

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 28 February 2023

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology and Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology Advanced Entry

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new undergraduate degree programs and major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology and Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology – Advanced Entry.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing the following changes:

1. Revise 1st year required courses (per changes to the degree requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities);
2. Update modes of delivery for some Forensic Psychology courses to include hybrid and fully online (synchronous and asynchronous) formats;
3. Change FSCI 1010U – Introduction to Forensic Science from a required course to an elective; and
4. Develop psychology-specific Research Methods (PSYC 2900), Data Analysis (PSYC 2910U), and Advanced Data Analysis (PSYC 3910U) courses. These new courses will replace SSCI 2900U, SSCI 2910U, and SSCI 3910U as required courses.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required.

TRANSITION PLAN

In Fall 2023, Forensic Psychology students in Years 1 and 2 and Forensic Psychology Advanced Entry students in Year 3 will be required to take PSYC 2900U, PSYC 2910U, and PSYC 3910U in place of SSCI 2900U, SSCI 2910U, and SSCI 3910U. Forensic Psychology students in Year 3 and Forensic Psychology Advanced Entry students in Year 4 will have already taken SSCI 2900 and SSCI 2910. These students will be permitted to take PSYC 3910U without having to take PSYC 2900U and PSYC 2910U. Any Forensic Psychology students who have successfully completed SSCI 2900U, SSCI 2910U, and SSCI 3910U by Fall 2023 will be considered to have satisfied the degree requirements for their program.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- Undergraduate Studies Committee: 17 January 2023
- Faculty Council: 20 December 2022
- Curriculum Committee: 6 December 2022

The Undergraduate Program Directors, as well as the faculty members of the Psychology and Forensic Psychology programs have discussed and agreed upon the changes. The program director of Criminology and Justice was also consulted. Academic Advisors recommended these changes as a result of discussions with students.

NEXT STEPS:

- Pending the approval of Academic Council, the changes will be included in the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Forensic Psychology](#)
- [Forensic Psychology – Advanced Entry](#)
- New courses: [PSYC 2900U](#); [PSYC 2910U](#); [PSYC 3910U](#)
- Course changes – Changes to Mode of Delivery: FPSY Mode of Delivery Dec 5*
(*file available for review in Forensic Psychology proposal link above under 'files.' Course changes compiled in yellow columns).