

For Academic Programs Office Use Only
R. E. _____ Catalog _____ File _____

PROGRAM CHANGE PROPOSAL - Form P-2

COLLEGE CHABSS CoBA CoEHHS CSM

TITLE OF PROGRAM M.A. in General Experimental Psychology

Discipline PSYC

Check one: Change to Program Program Deletion

TITLE OF DEGREE PROGRAM: M.A. in General Experimental 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.

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

1. Miriam Schustack 2/2/2016 2. [Signature] 2/2/2016
 Originator (Please Print) Date Program/ Department - Director/Chair Date

APPROVAL PROCESS

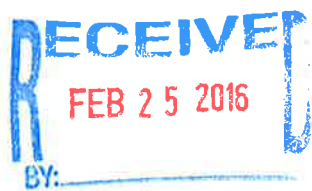
3. [Signature] 2/24/16 4. [Signature] 2/24/16
 College Curriculum Committee^ Date College Dean (or Designee) Date

5a. Date 5b. Date
 University Curriculum Committee^ Date Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee (if applicable)^ Date

6. _____ Date 7. _____ Date
 Academic Senate Date Provost (or Designee) Date

8. _____ Date 9. _____ Date
 President Date Date to Chancellor's Office (if applicable)

* 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 MA program

We are seeking approval to change the name of our graduate Psychology MA program from “Master of Arts in General Experimental Psychology” to “Master of Arts in Psychological Science.” The reasons for this request are outlined below. Note that we are also proposing, via separate P-2 forms, a corresponding name change to our Psychology BA program and Minor.

Similarly to the rationale for changing the name of our psychology BA program and minor, we believe that a change in the name of our graduate program will leave little doubt in the minds of potential applicants that ours is a research-based program. Despite clear descriptions of our program on our website, we receive multiple inquiries every year from potential graduate applicants who say they hope to attend our psychology graduate program in order to become a Marriage and Family Therapist, which is clearly not possible through our program. Likewise, every year we attract a few applicants who think that ours is a counseling program in which research is peripheral to central training in psychotherapy. We believe that the name change will help those who are beginning the process of selecting the graduate programs to which they will apply by distinguishing our program from counseling degrees. In addition, we think the name change will better serve students when they have completed our program, insofar as it clearly communicates that the degree they earned is a research degree. Finally, we note that the report of the external reviewers who visited our campus last fall (2015) included the recommendation that we change the name of our program to “Master of Arts in Psychological Science” to best reflect the content of our program and move away from the more outdated term, “Experimental Psychology.” Indeed, the name of our primary discipline-wide professional organization is “Association for Psychological Science.”

The mission statement for the Master of Arts says, “The active research programs of our faculty, and our recognition of psychology as a scientific enterprise, provide students with the intensive research training and course work in primary content areas that are central to preparation for more advanced graduate work.” The second PSLO for the Master’s program is, “Identify and explain basic research designs and statistical analyses, and appropriately apply these designs and analyses to independent research leading to and including the thesis.” Graduate students take graduate level statistics and research methods classes, and carry out an empirical thesis; over 30% of our graduate students opt to continue their education at the doctoral level, and of those students over 90% are accepted into research-based Ph.D. programs.

Our message to students, both undergraduate and graduate, is that we are a scientific enterprise. We believe that a change in the name of our program, a change that emphasizes the fact that we “do science,” will help students make the right choices for themselves for graduate study. Our applicants will be the ones for whom a degree in Psychological Science, with its clear focus on research, is appealing.

We note that Dean of Graduate Studies Wes Shultz is in full support of the proposed change to the graduate degree program. 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 either increase or reduce the number of students applying to our graduate program. This would likely have no impact, though, since the number of students admitted is primarily limited by the number of our tenure-track faculty.