

# UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE FORMS

## Academic Program Approval

This form is a routing document for the approval of new and revised academic programs. Proposing department should complete this form. For more information, call the Faculty Senate Office at 831-2921.

**Submitted by:** Edward Larkin

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**Department:** English

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**Date:** 15 October 2009

**Action:** Revisions to PhD program requirements

(Example: add major/minor/concentration, delete major/minor/concentration, revise major/minor/concentration, academic unit name change, request for permanent status, policy change, etc.)

**Effective term:** 10F

(use format 04F, 05W)

**Current degree:** PhD

(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

**Proposed change leads to the degree of:** PhD

(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

**Proposed name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed new name for revised or new major / minor / concentration / academic unit  
(if applicable)

**Revising or Deleting:**

**Undergraduate major / Concentration:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Example: Applied Music – Instrumental degree BMAS)

**Undergraduate minor:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Example: African Studies, Business Administration, English, Leadership, etc.)

**Graduate Program Policy statement change:** Language/Skills Requirement

(**Must attach** your Graduate Program Policy Statement)

**Graduate Program of Study:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Example: Animal Science: MS Animal Science: PHD Economics: MA Economics: PHD)

**Graduate minor / concentration:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: all graduate studies proposals must include an electronic copy of the Graduate Program Policy Document, highlighting the changes made to the original policy document.**

**List new courses required for the new or revised curriculum. How do they support the overall program objectives of the major/minor/concentrations)?**

(Be aware that approval of the curriculum is dependent upon these courses successfully passing through the Course Challenge list. If there are no new courses enter "None")

None

**Explain, when appropriate, how this new/ revised curriculum supports the 10 goals of undergraduate education:** <http://www.ugs.udel.edu/gened/>

**Identify other units affected by the proposed changes:**

(Attach permission from the affected units. If no other unit is affected, enter “None”)

None.

**Describe the rationale for the proposed program change(s):**

(Explain your reasons for creating, revising, or deleting the curriculum or program.)

We wish to change the foreign language requirement for the PhD in English. Formerly, we required all students to demonstrate an ability to read and work in two languages other than English or an advanced ability in one language. Students could fulfill this requirement either through coursework or through a translation exam. We would like to change both the requirement and the exam.

First, we propose the creation of an equivalent category for “the acquisition of a skill or body of knowledge important to the student’s dissertation topic” that would enable students to either master a second language or demonstrate their mastery of a skill. The skills category could take several forms, such as relevant work experience, volunteer service, or coursework at the University of Delaware or elsewhere on topics such as paleography, statistical analysis, and print technology, as long as they are relevant to the student’s particular dissertation topic. Because the skills requirement will vary depending upon the student’s research specialization, the graduate committee must approve proposals for a skills requirement.

Second, we propose changing the foreign language exam from a translation exam to a reading comprehension exam. Inasmuch as English scholars use foreign languages these days, it is to read and comprehend primary and secondary sources, not for the purpose of language or aesthetic analysis; therefore a comprehension exam tests the relevant skill better than a translation one. Comprehension exams are becoming more widespread in the field. In the new comprehension exam, students will now be asked to read a passage of approximately 1,000 words and then answer 3-4 questions based on the reading. The answers may be given in English. Students still may satisfy the foreign language requirement through coursework.

**Program Requirements:**

(Show the new or revised curriculum as it should appear in the Course Catalog. If this is a revision, be sure to indicate the changes being made to the current curriculum and **include a side-by-side comparison** of the credit distribution before and after the proposed change.)

This change requires a minor emendation in the Course Catalog. The language formerly read:

The PhD is granted when the following requirements have been met: (1) at least eight courses (24 credit hours) beyond those taken for the MA; (2) full-time study in two consecutive semesters; (3) demonstrated ability to work in a second foreign language or advanced ability in one foreign language; (4) passing the PhD Specialty Examination; (5) writing and successfully defending the dissertation.

It should now read:

The PhD is granted when the following requirements have been met: (1) at least eight courses (24 credit hours) beyond those taken for the MA; (2) full-time study in two consecutive semesters; (3) demonstrated ability to work in a second foreign language, or advanced ability in one foreign language, or the

acquisition of a skill or body of knowledge important to the student's dissertation topic; (4) passing the PhD Specialty Examination; (5) writing and successfully defending the dissertation.

**ROUTING AND AUTHORIZATION:** (Please do not remove supporting documentation.)

Department Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dean of College \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, College Curriculum Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Senate Com. on UG or GR Studies \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Senate Coordinating Com. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary, Faculty Senate \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Senate Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Date to be Effective \_\_\_\_\_

Registrar \_\_\_\_\_ Program Code \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & International Programs \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Provost \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Trustee Notification \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 02/09/2009 /khs