SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

GRADUATE COUNCIL

concerning

REVISION OF A DEGREE PROGRAM:
BIOSTATISTICS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY PUBLIC HEALTH (PhD)
(#4444)

Presented at the
777th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 12, 2018

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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The Graduate Council recommends approval of this proposal.

Please describe your proposal

This proposal is for a very minor change to the doctoral seminar requirement for the PHD in Public Health (emphasis, Epidemiology). Currently, PHD students in this program are required to take 3 credits of the 1 credit class EPI 892a, Doctoral Seminar. We have recently created a 1 credit class called Advanced Epidemiologic Methods Seminar (EPI 892bw). The proposal is to allow this course to count toward meeting the 3 credit doctoral seminar requirement. In addition, other very minor changes have been made to the "student and advising tracking form" including updating course listings to be current (dropping mention of some courses no longer offered) and small changes in formatting.
Please describe the existing program requirements, listing all required courses and available electives, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

As noted above, the current requirements that are relevant here are 3 times taking a seminar course for doctoral students that has varied in specific content, but is more or less a "journal club" like format where students develop skills in critical review of published literature in the field.

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

We are proposing an alteration the requirement that students specifically take 3 times 892a, Doctoral Seminar, and instead are allowed an expanded range of classes that are also doctoral level seminars. Currently, that list would be limited to 892a and 892bw, Advanced Methods in Epidemiology Seminar

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.

The PhD students have limited opportunities to develop methodologic expertise beyond that gained from the coursework that overlaps with the MS students. This proposal keeps the spirit of the previous requirement but, but providing the students the option to cover advanced methodologic topics in epidemiology under the guidance of faculty will help their professional development.

Academic Requirements Review

Resources

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 requires no additional resources. The PhD students will continue to be required to take 3 credits of doctoral seminar that have been taught by faculty in epidemiology, however, the topic of these seminars will be expanded.

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of a Degree Program: Biostatistics 23-18 and Epidemiology Public Health (PhD), as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-054.