

For Academic Programs Office Use Only  
 R. E. \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog \_\_\_\_\_ File \_\_\_\_\_

**PROGRAM CHANGE PROPOSAL - Form P-2**

COLLEGE  CHABSS  CoBA  CoEHHS  CSM

TITLE OF PROGRAM BA in Psychology

Discipline PSYC

Check one:  Change to Program  Program Deletion

\_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF DEGREE PROGRAM: BA in Psychology

This form is the signature sheet for a change to, or deletion of, an existing program.  
 Note that the addition of a new option/concentration/emphasis/track is a new "program," and requires the use of Form P.

For a change to a program,

1. Attach a page (or pages) giving a brief summary of the purpose of this proposal, and its connection to the mission and student learning outcomes of the program.
2. Attach catalog copy showing exactly how the program should appear in the catalog if the changes are approved.

For a program deletion, attach a statement explaining the impact on students: how will the program be "taught-out" for declared majors?

\_\_\_\_\_

Does this proposal impact other disciplines or units? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes  No If yes, obtain signature(s).  
 Any objections or concerns should be stated in writing and attached to this form. Please check the box to indicate whether a memo has been attached.

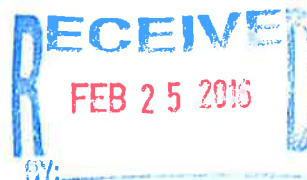
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____ Support	_____ Oppose
Discipline/Unit	Signature		Date		
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____ Support	_____ Oppose
Discipline/Unit	Signature		Date		
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Discipline/Unit	Signature		Date		
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____ Support	_____ Oppose
Discipline/Unit	Signature		Date		

\_\_\_\_\_

1. <u>Miriam Schustack</u> Originator (Please Print)	<u>2/2/2016</u> Date	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. <u>[Signature]</u> Program/ Department - Director/Chair	<u>2/2/2016</u> Date
<b>APPROVAL PROCESS</b>				
3. <u>[Signature]</u> College Curriculum Committee^	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>2/24/16</u> Date	4. <u>[Signature]</u> College Dean (or Designee)*	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<u>2/24/16</u> Date
5a. _____ University Curriculum Committee^	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	5b. _____ Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee (if applicable)^	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Date		Date
6. _____ Academic Senate	_____	Date	7. _____ Provost (or Designee)	_____
		Date		Date
8. _____ President	_____	Date	9. _____ Date to Chancellor's Office (if applicable)	
		Date		

\* Where appropriate, attach a memo on program impact on the unit and the ability of the unit to support it. Check the box next to the signature line to indicate whether a memo has been attached.

^ Where appropriate, attach a memo summarizing the curricular and/or resource deliberations. Check the box next to the signature line to indicate whether a memo has been attached.



## **Rationale for Changing the Name of the Psychology BA program**

We are seeking approval to change the name of our undergraduate Psychology BA program, currently “Bachelor of Arts in Psychology” to “Bachelor of Arts in Psychological Science.” The reason for this request is outlined below. Note that we are also proposing, via separate P-2 forms, corresponding name changes to our Minor in Psychology and the Psychology MA program.

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior, and the mission statements, PSLOs, and curriculum of our Bachelor’s degree program reflect that definition. The mission statement for the Psychology B.A. says, “Our degree program emphasizes psychology as an empirical science and the development of skills that include written and oral communication, information literacy, quantitative and qualitative research methods, and critical analysis of complex problems.” Similarly, the second of the PSLOs for our undergraduate Psychology major is, “Describe the scientific approach to psychology and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, quantitative analysis, interpretation, and reporting in APA format.” Undergraduate psychology majors must take at least one statistics class, one research methods class, and two upper division laboratory classes; many students in our major also take independent research units that involve participation in one of our faculty research labs.

Our message to psychology students, both undergraduate and graduate, is that we are a scientific enterprise. However, many undergraduate students come into the major thinking that psychology is not a science, and in fact some of them say that they were drawn to psychology thinking that they would not have to “do science.” We have instituted many tactics to try to communicate the nature of our psychology program to potential new majors, including the strong messages we give students in lower division courses and on our website. We believe that a change in the name of our program, a change that emphasizes the fact that we do, in fact, “do science,” will help students make the right choices for themselves as they select their undergraduate majors. In addition, we are looking for ways to restrict the growth of our undergraduate major, and we believe that the proposed name change will help us do so, insofar as some students who are not well suited for our curriculum will be better informed by the name of our major, and choose alternative majors in which they will be more successful and happy.

This change would not have any direct resource or curricular impact in the short term—this is a name change only. Longer term, it might reduce the number of students choosing the Psychology major.