

**Curriculum Council Agenda  
January 7, 2008**

**I. Change in Psychology Minor Requirements:**

*Current Requirements:*

Six course units including:

- 1) psychology 100
- 2) either 211, 212, or 213
- 3) either 215, 217, or 218
- 4) psychology 227 (or equivalent statistics course)
- 5) psychology 300
- 6) one additional course numbered 300 or above

*Proposed Requirements:*

Six course units of which at least two are upper division. If students meet competencies through advanced placement or through coursework in another department, they must take additional courses to meet unit requirements. Requirements include:

- 1) psychology 100
- 2) either 211, 212, or 213
- 3) either 215, 217, or 218
- 4) completion of methodology requirement (see below)
- 5) two additional courses numbered 300 or above

*Research Methodology Competency*

This requirement can be met in several ways:

- a) Psychological Methods (PSY 301) Most minor students will select this option. It includes coverage of both statistics and research methods.
- b) Statistics (227 or equivalent) and Research Methods (300). This two course requirement is recommended for students desiring to pursue rigorous methodology sequence that will prepare them to do further research.
- c) Completion of a statistics/methodology course in another department. In most cases, this will include a course in statistics and a course in research design.

**RATIONALE:**

Psychology previously required completion of statistics (Psychology 227 or equivalent) and Research Methods (Psychology 300). We are now providing students with options for addressing this methodology competence. We have two major rationales for this change.

First, a number of minor students are having difficulty passing our Psychology 300 course. This is a writing intensive course that is quite demanding. Students without a strong commitment to the scientific basis of psychology and/or students without a strong statistics background often have considerable

difficulty in the course. We believe that the needs of many students are best served by taking a more general methodology course either in psychology (course proposal to be developed) or in another department (e.g., Sociology 227/327, Biology 209).

Second, we are having difficulty providing sufficient seats in Psychology 227 and 300 to meet the needs of the large number of students seeking to minor in psychology. This will shift them from these courses to others.