

Revised 7/23/07

PROPOSAL SUMMARY AND ROUTING FORM

Proposal Title: GPA Requirement for the Communication Minor as listed on the Checksheet

Initiating Unit or Individual: Communication-Department of Humanities

Contact Person's Name: Elizabeth Wilson e-mail: wilsonel@ferris.edu phone: 591-2530

Date or Term of Proposal Implementation: Fall 2010

- Group I - A – New degree/major or major, redirection of a current offering, or elimination of a degree, major or minor**
- Group I - B – New minors or concentrations**
- Group II - A – Minor curriculum clean-up and course changes**
- Group II - B – New Course**
- Group III - Certificates**
- Group IV – Off-Campus Programs**

Group/Individual	Signature	Date	Vote/Action *
Program or Academic Unit Faculty	<i>[Signature]</i>	10/1/09	9 Support Support with Concerns 1 Not Support
Department Faculty			Support Support with Concerns Not Support
Department Head	<i>[Signature]</i>	10/2/09	✓ Support Support with Concerns Not Support
College Curriculum Committee	<i>[Signature]</i>	1/26/10	5 Support Support with Concerns 0 Not Support
Dean	<i>[Signature]</i>		✓ Support Support with Concerns Not Support
University Curriculum Committee	<i>[Signature]</i>	3/15/10	✓ Support Support with Concerns Not Support
Senate	<i>[Signature]</i>	3/15/10	✓ Support Support with Concerns Not Support
Academic Affairs	<i>[Signature]</i>	3/15/10	✓ Support Support with Concerns Not Support

* Support with Concerns or Not Support must include a list of specific concerns. Votes must be shown for faculty groups. Administrators check appropriate action taken. See attachment "Alspach's concerns."

To be completed by Academic Affairs		
President (Date Approved)	Board of Trustees (Date Approved)	President's Council (Date Approved)

VCAA
 MAR 15 2010
 PROVOST

1. Proposal Summary

(Summary is generally less than one page. Briefly: state what is proposed with a summary of rationale and highlights. Additional rationale may be attached.)

When the Communication Minor was proposed and approved, the GPA requirement was a 2.5. This was consistent with the standard for all coursework in the major at that time. In 2001 the communication area decided to modify this standard for the BS and BA programs: the GPA requirement was changed to a 2.00 and students were to earn a C in all COMM courses, English courses as well as ISYS 105 which was required in the BS.

The area is putting forth this proposal because we decided that it is inappropriate to expect minors to earn a higher GPA than majors, especially since communication is not their area of specialization. As it presently stands, it appears as though we are expecting more from our minors with respect to grade point average. In the catalog, it states that the GPA requirement for the minor is a 2.00 which suggests that the check sheet may not have been changed due to an oversight. In addition, there has been confusion on the part of some faculty as to what numerical value a C is since some erroneously thought a C was a 2.5. Hence, several factors may have contributed to the fact that the GPA requirement in the minor has not been in line with the AA, BA and BS degrees. This proposal aims to rectify this discrepancy.

2. Summary of All Course Action Required*

a. Newly Created Courses to FSU:
Prefix Number Title

b. Courses to be Deleted From FSU Catalog:
Prefix Number Title

c. Existing Course(s) to be Modified:
Prefix Number Title

d. Addition of existing FSU courses to program
Prefix Number Title

e. Removal of existing FSU courses from program
Prefix Number Title

*Contact Senate Secretary or UCC Chair if spaces for additional courses are needed.

Sandy Alspach's Concerns

OK - here's my position. First, the discrepancy between the catalog and the check sheet reflects the inactivity on the part of the administrators in VPAA's office to update catalogs when requested. The check sheet has been the official reflection of our actions since I worked with Rick Kowalkoski, because we were both frustrated with the inability to change the 'catalog', but we could update the check sheets annually. That is why all advisors get 'fresh' check sheets every fall.

In regards to lowering the overall gpa in the Application to the Workplace and the COMM minor, I think we're mixing apples and oranges in this discussion. The C standard in the major was designed to require our majors to get C or better in the courses designated as COMM 'core', COMM electives, and ENGL and ISYS 105 (which we're dropping as a requirement, right? it wasn't on your list - but that vote passed on MY watch). We decided to have nothing to do with an overall gpa in the major anymore. As I explained before, we agreed to the C standard when majors were graduating with D's in COMM 299 and/or 300, and even 499. Also, we were reflecting the move on campus to establish letter-grade standards for courses, like Allied Health and now ENGL with their C standard in ENGL 250 to advance to the 300 level writing courses.

The 2.5 standard in the App to the Workplace and the Minor was set as a reasonable bar for rigor for students who

a) were venturing out of our major into other majors on campus and might need to 'eat' an occasional D, but ought to perform well overall in that area.

b) were venturing into our minor from other majors who might need to 'eat' a lower grade in COMM 299 (although my experience was that these students frequently out-performed our majors in that course) or another upper-level COMM course.

In this case, the gpa standard rather than the letter grade standard has a supportable rationale.

Finally, I've got concerns that lowering our overall gpa in these two areas to a 2.0 reflects an acquiescence to minimal expectations of our majors and minors, and feeds the campus-wide perception that we are a 'soft' (lacking rigor) academic discipline. This attitude does not serve us well in recruiting majors or minors from within the Ferris community - and I believe we will continue to see poor students coming to us as a way "out" with a Ferris degree because they are not finding success in other Ferris programs. Do the math for a moment and realize what grades a student would need to earn a 2.0 - the bare minimum to graduate from Ferris in many programs (but others have higher standards). Do not complain that we have graduated majors (or minors) we are not very proud of, if you decide to lower the bar even further than we had set it.

I don't see any conflict in having different standards for our majors in COMM courses and our majors out of COMM or our minors. It requires a bit more attention to advising. But, in my opinion, that attention is worth the effort.

In the words of one of my favorite American writers, Ralph Waldo Emerson: "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds."

Consider my vote as "No" on this issue when you forward our changes through the curricular process.

Sandra L. "Sandy" Alspach, Ph.D.
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DRAFT

Date: Dec. 12, 2009

To: Various reviewers

From: Lon Green, Speech Communication Studies 

Re: 'concerns'

I have been asked to respond to the 'concerns' of an individual faculty member regarding the vote of the entire faculty of the speech communication area to approve curriculum changes submitted through the various administrative steps for such processes. I will admit to some surprise at the request for response, since the will of the faculty is made clear in the nature of the vote to approve (9-1) the submitted changes. Such a request appears to ignore the general will of the large majority while focusing on the dissent of a single individual. I have to believe the request will be considered at best disingenuous as it appears to indicate a clear desire to question not only the general will of that faculty group, but also the professionalism and professional functioning of the group as a whole by suggesting we would somehow 'disregard' the professional opinions and positions of a fellow faculty member. That is inconsistent with any action taken by the faculty of this area in the many years we have worked together.

During the discussions regarding these changes, each individual faculty member was provided more than adequate opportunity to voice and express concerns in both writing and in faculty meetings about each of the submitted changes. Each concern was discussed by the faculty as a whole prior to a vote. Given the history of commitment and effort by this faculty, I have every confidence the expressed concerns were subsequently considered by each faculty member prior to the final vote. A vote was taken, and the will of the faculty on the matter made clear.

Communication Minor • *Minor*

Why Choose a Communication Minor?

The communication minor at Ferris is the perfect complement to just about any course of study. Required courses help students develop skills in public presentation, interpersonal communication and group dynamics. This is supplemented by coursework in communication theory. Students build on this foundation by electing 9 credits of 300 level courses that are relevant to their interests or career goals. This, in turn, allow students to design a minor which enhances their marketability in today's competitive world while improving their personal communication skills in ways that can lead to greater success and satisfaction in their private lives.

Admission Requirements

The communication minor is open to any student admitted to Ferris State and pursuing a baccalaureate degree except those pursuing a B.S. in Applied Speech Communication or a B.A. in Communication.

Graduation Requirements

An academic minor may only be awarded upon completion of a baccalaureate degree at Ferris State. The communication minor requires a minimum of 21 credits of course work in communication, nine of which are at the 300 or above level, completion of COMM 299 (Theories of Human Communication), and a minimum 2.0 grade average in all communication course work comprising the minor. Students having already completed COMM 105 or COMM 121 prior to declaring their intent to pursue the minor may substitute COMM 105 for COMM 200 and COMM 121 for COMM 201.

Also, 50 percent of the credits for a minor must be taught by Ferris State University.

Required Courses

	Credit Hours
COMM 200 Found of Interpersonal Comm	3
COMM 201 Public Presentation Practice	3
COMM 221 Small Group Decision Making	3
COMM 299 Theories Human Communication	3
COMM 300 Level	3
COMM 300 Level	3
COMM 300 Level	3



More Information

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

C O L L E G E O F A R T S & S C I E N C E S

(CURRENT)

COMMUNICATION MINOR

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ADVISOR: Dr. Lon Green

PHONE: (231) 591-2781

E-MAIL: greenl@ferris.edu

CAMPUS ADDRESS: JOH 121

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Admission Requirements

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MINOR IN COMMUNICATION

NAME _____ STUDENT NUMBER _____

STUDENT'S COLLEGE: _____ B.S/ B.A. PROGRAM: _____

Procedures:

- 1) The student and the advisor for this minor will review and complete the General Requirements and Required Courses sections of this form (Section A).
- 2) Upon completion of Section A, this form will be sent to the department office for approval. The original form will be filed in the appropriate office (either the advisor or the department) and copied for the student. Students in Bachelor of Arts degree programs must also provide a copy of this form to both the B.A. coordinator and their faculty advisor. All deviations from or substitutions for courses listed in this original plan must be approved by the Department Head on official Course Substitution Forms and must accompany this form.
- 3) Upon completion of this minor, the student will request the department and the advisor to verify that the student has completed the minor and will forward the original form to the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office for approval and from there it will be forwarded either to the Registrar's Office (Section B) or to the B.A. coordinator as appropriate.

SECTION A	General Requirements:			
	1) At least 9 of the credits of the minor must be numbered 300 or higher			
	2) At least 50% of the credits of the minor must be Ferris State University credits			
	3) This minor requires a minimum of 21 credits			
	4) This minor requires a minimum GPA of <u>2.5</u> in these courses:			
	Required Courses	Credit Hours	Grade	Semester Completed
	COMM 200	3		
	COMM 201	3		
	COMM 221	3		
	COMM 299	3		
COMM 300+ Level	3			
COMM 300 +Level	3			
COMM 300 +Level	3			
Signatures			Date	
Student				
Advisor				
Department/ Dean				

SECTION B	Routing (FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE REQUIRED COURSES FOR THE MINOR)		Date
	College of Arts & Sciences		
	Registrar's Office		

DECLARATION SENT TO RECORDS _____ COMPLETION SENT TO RECORDS _____

PROPOSED
COMMUNICATION MINOR

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ADVISOR: Dr. Lon Green

PHONE: (231) 591-2781

E-MAIL: greenl@ferris.edu

CAMPUS ADDRESS: JOH 121

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MINOR IN COMMUNICATION

NAME _____ STUDENT NUMBER _____

STUDENT'S COLLEGE: _____ B.S/ B.A. PROGRAM: _____

Procedures:

- 1) The student and the advisor for this minor will review and complete the General Requirements and Required Courses sections of this form (Section A).
- 2) Upon completion of Section A, this form will be sent to the department office for approval. The original form will be filed in the appropriate office (either the advisor or the department) and copied for the student. Students in Bachelor of Arts degree programs must also provide a copy of this form to both the B.A. coordinator and their faculty advisor. All deviations from or substitutions for courses listed in this original plan must be approved by the Department Head on official Course Substitution Forms and must accompany this form.
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SECTION A	General Requirements:			
	1) At least 9 of the credits of the minor must be numbered 300 or higher			
	2) At least 50% of the credits of the minor must be Ferris State University credits			
	3) This minor requires a minimum of 21 credits			
	4) This minor requires a minimum GPA of <u>2.0</u> in these courses:			
	Required Courses	Credit Hours	Grade	Semester Completed
	COMM 105	3		
	COMM 121	3		
	COMM 221	3		
	COMM 299	3		
COMM 300+ Level	3			
COMM 300 +Level	3			
COMM 300 +Level	3			
Signatures			Date	
Student				
Advisor				
Department/ Dean				

SECTION B	Routing (FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE REQUIRED COURSES FOR THE MINOR)		Date
	College of Arts & Sciences		
	Registrar's Office		

DECLARATION SENT TO RECORDS _____ COMPLETION SENT TO RECORDS _____