PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEGREE PROGRAMS IN THE
UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2012-2014
or
LAW SCHOOL CATALOG 2012-2014

Type of Change

___ Nonacademic Change
___ Academic Change
___ Degree Program Change

1. NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM:
   B.S. ASTRONOMY

2. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST
   CONSULT NEAL ARMSTRONG WHO WILL DETERMINE WHETHER SACS-COC APPROVAL IS
   NEEDED.
   • Is this a new degree program? Yes or no? No
   • Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? Yes or no? No
   • Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? Yes or no? No

3. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM:
   1) Increase the required number of upper-division hours in residence from 18 to 21.
   2) In Option I, remove statement that only math courses at the level of calculus and above may be counted
      toward the degree.
   3) Honors Option: remove NSC 301C and replace with UGS 303

3a. Indicate pages in the undergraduate catalog where changes will be made.
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4. GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR CHANGE. INDIVIDUAL CHANGES SHOULD BE LISTED
   SEPARATELY.
   1) The change is intended to strengthen the overall degree. The change is in line with the Bachelor of Arts
      degree.
   2) This statement eliminates some of the core math courses from being counted. Deleted to allow core math
      courses to count.
   3) NSC 301C is no longer offered as the Dean’s Scholars seminar course. The Dean’s Scholars seminar course
      is now being replaced by a section of UGS 303 approved by the departmental honors adviser.

5. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE

5a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? If yes, then how? #2 Yes

    If yes, impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:
    Person communicated with: Larry Abraham
    Date of communication: 5/31/11
    Response: approved
5b. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain: No

If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:
Person communicated with:
Date of communication:
Response:

5c. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? If yes, explain:

6. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS
Department approval date: 06/10/11
College approval date: 06/10/11
Dean approval date: 09/26/11

Include proposed catalog copy below. The proposed text should be based on the text of the current catalog available at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/pages/catalog_chgs/catcopy.html. Strike through and replace only the specific language to be changed. For questions on completing this section, please contact Anita Ahmadi, fc@austin.utexas.edu, 471-5936 or Brenda Schumann, brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu, 475-7654.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ASTRONOMY

Astronomy tells us about the place of humankind in the universe: how Earth was created, how the Sun was formed, how galaxies form and evolve. It tells us where the universe is going and where it came from. Astronomers address these questions at a fundamental level. Their goal is to determine the basic and controlling properties of the universe and to transmit that knowledge to society. The Bachelor of Science in Astronomy is designed to give students an understanding of the universe and to prepare them to participate in the advancement of this exciting search.

Two options are available: astronomy and astronomy honors. Students who plan to follow option II, astronomy honors, must be admitted to the Dean's Scholars Honors Program as described on page 513.

PRESCRIBED WORK COMMON TO BOTH OPTIONS

All students pursuing an undergraduate degree must complete the University's core curriculum, described in chapter 2. The core includes courses in language, literature, social sciences, natural sciences, and fine arts.

In addition, students seeking the BSAst must complete the following degree-level requirements. In some cases, courses that fulfill degree-level requirements also meet the requirements of the core.

1. Two courses with a writing flag or a substantial writing component. One of these courses must be upper-division. Courses with a writing flag or a substantial writing component are identified in the Course Schedule. They may be used simultaneously to fulfill other requirements, unless otherwise specified.

2. Option I: One of the following foreign language/culture choices. Students in option II are exempt from this requirement.
   a. Second-semester-level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language.
   b. First-semester-level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language and a three-semester-hour course in the culture of the same language area.
   c. Two three-semester-hour courses in one foreign culture area. The courses must be chosen from an
approved list available in the dean’s office and the college advising centers.
3. At least thirty-six semester hours of upper-division coursework.
4. At least eighteen twenty-one semester hours of upper-division coursework, including at least twelve semester hours in physics and astronomy, must be completed in residence at the University.

ADDITIONAL PRESCRIBED WORK
FOR EACH OPTION

OPTION I: ASTRONOMY

5. Six semester hours in biology, chemistry, computer science, and/or geological sciences. Chemistry 301 or 301H and the courses in the Elements of Computing Certificate program may be counted toward this requirement; any other course to be counted must meet major requirements in the department that offers it.
6. Mathematics 408C and 408D, or the equivalent; and 427K, 427L, and 340L. Only courses at the level of calculus and above may be counted toward the total number of hours required for the degree.
8. Twelve semester hours of upper-division coursework in astronomy, including Astronomy 352K, 353, and 358. Astronomy 351 is recommended.
9. Nine additional semester hours of upper-division coursework in physics and/or astronomy.
10. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 123 semester hours.

OPTION II: ASTRONOMY HONORS

5. Breadth requirement: An honors mathematics course, Chemistry 301H, and nine additional hours of coursework chosen from honors courses in the college. Credit earned by examination may not be counted toward this requirement.
7. Twelve semester hours of upper-division coursework in astronomy approved by the departmental honors adviser.
8. Nineteen semester hours of upper-division coursework in physics approved by the departmental honors adviser.
9. Three additional semester hours of upper-division coursework in astronomy or physics.
10. Natural Sciences 301C, A section of Undergraduate Studies 302 or 303 that is approved by the departmental honors adviser.
11. A section of Rhetoric and Writing 309S that is restricted to Dean’s Scholars.
12. Astronomy 379H and either a three-semester-hour upper-division research course approved by the departmental honors adviser or a second section of Astronomy 379H.
13. Fifteen additional hours of coursework approved by the departmental honors adviser.
14. Six semester hours of coursework in the College of Liberal Arts or the College of Fine Arts.
15. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Students in both options must fulfill the University-wide graduation requirements given in chapter 1 and the college requirements given earlier in this chapter. They must also earn a grade of at least C- in each mathematics and science course required for the degree, and a grade point average in these courses of at least 2.00. More information about grades and the grade point average is given in General Information.

To graduate under option II, students must remain in good standing in the Dean’s Scholars Honors Program, must earn grades of at least A- in the departmental research and thesis courses described in requirement 12 above, and must present their research in an approved public forum, such as the college’s annual Undergraduate Research Forum.