PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BS IN BIOLOGY, MARINE SCIENCE, IN THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES SECTION IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020

Type of Change  ☒ Academic Change
☐ Degree Program Change (THECB2 form required)

Proposed classification ☐ Exclusive  ☒ General  ☐ Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACSCOC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

- Is this a new degree program?  Yes ☐  No ☒
- Is this program being deleted?  Yes ☐  No ☒
- Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus?  Yes ☐  No ☒
- Will courses in this program be delivered electronically?  Yes ☐  No ☒

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:

Option 3: Remove the choice of 6 hours from pairs of coursework.

Reason: In the 2016-18 catalog, the six-hour course sequences were added to our degree option to guide students into a concentration in topics that we felt were relevant to Marine Science. Unfortunately, the GRG courses turned out to be very popular amongst Option III students and exceedingly difficult to get. This has caused a lot of stress for the students and advising exceptions on our part. Of the GRG courses listed, three courses sometimes have a small number of seats available for non-majors; of these two have lower division prerequisites, and the third most often has no seats available outside the major. Thus, we removed the sequences with these courses.

This left four BIO course sequences. Since some of the BIO courses in the sequences also have low availability, we opted to include them in a list of acceptable upper division courses rather than prescribed sequences. In this way, students don’t run the risk of not being able to complete their chosen sequence if they can’t get into a course. Instead of the previous 12 hours of upper division, it’s now 18 hours of upper division, of which a minimum of 12 hours must be in Marine Science.

We relocated GEO 341G, Geomicrobiology, from the six-hour course sequences to the list of acceptable upper division courses. Marine Science majors are not as interested in this class as they are the Geography classes. However, for the occasional student who enrolls, it is appropriate to count the course.

3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES (Please check all that apply)

☒ Courses in other colleges
☐ Courses in proposer’s college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges
☐ Flags
☐ Course in the core curriculum
☐ Change in course sequencing for an existing program
☐ Courses that have to be added to the inventory
☐ Change in admission requirements (external or internal)
☐ Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office)
4. SCOPe OF PROPOSED CHANGE

a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, then how would you do so? The proposal removes 11 GRG courses, which make up an estimated maximum of 20 seats per year distributed among the 11 courses.

b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?

c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

The proposal removes 11 GRG courses, which make up an estimated maximum of 20 seats per year distributed among the 11 courses.

If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions. If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

How many students do you expect to be impacted? 20

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included: Department of Geography

Person communicated with: Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach, chair

Date of communication: September 12, 2017

Response: If this helps Marine Science students graduate faster and smooths your degree pathway, and you will still send them to GRG courses for electives, I agree.

e. 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:

f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion?

Note: THECB Semester Credit Hour Change Form required, download from URL: http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419&format=doc

If yes, explain: No.

5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date: May 8, 2017 Approved by whom: Marine Science Curriculum Committee

Department approval date: July 31, 2017 Approved by whom: BIO Course and Curriculum Committee

College approval date: September 13, 2017 Approved by whom: College Course and Curriculum Committee

Dean approval date: Approved by whom:

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

Option III: Marine and Freshwater Science

5. Chemistry 320M
6. Biology 326R and 373
7. Marine Science 101, 310, 320, and 120L
9. Six hours of related courses chosen from one of the following options:
   a. Biology 320 and 344
   b. Biology 328 and 361T
   c. Biology 357 and 375
   d. Biology 364 and 366 or Geological Sciences 341G
   e. Geography 301C or 301K and 333K
   f. Geography 301C and 356 or 356T
   g. Geography 306C and 334, 339, or 356
   h. Geography 310C and 360G or 335N
10. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours

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1 See https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/degree-program-changes for detailed explanations.
2 Submit required Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board forms to the provost’s office.
3 EXCLUSIVE: of exclusive application and of primary interest only to a single college or school ("no protest" period is seven calendar days); GENERAL: of general interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty) ("no protest" period is fourteen calendar days); MAJOR: major legislation must be submitted to the General Faculty for adoption ("no protest" period is fourteen calendar days).