FACULTY AGENDA ITEM

Date: 11.6.2023

Submitted by: Bill Fiander x. 1952

SUBJECT: BPA in Public Administration proposed program changes

Description: Proposed program changes

Rationale:

Outdated – Simply put, the BPA program has not been updated in 40 years. The BPA was originally designed in the early/mid-1980s to accommodate State of Kansas employees needing to satisfy minimum degree qualifications for their positions. It was contained, and still is, within the Political Science (PO) Department. Program enrollment swelled over the next decade into the 60-80 student range. Sufficient faculty were subsequently hired to cover this demand. Once this initial burst subsided, enrollment plummeted, PA-dedicated faculty were not replaced, and Political Science faculty were left to admirably continue advising the program without the requisite aptitude or time needed to invest in a more comprehensive review. In 2023 after a small program review validated the value of maintaining the program, a new PA-dedicated faculty position was filled to teach PA classes and undertake a critical examination of the program's 50-year old curriculum.

Streamline – The current curriculum is far too specialized in PA classes, cumbersome, and inflexible to not only be unrealistic for faculty to deliver but to attract and prepare students appropriately for professional life in today's public sector. Course requirements are routinely replaced with other PO and non-department classes due to courses not being offered for lack of PA faculty. The major itself requires 60-66 credits which is daunting for prospective students given the 40-credit PO major. Of those credits, more than 1/3 come outside the department as cognate courses. These are very specific courses and pose a challenge to advising how they remain relevant for our majors.

Key changes that would address the above issues include:
• reducing course load to a more competitive 40 credit hours
• affirming the core PA classes that need faculty
• expanding inter-disciplinary features of the PA through more selections and electives instead of specific cognate courses
• requiring selection of one of three inter-disciplinary concentrations which may include another department's major/minor
• streamlining the PA minor
• streamlining the Nonprofit Management Certificate in cooperation with the Department of Human Services

Relevant and Versatile Skill Set – One principle of the original BPA that the new BPA gives a nod to is in its inter-disciplinary approach. A current approach that is highly valued at Washburn. And highly achievable in the BPA. This fits comfortably given the small size of the program and the many academic

needs faculty must deliver. Washburn has tremendous resources outside the PO Department that the PO Department does not need to replicate. That includes off-campus "incubators" such as 60+ local non-profits, City/County/School agencies, and the State of Kansas.

Today's PA work force, much like their predecessors, are incredibility more valued the more versatile they can be. PA students must confidently swim in political, economic, legal, data analytical, and social equity waters to be successful today. They must be leaders not just managers. To that end, course changes to the BPA make it more diverse yet more relevant in its inter-disciplinary offerings (Business, Human Services, Communication, English, Leadership, Community Engagement, and other social sciences). But also relevant for today's needs through one of three (3) inter-disciplinary concentrations:
• Management Analyst
• Sustainable Communities
• Non-PO major/minor
These changes will also heavily integrate a practitioner's point of view including career readiness/field requirements and PO adjunct faculty who are experts in their field.

Career and Higher Education Demand – A review of any state/local government agency will show the demand for public sector employment is high and hard to fill. The need for well-trained public service candidates will continue to grow given the aging demographics and ever-increasing demands of the public for more services in the face of fewer resources. This is particularly true for those who can critically think and communicate fiscally viable options for the public good.

The proposed changes were also benchmarked against reviews of other PA programs both at the undergraduate and graduate level in Kansas and nationally. With KU as the highest-rated PA graduate program in the nation and multiple graduate urban planning or PA programs all in our backyard (KSU, UMKC, KU, WSU), Washburn's PA program can position itself not only as a pipeline itself to restock public service shelves in Kansas communities but can be a feeder for master-level advancement in regional public administration careers. This is all provided we can begin to attract and grow higher caliber candidates which these changes are intended to help.

Financial Implications: None

Proposed Effective Date: Fall semester 2024

Request for Action: Approval by Faculty Senate

Approved by: *AAC on 10/30/2023*

            Faculty Senate

Attachments   **Yes   X**   No ☐

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 09/15/23 9:04 am

Viewing: BPA : BPA: Public Administration

Last approved: 09/30/22 11:49 am

Last edit: 10/31/23 8:35 am

Changes proposed by: Bill Fiander (william.fiander)

Catalog Pages Using this Program	Bachelor's Degree (BPA) in Public Administration

Change Type	Significant
Summarize Changes and Include Rationale	Submitted by Bill Fiander - "Outdated – Simply put, the BPA program has not been updated in 40 years. The BPA was originally designed in the early/mid-1980s to accommodate State of Kansas employees needing to satisfy minimum degree qualifications for their positions. It was contained, and still is, within the Political Science (PO) Department. Program enrollment swelled over the next decade into the 60-80 student range. Sufficient faculty were subsequently hired to cover this demand. Once this initial burst subsided, enrollment plummeted, PA-dedicated faculty were not replaced, and Political Science faculty were left to admirably continue advising the program without the requisite aptitude or time needed to invest in a more comprehensive review. In 2023 after a small program review validated the value of maintaining the program, a new PA-dedicated faculty position was filled to teach PA classes and undertake a critical examination of the program's 50-year old curriculum.
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((Holly 9/15/23: Completed revisions according to new standardization approved by Deans and Provost Office, submitted proposal for Bill))

General Information

Effective Catalog Edition	2024-2025
Department	Political Science
College	College of Arts and Sciences
Division	Social Sciences
Degree Level	Undergraduate
Program Title	BPA: Public Administration
Degree to be Offered	Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA)
Is this program offered completely online?	
Does this program lead to a teaching certification?	No
Program Code	BPA
Is this program an interdisciplinary program?	No
CIP Code	440401 - Public Administration.
Modality	Hybrid

Admission and Curriculum

Admission Criteria

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours for the Degree

Curriculum

History

1. Apr 21, 2022 by clmig-jwillging
2. Sep 30, 2022 by Holly Broxterman (holly.broxterman)

Degree Requirements

In addition to the requirements stated below, students must complete 34-35 hours of **General Education**, all requirements for a **Bachelor of Public Administration** degree, and any additional hours needed to reach the minimum 120 credit hours required for graduation. Some of the courses below may also fulfill general education or other degree requirements. Please see your advisor for more information.

Required Courses Inside Department

PO 107	Kansas, State, and Local Government	3
PO 245	Introduction to Public Administration	3
PO 305	Public Policy	3
PO 306	American Urban and Metropolitan Planning	3
PO 393	Managing Public Money	3
PO 401	Equity and Hard Choices in Public Administration	3
PO 307	Internship	3
or PO 309	Kansas Legislative Experience	
PO 450	Seminar in Political Science and Public Administration	1
Subtotal		22

Department Electives (Minimum of 6 credits not in Concentration)

PO 255	Introduction to the American Legal System	
PO 300	Special Topics/Political Science	
PO 307	Internship	
PO 308	American Elections and Federalism	
PO 343	Administrative Law	
PO 346	Problems in Public Administration	
PO 371	Topics: American Politics and Government	
PO 374	Topics: Public Administration [1]	
PO 386	Independent Study	
PO 390	Applied Political Research	
PO 391	Managing People in Public Organizations	
PO 394	Challenges Managing Public Organizations	
PO 395	Non-Profit Management and Leadership	
Subtotal		6

Non-PO Cognate Courses		
EC 200	Principles of Microeconomics [2]	3
EC 201	Principles of Macroeconomics [2]	3
PY 100	Basic Concepts in Psychology [2]	3
CN 101	Introduction to Communication Studies [2]	3
SO 101	Social Problems [2]	3
CM 101	Computer Concepts and Applications	3
AC 224	Financial Accounting	3
CN 308	Organizational Communication	3
or CN 350	Persuasion	
Subtotal		0

Concentration (Select One of Three Options, 12 credits minimum)

Select 9 to 12 credit hours from the following:	9-12

Management Analyst (maximum 6 PO credits)

Sustainable Communities (maximum 6 PO credits)

Other Department Major / Minor (12-18 credit hours) [2]		
Subtotal		12
Total Hours		40

[1]
Topics may include non-profit, planning, legal, management, etc.

[2]
With advisor approval.

Management Analyst

Required Courses		
PO 391	Managing People in Public Organizations	3
BU 258	Foundations of Data Analysis	3
Elective Courses		
BU 346	Organizational Behavior	3
CN 150	Public Speaking	3
CN 3XX	Communication Upper Division	3
EC 200	Principles of Microeconomics	3
EC 201	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
EC 211	Statistics for Business and Economics	3
EC 480	Public Finance	3
EN 208	Professional Writing	3
HS 495	Research and Evaluation	3
LE 200	Ethical Responsibilities of Leadership	3
PO 390	Applied Political Research	3
PO 394	Challenges Managing Public Organizations	3
PO 395	Non-Profit Management and Leadership	3

Sustainable Communities

Required Courses		
PO 374	Topics: Public Administration [1]	3
CE 250	Introduction to Community Studies	3
Elective Courses		
AN 112	Cultural Anthropology	3
BI 203	Human Impact on the Environment	3
CJ 303	Diversity in American Culture	3
CN 150	Public Speaking	3
CN 3XX	Communication Upper Division	3
EN 208	Professional Writing	3
HI 3XX	History Upper Division	3
LE 200	Ethical Responsibilities of Leadership	3
PY 311	Multicultural Psychology	3
SO 3XX	Sociology Upper Division	3
SW 250	Diversity and Social Justice in Social Work	3

[1]
Topics include practices in equitable and sustainable city planning, etc.

Degree Requirements Required Courses for the BPA Major (27 to 30 credit hours):

[1]Taken sometime within the first 12 credit hours of the major.[2]These courses also count towards fulfilling the General Education and elective requirements of the University

Pathway

Faculty Workload Analysis (describe how the course offering schedule and anticipated enrollments correlate to faculty lines)

Supplemental Files

| Reviewer Comments | **Beth ONeill (beth.oneill) (10/05/23 12:18 pm):** Rollback: Approval completed in error. |
| | **Holly Broxterman (holly.broxterman) (10/31/23 8:35 am):** Approved by Academic Affairs Committee at their 10/30/23 meeting. Approving to move to Faculty Senate for their 11/6/23 meeting. |

Key: 21