>, "Willett, Holly G." <willett@rowan.edu>, "Molinari, Louis" <Molinari@rowan.edu>, "Hasit, Cindi" <Hasit@rowan.edu>, "Capasso, Ronald" <Capasso@rowan.edu>, "Hespe, David C" <hespe@rowan.edu>, "Xin, Joy F." <Xin@rowan.edu>, "Gallagher, John" <Gallagher@rowan.edu>, "Walpole, MaryBeth" <walpole@rowan.edu>, "Benevento, Jacqueline D." <Benevento@rowan.edu>, "Fopeano, Richard J" <fopeano@rowan.edu>, "Moss, Janet G." <Moss@rowan.edu>, "Sisco, Burton R." <sisco@rowan.edu>, "Margolis, Jeffrey A." <margolis@rowan.edu>
Cc: "Sharp, Carol" <Sharp@rowan.edu>, "Meyers, David Mark" <Meyers@rowan.edu>
Subject: Minor Curriculum Change Proposal - Deleting the Basic Professional Component

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October 6, 2005

To: Dr. Thomas Monahan on behalf of COE Graduate Advisors
From: David C. Hespe, Chair of the Educational Leadership Department
Re: Proposed Change in Core Professional Component

Thank you for giving the Department of Educational Leadership the opportunity to consult on the proposed curriculum change regarding the core professional component for graduate programs in the College of Education.

This proposal will allow our graduate programs to better meet the needs of students and we strongly support the change.

We wish you the best of luck in implementing this much needed curricular change.