The University of Texas at El Paso

Curriculum Change Proposal

Approval Page

Proposal Title: Online Communication Minors: Removal of Minor Requirement

Department Chair
I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.

Stacey L. Sowards
3/23/2017

Signature
Date

College Curriculum Committee Chairperson
I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature
Date

College Dean
I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

Signature
Date

Graduate Council/Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Council Action: □ Approved □ Returned to the College

Date of Action Report: __________________________

Signature, Chairman
Date
Undergraduate Curriculum Change Memo

Date: March 23, 2017
From: Stacey Sowards, Chair, Department of Communication
Through: Michael Topp, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Through: Patricia Witherspoon, Dean, College of Liberal Arts
To: Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Subject: Admission requirement change

Our department requests that the minor requirement for our two online majors (Media Advertising and Organizational and Corporate Communication) no longer be required. This change will mean that the face to face and online versions of these majors will not be the same, as we will keep the minor requirement for the face to face majors.

The first reason to make this change is to help our students move through the online degree plans more efficiently by reducing the number of required courses (but not the number of required hours) to complete the major. Students will still need 120 credits to graduate, but this change will give them more flexibility in completing their undergraduate degree. This will also help transfer and returning students because they lose credits when they transfer; given the minimal number of minor options available online, it would be advantageous if more of their transfer/returning student credits could count toward their degrees.

Secondly, because there are not very many minor options for the online degree programs, students will be able to graduate in a more timely fashion as they will not have to wait for required courses to come up to complete their degrees.

A third reason is that the department already offers one face to face degree that does not require a minor (digital media production), so changing the minor requirement would already be in line with another face to face program in our department. Criminal Justice also offers their online degree program, and does not require a minor.

Finally, given that students will be required to complete block electives and core classes, they will still receive a well-rounded liberal arts education even without the minor requirement.
Change to degree plan would include removal of the following language:

Minor not required:

This program does not require the selection of a minor.