

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: Brian Ackerman phone number 2385

Department: Psychology email address bpa@psych.udel.edu

Date: November 19, 2013

Action: Academic Unit Name Change
(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 14F
(use format 04F, 05W)

Current degree No Change
(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed change leads to the degree of: _____
(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed name: Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
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: _____
(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”)

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. We have attached notes of agreement from the Departments of Linguistic and Cognitive Sciences and Biological Sciences.

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

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

We propose to change the name of our Department from the Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. As a faculty, we have been working toward this name change for several years. The idea arose in meetings servicing our Academic Program Review (APR) in 2009. The APR charged the Department to conceptualize a vision of program development for the next several decades. Consistent with other leading departments in the United States, our faculty decided to adopt a vision of the future that emphasizes neuroscience.

The new name represents that vision. Other departments with a similar vision include the Departments of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Johns Hopkins University, Dartmouth University, Indiana University (at Bloomington), and the University of Louisville. MIT and the University of Rochester have Departments of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, and the University of Texas at Dallas has a School of Behavioral and Brain Science.

Recent developments in our department reflect this vision. Many of our research faculty currently include a neuroscience aspect in their research programs, and our principle Federal funding sources (NSF, NIH, NIMH) require some physiological aspect in fundable proposals that usually involves the brain. For instance, of 28 tenure-track faculty, 16 engaged in neuroscience-related research in the past year or so, and at least 5 others have used physiological measures in several studies. Similarly, our last six hires of tenure track faculty, including the chair of the department (now at UCLA), have neuroscience research programs. Very importantly, the University has committed to building an fMRI center close to Wolf Hall that will represent a magnet (pun intended) for neuroscience researchers and grants across many departments and colleges in the University. Members of our Department have led the initiative to secure University approval, and are currently and centrally involved in designing the building, planning its uses, and planning its staffing.

Recent developments in our undergraduate programs reflect this vision as well. We have just completed the Permanent Status proposal for our BS Neuroscience undergraduate major (NSCI) for instance. The NSCI major is at the end of its 5th year of provisional status. The program has grown from a small interdisciplinary program with about 30 students to a robust, attractive, and ever-enlarging major of 140+ students. Many of these students are among the best in the University. Three years ago, for instance, one of our NSCI majors was the last Rhodes Scholar of the University, and two years ago one of our students won the outstanding senior award for a female student.

Similarly, we just won permanent status approval for our new BS program in Psychology. That program now has about 100 majors across the four years, and that program too has many exceptional students who are working in laboratories and who go on to professional careers in Psychology and Medicine. Students in the BS major must participate in at least 4 semesters of laboratory research, and must complete either an in-house empirical thesis or the thesis required for the Degree with Distinction. Both the NSCI major and

the BS major in Psychology require that students take many science courses. These requirements are wholly consistent with the name change to Psychological Science.

We have many BA majors in Psychology and a few BA majors in Psychology Education. Given new and sufficient resources, we are actively planning to launch a new 400-level course for majors focusing on Advanced Research Methodology. All students currently are required to take 200-level courses in Statistics and Research Methodology. Many of our BA majors participate in research laboratories by means of our independent study option (PSYC366), and a few do a thesis in service of the University Degree with Distinction. Otherwise, our offerings for these BA students are consistent with other departments with a similar focus.

The proposed name change accomplishes many things for our Department. Certainly the change is aspirational, in that it reflects our vision for the future of the Department: a strong focus on the rigorous scientific end of our discipline, and on the neural and physiological processes underlying psychological phenomena. The change also represents our faculty hiring plan, as we will continue to recruit new hires that are neuroscientists or that have some neuroscience expertise. Moreover, the change communicates to undergraduates that majoring in psychology will necessarily involve a commitment to learning a scientific discipline that has a biological basis. Finally, the change underscores the ties that bind Psychology and faculty in other departments, including an initiative involving the neuroscience community across the University campus, an initiative involving neuroscience faculties on other campus, and consideration of both an undergraduate minor in neuroscience and a joint major with Biomedical Engineering.

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.)

The name change involves no immediate program changes.

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 _____



College of Arts & Sciences

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November 20, 2013

Brian Ackerman
Department of Psychology
University of Delaware

Dear Professor Ackerman,

The faculty of the Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science fully support the Department of Psychology's proposal to change its name to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. As detailed in the proposal, this name more accurately reflects the Department's current focus on neuroscience and brain-related research and its vision for the future. We look forward to developing even closer ties between our two departments, including collaborative research and teaching efforts.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Bruening
Professor and Chair
Department of Linguistics and
Cognitive Science
University of Delaware



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
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Professor and Chairman
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December 2, 2013

Brian Ackerman, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Psychology
University of Delaware

Dear Dr. Ackerman,

This letter is to state my support of the proposed name change of your department from the Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. As we have discussed, this name more accurately represents your department's focus and would be beneficial to prospective and current students in consideration of a major. This name change will not adversely impact the Department of Biological Sciences and may even strengthen our program as our departments continue to work together.

In sum, I enthusiastically support the name change of your department and look forward to continuing to work together.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall L. Duncan".

Professor and Chair