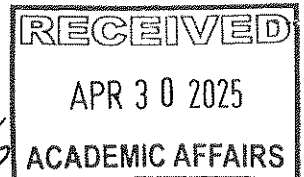


To: Dr. Scott Tollison
Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs

From: Bob Sample, Ph.D.
Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Council

Date: 17 April 2025

Re: UCC Curricular Recommendations

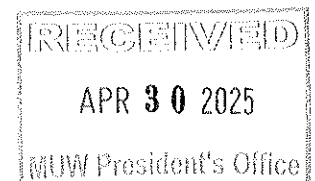


*Approved
mm
6/1/25
Recommend
for
Approval
4/30/25*

On April 4th, 2025, the Undergraduate Curriculum Council met and reviewed proposals submitted by the School of Education and the College of Arts and Science. The UCC took the following actions:

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

- 1. Modifying an Existing Course – HED 314 – Principles of Epidemiology**
Description: Prerequisite change for HED 314
Rationale: This course is required for students pursuing the minor and those majoring in Health Care Management. Faculty frequently request overrides to allow these students to enroll in HED 314, and they successfully complete the course. This demonstrates that HED 240 and HED 241 are not essential prerequisites for success in HED 314.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.
- 2. Creating a New Course – HED 445 – Professionalism in Public Health**
Description: This course is designed to prepare students for internship and for applying for public health jobs post-graduation.
Rationale: This course is designed to streamline the transition from coursework to the public health education internship, ensuring that students are fully prepared for this critical field experience. By providing structured guidance on professional ethics, job readiness, and job search strategies, students will be able to approach their internships with confidence and professionalism.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.



3. **Modifying an Existing Course – HED 450 – Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation of Public Health**
Description: Changing prerequisite for HED 450
Rationale: HED 350 is now an elective, so it will no longer be a prerequisite. Instead, HED 355 (Planning and Evaluation Models in Public Health) is the required course, providing students with the foundational planning models they will need to apply in HED 450.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.
4. **Modifying an Existing Course – HED 498**
Description: Changing prerequisite for HED 498
Rationale: The current prerequisites for the course are HED 314, 315, 316, 320, 325, and 350. However, HED 315, 316, 320, 325, and 350 are now electives and no longer appropriate as prerequisites. Additionally, HED 314 is one of the first courses students take upon entering the major and does not need to be a prerequisite. If necessary, students should be able to complete HED 498 and HED 314 concurrently. Instead, we propose requiring HED 445 (Professionalism in Public Health), which better prepares students for internships by addressing common challenges, securing a site, and completing necessary documentation.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.
5. **Modifying an Existing Curriculum – BS in Public Health Education**
Description: Remove HED 350 as a required course, add HED 445 as a required course, and eliminate HED 499 Research in Public Health Education as a capstone option.
Rationale: This change reduces redundancy (HED 350 overlaps with HED 355 and HED 450) and ensures HED 445 helps students reflect on public health professionalism and prepare for internships. Since public health is primarily a practice-based field, undergraduate students benefit more from an internship than a research capstone, even if they plan to pursue an MPH.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.
6. **Modifying an Existing Curriculum – BS in Public Health Education Healthcare Navigator Track**
Description: Remove HED 350 as a required course, add HED 445 as a required course, and eliminate HED 499 Research in Public Health Education as a capstone option.
Rationale: This change reduces redundancy (HED 350 overlaps with HED 355 and HED 450) and ensures HED 445 helps students reflect on public health professionalism and prepare for internships. Since public health is primarily a practice-based field, undergraduate students benefit more from an internship than a research capstone, even if they plan to pursue an MPH.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

7. **Modifying an Existing Curriculum – BAS in Public Health Education**
Description: Remove HED 350 as a required course, add HED 445 as a required course, and eliminate HED 499 Research in Public Health Education as a capstone option.
Rationale: This change reduces redundancy (HED 350 overlaps with HED 355 and HED 450) and ensures HED 445 helps students reflect on public health professionalism and prepare for internships. Since public health is primarily a practice-based field, undergraduate students benefit more from an internship than a research capstone, even if they plan to pursue an MPH.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.
8. **Modifying an Existing Curriculum – BAS in Public Health Education Healthcare Navigator Track**
Description: Remove HED 350 as a required course, add HED 445 as a required course, and eliminate HED 499 Research in Public Health Education as a capstone option.
Rationale: This change reduces redundancy (HED 350 overlaps with HED 355 and HED 450) and ensures HED 445 helps students reflect on public health professionalism and prepare for internships. Since public health is primarily a practice-based field, undergraduate students benefit more from an internship than a research capstone, even if they plan to pursue an MPH.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

College of Arts and Sciences

9. **Creating a New Curriculum – Certificate in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies**
Description: The Certificate in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies provides knowledge in the field of gerontology. The program is to equip students with multidisciplinary understanding of aging processes, policies, and services. With the student's major, this certificate program prepares students for careers working with older adults and their families and provides a foundation for further study in gerontology.
Rationale: The aging population is rapidly increasing, creating a demand for professionals with specialized knowledge in gerontology. This certificate program addresses this need by providing students with the skills and knowledge required to work effectively with older adults.
In 2018, Psychology and Family Studies offered a gerontology minor; however, few students completed the minor over the past eight years. Information provided by the American Society on Aging (ASA) and the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) indicate that most undergraduates do not see the need for further training on working with aging populations until they enter the workplace. Thus, students are unlikely to seek out a minor that requires 18 or more credit hours, only a few of which count toward their major. Both the GSA and the ASA recommend that certificate programs be offered to undergraduates, as they require fewer credit hours to complete and do not limit the number of overlapping courses; furthermore, these programs are more accessible--especially if offered as fully online programs--for working professionals.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

- 10. Modifying an Existing Course – FSC 203 – Professional Issues**
Description: Add restriction to FSC 203, professional issues
Rationale: Students who are neither majors nor minors enroll in the course to fill credit hour requirements; this course is required by our accrediting body and is designed to help majors and minors explore career options and professional development in family science. The course is not designed for non-majors or minors to explore how they can use any skills or knowledge from this course (and other family science coursework that majors take) can apply to their fields of study. Students outside the major and minor do not find such reflection useful for them.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.
- 11. Creating a New Course – FSC 327 – Emerging Adulthood**
Description: Proposal to formally create an Emerging Adulthood course FSC 327
Rationale: Currently, no other institution in Mississippi offers a course on the Emerging Adulthood developmental period.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.
- 12. Modifying an Existing Curriculum – Gerontology Minor**
Description: Inactivate the Gerontology minor program
Rationale: The Gerontology minor program has seen no enrollment in recent years, and the two faculty members who taught its elective courses have left The W. To address this issue, the program coordinator proposes inactivating the Gerontology minor and introducing a new Certificate in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies, effective Fall 2025.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.
- 13. Modifying an Existing Course – PSY 110 – Orientation to the Psychology Major**
Description: Change number for PSY 110 to PSY 210.
Rationale: Course content includes information about the W's course numbering system. For example, that 100-level courses are for first-year students. The course's current number is inconsistent with the system.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.
- 14. Creating a New Course – PSY 365 – Applied Cognitive Aging**
Description: A new course PSY 365 Applied Cognitive Aging is proposed to be adapted from previous course PSY 499 Special Topic in PSY: Cognitive Aging.
Rationale: PSY 365 Applied Cognitive Aging will establish a recurring course developed from the PSY 499 Special Topic: Cognitive Aging course offered in Fall 2024. This course will be a requirement of the proposed Certificate in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.
- 15. Modifying an Existing Course – PSY 455 – Research Methods**
Description: Change PSY 455 course title to simplify it.
Rationale: Title is long and overly broad as the course targets Family Science and Psychology majors. Faculty and students refer to the course as Research Methods.
Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

College of Business and Professional Studies

16. **Modifying an Existing Curriculum – BBA in Sports Management – Replace MGT 352**

Description: MGT 352 (Culture and Diversity in Organizations) is currently a required course for the sports management concentration. This change will add BU 383 (Leadership) to the curriculum, changing the requirement for MGT 352 to a "pick one" option between BU 383 and MGT 352.

Rationale: MGT 352, the Culture and Diversity in Organizations course has consistently struggled to meet the enrollment minimums. It is a narrow topic that has limited interest among undergraduate students. Although it is also an elective for other business concentrations, only those who are absolutely required to take the course, choose it. This change will add BU 383 as an option that students can choose instead of MGT 352 to fulfill the requirements for the concentration. BU 383, Leadership has a broader focus, but still addresses the relevant topics that were covered in MGT 352. It is a required course in several other business concentrations and a popular elective among business students and does not have the challenge of making enrollment minimums.

Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

17. **Modifying an Existing Course – DEC 200**

Description: Remove the prerequisites from a course.

Rationale: College-level math is not needed prior to taking this course. Any secondary-level math that is needed will be refreshed in the course.

Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

18. **Modifying an Existing Course – FIN 355**

Description: Change a current prerequisite to a prerequisite/corequisite

Rationale: Statistics used in the course are minimal and are taught as part of the course

Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

19. **Modifying an Existing Curriculum – Sports Management Minor – Adding BU 383**

Description: Add a course to the list of course options for the Sports Management minor.

Rationale: Adding BU 383 as a choice within the minor will bring the course offerings in alignment with the concentration courses offered or required in the major. This addition will maintain consistency between the two degrees and the minor for this concentration.

Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

20. Modifying an Existing Curriculum – BAS Sports Management – Adding BU 383

Description: To make the courses offered for the BAS Sports Management concentration consistent with courses that are offered or required for the BBA.

Rationale: Adding BU 383 as an elective would align the course offerings for the BAS with those offered or required for the BBA. This would give BAS students the option to choose this course as one of the 12 hours of electives required within the program. This addition will maintain consistency between the two degrees and the minor for this concentration.

Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

21. Modifying an Existing Curriculum – BBA Sports Management – Replace MGT 352

Description: Add an additional course option to the BBA Sports Management curriculum.

Rationale: MGT 352 (Culture and Diversity in Organizations) is currently a required course for the sports management concentration. This change will add BU 383 (Leadership) to the curriculum, changing the requirement for MGT 352 to a "pick one" option between BU 383 and MGT 352.

Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

School of Education

1. Modifying an Existing Curriculum – Early Childhood Education

Description: To better prepare our teacher candidates for today's classrooms and obtaining licensure for early childhood education from the Mississippi Department of Education.

Rationale: MDE informed our department that ED 362 Early Literacy Instruction II is required for Early Childhood Education majors. We are dropping ED 411 Methods and Materials in Language Arts during the first-semester senior-year and replacing it with ED 362.

Outcome: The UCC approved this proposal unanimously.

The next UCC meeting will be Friday, May 2nd at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,



RC Sample, Assoc. Prof. of Microbiology, Chair UCC
Department of Sciences and Mathematics