SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS, ACADEMIC PRIORITIES AND
PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCILS

concerning

REVISION OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Presented at the
768th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 27, 2017

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As part of the plan to replace the Global Education requirement in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) with program-specific requirements, the Department of Political Science is proposing to revise its major. The significant changes from current requirements are: (1) The minimum number of required credits for the major will increase from 36 to 45. (2) Students must complete a Global Education and Skills sequence of at least 9 credits. The requirement can be satisfied through five options: 9 credits of Political Science courses from an approved list; 9 credits of study in a foreign language; completion of an approved certificate; completion of 9 credits in an IPO-approved study-abroad program; an individualized program of study that is approved by a faculty advisor and the undergraduate program director.

At its meeting on April 6, 2016, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approval of the proposed Revision of the B.A. Major Requirements in the Department of Political Science. It was submitted as proposal #2754 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

On April 19, 2017, the Academic Priorities Council endorsed approval of this proposal subject after two requested changes were made. The first is that fulfillment of department level international and intercultural requirements can be fulfilled by departmentally approved study abroad. The second is that “At least one course taken to fulfill the major’s international/intercultural requirement must have an international focus (if a topical course), be a foreign language, or be taken during a departmentally approved study abroad.

PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL

At its meeting on March 22, 2017, the Program and Budget Council voted 9 Yes, 5 No and 1 Abstention on the proposal #2754, Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Major Requirements in the Department of Political Science, as part of a group of related proposals (#s 2748 through 2756 in the Course and Curriculum Management System). It addressed its comments to the framework proposal (#2748).

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Major Requirements in the Department of Political Science, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 17-065.
Please describe your proposal.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences seeks to transform the international and intercultural education focus in our curriculum from the college-based Global Education Requirement for B.A. majors to an integrated theme that is incorporated directly into strengthened and updated B.A. major requirements. (See Proposal 2748 in the UMass Course and Curriculum Management System.)

To graduate, students in the Political Science major must currently fulfill the Global Education Requirement of 15 credits plus their major requirements of 36 credits. After the proposed change, students in the Political Science major will fulfill expanded major requirements totaling at least 45 credits that incorporate international and intercultural education directly into the major in a manner tailored to our discipline. The current college level Global Education Requirement will be ended for students in the Political Science major.

The new major level international and intercultural related requirements can be fulfilled through a list of courses designated by the department, by foreign language courses, or by a departmentally approved study abroad. Students may also complete a minor or certificate from a designated department list to fulfill this requirement.

Please describe the existing program requirements, listing all required courses and available electives, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

The Department of Political Science requires majors to complete a minimum of 36 credits in Political Science, including the Junior Year Writing and Integrative Experience requirements. All courses counted toward the major must be taken for a letter grade, and no fewer than 6 of the 11 required Political Science courses must be taken within the UMass Amherst Department of Political Science. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA within the major as well as overall at the University in order to graduate.

Introductory Requirement
All Political Science majors must complete at least three courses (for students entering between 9/1/2013-8/31/2014) or 12 credits (for students entering after 9/1/2014) in 100-level Political Science courses, with one course/4 credits in each of the following categories.
Category 1. American Politics (101), introduction to Constitutional Law (162) or Controversies in Public Policy (181)
Category 2. Comparative Politics (111) or World Politics (121)
Category 3. Introduction to Political Theory (171)

Upper-Level Requirement
Twenty four credits of Political Science upper-level courses (200-level or above) that carry three or more credits each, at least 12 of which must be 300-level or above. The Political Science Junior Year Writing course (377) and the Integrative Experience course may be counted among these credits if Political Science is the student's primary major.
Not more than one of these courses can be an independent study course or a graded internship. Honors research, Honors project, and Honors thesis courses (499Y, 499P, 499T), other than POLISCI 499C and POLISCI 499D, are in addition to the 11-course requirement for the major and will not count toward the major requirements. POLISCI 499C and 499D, which are taught by Political Science Department faculty, will each count toward the upper-level major requirements.

Please describe the requirements that you are proposing, listing course requirements, elective options, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

The Department of Political Science requires majors to complete a minimum of 45 credits in Political Science, including the Junior Year Writing and Integrative Experience requirements. All courses counted toward the major must be taken for a letter grade, and no fewer than 6 of the 11 required Political
Science courses must be taken within the UMass Amherst Department of Political Science. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA within the major as well as overall at the University in order to graduate.

Introductory Requirement
All Political Science majors must complete at least three courses (for students entering between 9/1/2013-8/31/2014) or 12 credits (for students entering after 9/1/2014) in 100-level Political Science courses, with one course/4 credits in each of the following categories.
Category 1. American Politics (101), Introduction to Constitutional Law (162) or Controversies in Public Policy (181)
Category 2. Comparative Politics (111) or World Politics (121)
Category 3. Introduction to Political Theory (171), American Political Thought (203), Ancient Political Thought (270), Modern Political Thought (271), or Power (273)

Upper-Level Requirement
Twenty four credits of Political Science upper-level courses (200-level or above) that carry three or more credits each, at least 12 of which must be 300-level or above. The Political Science Junior Year Writing course (399J) and the Integrative Experience course may be counted among these credits if Political Science is the student's primary major.
Not more than one of these courses can be an independent study course or a graded internship. Honors research, Honors project, and Honors thesis courses (499Y, 499P, 499T), other than POLISCI 499C and POLISCI 499D, are in addition to the 11-course requirement for the major and will not count toward the major requirements. POLISCI 499C and 499D, which are taught by Political Science Department faculty, will each count toward the upper-level major requirements.

Additionally, all students must complete a Global Education and Skills sequence of at least 9 credits. These credits are above and beyond coursework currently required for major (no double-counting). All of these credits must be taken for a letter grade, with a minimum grade of 2.0. With the exception of the ‘Global Courses’ path, the courses need not be taken within the Department. At least one course taken to fulfill the major's Global Education and Skills requirement must have an international focus (if a topical course), be a foreign language, or be taken during a departmentally approved study abroad.

Options:
Students can fulfill Global Knowledge/Skills requirement by completing one of the following paths.
1. Global Courses Path: The Political Science major is designating certain Political Science courses as fulfilling ‘Global’ component. Students take three ‘Global’-designated courses of their choice. There would not be double-counting of courses to fulfill this requirement.
2. Certificate Path: The Political Science major is designating certain global/internationally oriented certificate programs as satisfying ‘Global’ requirement. Students select one certificate program and complete it. Students must complete the Certificate in order to receive credit for this path.
3. Departmentally Approved Study Abroad Path: Students can fulfill the Global Knowledge/Skills requirement by completing 9 credits for a letter grade through an IPO-approved study abroad semester (they do NOT have to take Political Science courses to complete the requirement). Only the first 9 credits would be required to fulfill the Global Knowledge/Skills requirement.
4. Language Path: Students choose a foreign language (any foreign language would be acceptable) and complete sequence of at least 3 courses in that foreign language. All courses must be in same language. Students would start at current level of proficiency. Additionally, courses must cumulate to the extent feasible given existing course offerings: students must progress toward greater proficiency. For the purposes of the Global Education requirement students would not be able to test out using prior foreign language experience. (However, valid college-level foreign language courses taken at other institutions would count for this requirement. Additionally, students officially double-majoring – or minoring – in a foreign language who had achieved the requisite credits would be given credit).
5. Individualized Global Knowledge and Skills Path: An individualized program of study, comprised of 9 credits, designed by the student and approved in advance by (1) a faculty advisor and (2) the undergraduate program director. (On an individual basis with clear need, a faculty advisor and the
undergraduate program director could approve such paths retroactively, to accommodate transfer students or other special cases).

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has provided a rationale for transforming international and intercultural education in the B.A. majors from the college-level Global Education Requirement to departmental requirements. Please see document Rationale for Transformation of International & Intercultural Education in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences (attached) for this overall rationale.

Within this framework, the Political Science major has revised our requirements in order to retain a strong emphasis to global education while at the same time tailoring the requirements to the needs and demands of Political Science students. Our revision is calibrated to encourage students to develop greater expertise or experience in ONE of several areas with great relevance to Political Science: specialized knowledge of a particular area of comparative or international politics (Options 1-2); greater in-person knowledge of a foreign culture (Options 3-4); or both (Option 5).

Academic Requirements Review

Requirement: V. In addition to the Gen Ed, Diversity, and College requirements, you must complete the following Major requirements: (rg74)
Rule: Introductory Requirements
Line: 1. Take PoliSci 101, 162 or 181. (r11845,ln10)
Line: 2. Take PoliSci 111 or 121. (r11845,ln20)
Line: 3. Take PoliSci 171. (r11845,ln30)
Rule: Junior Year Writing
Line: 1. Take PoliSci 399J. (r11846,ln10)
Rule: Upper-Level Electives
Line: **POLISCI 499P, 499T and 499Y may not be applied to major requirements**
Line: **No pass/fails allowed**
Recall: CAT
Recall: ITC
Line: **No more than 5 courses or 15 credits from transfer, exchange or 5-College**
Recall: TRA
Recall: NTS
Recall: GUS
Recall: TRA
Recall: NTS
Recall: GUS
Line: **No more than one Independent Study or graded Internship may be applied to major requirements and acceptance is subject to departmental approval.**
Line: 1. Take 12 credits of Political Science courses numbered 300 and above that carry 3 or more credits. (r11884,ln30)
Line: 2. Take 12 credits of Political Science courses numbered 200 and above that carry 3 or more credits. (r11884,ln40)
Line: 3. Take at least 36 credits of courses in Political Science. (r11884,ln50)
Recall: GUS
Recall: GUS
Rule: **Additional Political Science Courses (r10220)
Line: Other Courses
Recall: USD
Recall: ITC
If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

This proposal does not require additional resources within SBS or the Political Science major, although the college and department continue to point out the unusually high student to faculty ratios within SBS and call for faculty hiring to address this imbalance. Under the proposed curriculum changes, we expect some increases in demand for courses within our SBS, particularly those that are identified as fulfilling international/intercultural requirements within the department. This additional demand has already been considered by us in approving this major change proposal.

(Please refer to Proposal #2754 in the Course and Curriculum Management System for the Track Changes and the Rationale for Transformation of International and Intercultural Education in CSBS.)