REQUEST TO COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE FOR CURRICULAR IMPROVEMENTS

DEPARTMENT: Political Science PROPOSED EFFECTIVE SEMESTER: F 2019 COLLEGE: CAS

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Academic Program
- New degree*
- New major*
- New curriculum*
- New concentration*
- New certificate
- New minor
- Revised major
- Revised minor
- Admission requirements
- Graduation requirements
- Deletion [ ] Transfer
- Other (explain**)

Substantive Course Changes
- New course
- Pre or Co-requisites
- Deletion (required by others)
- Course #, different level
- Credit hours
- Enrollment restriction
- Course-level restriction
- Prefix [ ] Title and description
- General education (select one)
- Not Applicable
- Other (explain**)

Misc. Course Changes
- Title
- Description (attach current & proposed)
- Deletion (not required by others)
- Course #, same level
- Variable credit
- Credit/no credit
- Cross-listing
- COGE reapproval
- Other (explain**)

** Other:

Title of degree, curriculum, major, minor, concentration, or certificate: Accelerated Degree (MA) in Political Science

Existing course prefix and #: Proposed course prefix and #: Credit hours:

Existing course title:

Proposed course title:

Existing course prerequisite & co-requisite(s):

Proposed course prerequisite(s)
If there are multiple prerequisites, connect with “and” or “or”. To remove prerequisites, enter “none.”

Proposed course co-requisite(s)
If there are multiple corequisites, they are always joined by “and.”

Proposed course prerequisite(s) that can also be taken concurrently:

Is there a minimum grade for the prerequisites or corequisites?
The default grades are D for undergraduates and C for graduates.

Major/minor or classification restrictions:
List the Banner 4 character codes and whether they should be included or excluded.

For 5000 level prerequisites & corequisites: Do these apply to: (circle one) undergraduates graduates both

Specifications for University Schedule of Classes:
a. Course title (maximum of 30 spaces):
b. Multi-topic course: [ ] No [ ] Yes
c. Repeatable for credit: [ ] No [ ] Yes
d. Mandatory credit/no credit: [ ] No [ ] Yes
e. Type of class and contact hours per week (check type and indicate hours as appropriate)
   1. [ ] Lecture
   2. [ ] Lab or discussion
   3. [ ] Lecture/lab/discussion
   4. [ ] Seminar or [ ] studio
   5. [ ] Independent study
   6. [ ] Supervision or practicum

CIP Code (Registrar’s use only):

Chair/Director: John A. Clark Date: 4/20/18

Chair, College Curriculum Committee Date:

Dean Date: Graduate Dean: Date:

Curriculum Manager: Return to dean [ ] Date Forward to: Date:

Chair, COGE/ PEB / FS President Date:

FOR PROPOSALS REQUIRING GSC/USC REVIEW:
- [ ] Approve [ ] Disapprove Chair, GSC/USC Date
- [ ] Approve [ ] Disapprove Provost Date

Revised May 2007. All previous forms are obsolete and should not be used. CAS17 - 3i7 PSCI
1. Explain briefly and clearly the proposed improvement.

The Department of Political Science wishes to create an Accelerated Graduate Degree Program (AGDP) in Political Science. The accelerated graduate degree program in Political Science is designed to allow undergraduate political science majors at WMU to begin accumulating credits toward the completion of a master's degree while completing a bachelor's degree. The program is not available to students who are not undergraduates at WMU or students who already have an undergraduate degree.

2. Rationale. Give your reason(s) for the proposed improvement. (If your proposal includes prerequisites, justify those, too.)

Accelerated graduate degree programs have become more popular in the last decade. This is the case at WMU. We expect that the accelerated degree will increase interest in our undergraduate programs and increase enrollment in our graduate level courses. Our department has recently submitted a proposal for a 4+1 program with Kalamazoo College; we believe we should offer a similar option to our own majors. Last, we expect that students who take advantage of an accelerated graduate degree program will be better prepared and more competitive on the job market.

3. Effect on other colleges, departments or programs. If consultation with others is required, attach evidence of consultation and support. If objections have been raised, document the resolution. Demonstrate that the program you propose is not a duplication of an existing one.

None

4. Effect on your department's programs. Show how the proposed change fits with other departmental offerings.

Any impacts will be slight. We expect that this will lead to a slight increase in MA enrollment—1 to 2 additional students per semester. Our current graduate offerings will accommodate these additional students.

5. Effects on enrolled students: Are program conflicts avoided? Will your proposal make it easier or harder for students to meet graduation requirements? Can students complete the program in a reasonable time? Show that you have considered scheduling needs and demands on students’ time. If a required course will be offered during summer only, provide a rationale.

There will be no impact on current students. This is a new program. No students are currently enrolled.

6. Student or external market demand. What is your anticipated student audience? What evidence of student or market demand or need exists? What is the estimated enrollment? What other factors make your proposal beneficial to students?

Several departments at WMU have offered accelerated graduate degrees. Enrollment in these programs is typically small; we expect our department will be no different. We expect one or two students will enroll per year. The goal is to provide an incentive for our best undergraduates to remain at WMU for graduate school.

7. Effects on resources. Explain how your proposal would affect department and University resources, including faculty, equipment, space, technology, and library holdings. If proposing a new program, include a letter and/or email of support from the university library affirming that the library resource issues have been reviewed. Tell how you will staff additions to the program. If more advising will be needed, how will you provide for it? How often will course(s) be offered? What will be the initial one-time costs and the ongoing base-funding costs for the proposed program? (Attach additional pages, as necessary.)

We anticipate no impacts on resources. Enrollment in this program is anticipated to be small. Our existing MA course offerings have the capacity to absorb these students.

8. General education criteria. For a general education course, indicate how this course will meet the criteria for the area or proficiency. (See the General Education Policy for descriptions of each area and proficiency and the criteria. Attach additional pages as necessary. Attach a syllabus if (a) proposing a new course, (b) requesting certification for baccalaureate-level writing, or (c) requesting reapproval of an existing course.)

The graduate courses taken as part of this program will not fulfill general education requirements.
9. List the learning outcomes for the proposed course or the revised or proposed major, minor, or concentration. These are the outcomes that the department will use for future assessments of the course or program. Students who complete the MA in Political Science will:

1. Be able to critically evaluate information in the popular and scholarly literature related to politics and government.

2. Be able to recognize and evaluate different "world views" in understanding the causes of global problems and the conduct of policy making in international relations. Students will be reflective and self-conscious in their normative judgments about political choices and policy alternatives.

3. Gain a mastery of the literature and concepts of two fields in Political Science (American Politics, Comparative Politics, or Political Theory).

4. Develop writing skills.

5. Develop teaching skills.

6. Develop research skills including research design, data collection and data analysis.

We assess these outcomes using one of two methods - MA field exams or MA thesis evaluations. Each student is required to complete a thesis or the field exam, so we can directly evaluate the performance of each student on the learning outcomes.

10. Describe how this curriculum change is a response to assessment outcomes that are part of a departmental or college assessment plan or informal assessment activities.

Our exit interviews with graduating political science majors indicates that they would like a greater variety of courses at the upper division level. This accelerated graduate degree program would help meet that demand.

11. (Undergraduate proposals only) Describe, in detail, how this curriculum change affects transfer articulation for Michigan community colleges. For course changes, include detail on necessary changes to transfer articulation from Michigan community college courses. For new majors or minors, describe transfer guidelines to be developed with Michigan community colleges. For revisions to majors or minors, describe necessary revisions to Michigan community college guidelines. Department chairs should seek assistance from college advising directors or from the admissions office in completing this section.

This program will have no effects on transfer accumulation from Michigan Community Colleges. Transfer students who become undergraduate majors in political science at WMU will be allowed to apply for this program.

12. Please offer both "Current Catalog Language" and "Proposed Catalog Language" if there is to be a change in the catalog description for a given course and/or program. For the "current" language, please copy and paste relevant language from the most current catalog and for the "proposed" language, please share the exact proposed new catalog language. As possible, bold or otherwise note the key changes in the new proposed catalog language.

**Proposed Catalog Language:**

The accelerated graduate degree program in Political Science allows undergraduate political science majors at WMU to begin to accumulate credits toward the completion of a master's degree while completing their bachelor's degree.

When admitted to the accelerated graduate degree programs with senior standing, students may take up to 12 credit hours of designated 5000 and 6000 level courses for graduate credit. These designated courses may be used in completion of both the bachelor's degree and the master's degree.

Courses are selected in consultation with the department's Director of Graduate Programs and the student's undergraduate advisor.

**Eligibility**

This program is open to WMU undergraduate students:
• Who are enrolled as a Political Science Major at WMU
• Who have senior status, are declared political science majors, have earned a minimum of 30 credit hours at WMU and at least 20 credit hours towards the political science major.
• Who have an undergraduate minimum GPA of 3.5 based on 45 credit hours with at least 15 hours earned at WMU

Undergraduate students enrolled in the accelerated program are expected to meet graduate expectations in their graduate courses.

Students who have received a bachelor's degree are ineligible to apply for the accelerated MA in Political Science.

Admissions/Enrollment

1. As early as possible, but no later than the spring semester of the junior year, interested students should meet with the Director of Graduate Programs and their undergraduate advisor in the Department of Political Science to discuss the Accelerated Graduate Degree Program.
2. Apply for admission to the MA program in Political Science.
3. Upon acceptance, students must meet with Director of Graduate Programs and their undergraduate advisor in Political Science to finalize an appropriate program of study that meets the requirements for the undergraduate and graduate degrees.
4. A letter advising which graduate courses will be counted in both degrees will be sent to the student and to the registrar. A copy of this letter also will be included in the student's graduate file.

Requirements for Continuing Eligibility and Graduation

• After admission to the Accelerated Graduate Degree Program in Political Science, students must follow the program of study developed with the Director of Graduate Programs and their undergraduate advisor in the Department of Political Science.
• Students who become ineligible to continue participation in the Accelerated Graduate Degree program will be notified in writing by the Director of Graduate Studies.
• In order to progress automatically into the MA program, students must achieve a grade of B or higher in each of the graduate courses being counted for the undergraduate degree. Students not meeting this requirement will have the earned grade applied to the undergraduate degree only and must apply for readmission into the graduate program.
• The undergraduate degree must be awarded within one calendar year after initial enrollment in the Accelerated MA program. Students not meeting this requirement must reapply to be admitted to the graduate program.
• Students may withdraw at any time from the Accelerated Graduate Degree program by informing the Director of Graduate Programs and their undergraduate advisor in the Department of Political Science in writing. A copy of the request to withdraw must be sent to the registrar.
• The requirements for the M.A. degree must be completed within 24 months from the completion of the bachelor's degree. A total of 30 graduate credit hours are required for the MA degree. Students unable to meet this requirement must apply for an extension with Director of Graduate Programs in the Department of Political Science.

Political Science courses eligible for the program
Students may take up to four courses from the list below to be taken during the senior year:

PSCI 6000 Seminar in American Politics
PSCI 6010 Foundations of American Politics
PSCI 6030 Seminar in American Political Behavior
PSCI 6400 Seminar in Comparative Politics
PSCI 6410 Foundations of Comparative Politics
PSCI 6460 Comparative Public Policy
PSCI 6620 Political Philosophy I
PSCI 6630 Political Philosophy II
PSCI 6650 Modern Democratic Theory
PSCI 6940/6960 Teaching Political Science, Research and Professional Skills
PSCI 6910 Political Analysis I