

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Senate **FROM:** J.W.G. Ivany,
Chair, SCAP

SUBJECT: Graduate Curriculum **DATE:** Nov.19, 1987
Changes - Psychology
Reference: SCAP 87-42
SCAP 87-43

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Graduate Studies Committee gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: "That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.87-72

- 1) the following changes to the graduate program in experimental psychology:
 - a) that experimental students working towards an M.A. degree, be required to take PSYC 910, PSYC 911, PSYC 925, PSYC 950, PSYC 960, and PSYC 980. If, according to the Supervisory Committee, a student has a weak background in an area covered by a core course, the student would also be required to take the appropriate core course. Following an M.A. degree, experimental students would be required to take two more in-depth courses in their area of specialization
 - b) change of title for PSYC 980
 - c) that the description of the graduate program be changed to reflect (more directly than before) the fact that the program is essentially a Ph.D. program, and that the attainment of a M.A. degree is a step toward the Ph.D., rather than being an end in and of itself
- 2) the following changes to the program in clinical psychology:
 - a) the addition of PSYC 823 to Years III, IV and V
 - b) 'Successful completion of PSYC 880' be added as a prerequisite to PSYC 822 and PSYC 823
 - c) deletion of PSYC 822 and PSYC 823 as prerequisites for PSYC 880"

PROPOSED GRADUATE PROGRAM CHANGES
IN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Sept. '87

Attached please find a proposal for changes in our MA and Ph.D. Experimental graduate programs. There are three aspects to these changes, one substantive, the two other mostly cosmetic in nature.

1. The substantive changes are as follows: In the current program, the course requirements of Experimental Psychology students include only two method courses (PSYC 910 - Research Design I & PSYC 911 - Research Design II) and four core courses (PSYC 600 - Biological Bases of Behavior, PSYC 601 - Cognitive & Affective Bases of Behavior, PSYC 602 - Social & Developmental Bases of Behavior, and PSYC 603 - Individual Differences). These core courses were designed to provide students with a background in certain fundamental areas of psychology. To a large extent, the core courses were introduced to satisfy one of the requirements that the American Psychological Association required for clinical program accreditation. The core courses met this requirement and have indeed proven invaluable in providing our clinical students with a general background.

Over the past several years, however, it has become apparent that the core courses do not satisfy the needs of our experimental students. First, the core courses give broad surveys of certain areas of experimental psychology. Most of our entering experimental students, however, arrive having already acquired a significant background in most of the areas covered by the core courses. For most of them, participation in the core courses has meant going over material they had already mastered. Core courses have therefore been of limited value to these students. Second, our program, as currently structured, does not require experimental students to take any other courses besides PSYC 910, 911, and the four core courses. The consensus among the experimental faculty in the Psychology Department is that the present core courses are inadequate to provide our experimental students with the kind of in-depth knowledge of experimental areas they should have, and indeed deserve to have. In discussions that have taken place during the past one and one half years, the experimental faculty have reached the conclusion that our experimental students must be offered and required to take in-depth courses in the fundamental areas of Psychology. This view was strongly shared by our current experimental students, as shown by a survey conducted by them (available on request). At its meeting of April 2, 1987 the Department has given strong support to the proposed changes (11 in favors, 4 opposed, 3 abstentions).

In summary, the basic thrusts of the proposed changes are to require Experimental students to take in-depth courses (called Subject courses in the proposed changes, and conceived as 900-level seminars), and to require them to take core courses only when needed, i.e., in areas in which they do not have the relevant background, as determined by their supervisory committees.

In summary, according to the proposed changes, experimental students working toward their M.A. would be required to take PSYC 910 and 911 (Research Design I and Research Design II), PSYC 925 (Seminar in Cognitive Processes), PSYC 950 (Seminar in Developmental Psychology, PSYC 960 (Seminar in Social Psychology, and PSYC 980 (Seminar in Biological Psychology). If, according to the supervisory committee, a student had a weak background in an area covered by a core course, the student would also be required to take the appropriate core course. Following their MA degree, experimental students would be required to take two more in-depth courses in their area of specialization. This is possible because seminars with 900 numbers, e.g., PSYC 960, may cover subject matters that vary from year to year and reflect different aspects of a general area of inquiry, e.g., Social Psychology. It should be noted that this feature of the subject courses, i.e., the possibility that topics may change from year to year is not new. It is included in the current calendar description of 900-level seminars, and we are maintaining it in the proposed changes.

2. The title PSYC 980 be changed from Physiological PSYC to Biological PSYC, so that subjects covered under this number may include topics such as evolutionary psychology.

3. The description of the graduate program would be changed to reflect (more directly than before) the fact that our program is essentially a Ph.D. program, and that the obtainment of a MA degree is a step toward the Ph.D., rather than being an end in and of itself. The current calendar has separate descriptions for the MA and Ph.D. programs, and may give the (false) impression that they are related but separate programs. Following similar changes in our clinical program, we wish to emphasize the integrated nature of the graduate program in Experimental Psychology, and the fact that the MA is a step toward the Ph.D. (Changes of this type have been previously approved by the Graduate Studies Committee for the clinical program).

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

Bill... Krane.....	From..... Ronald Roesch.....
Chairman, Graduate Studies Committee.....	 Director, Clinical Training.....
Subject.... Calendar Changes.....	Date..... September 23, 1987.....

The Clinical Committee met on September 17th and has approved the following Calendar Changes. (See Attached).

1. Table 1. PSYC 823 (Intervention) should be inserted in years III, IV & V. This is a requirement that is already in place, clinical students in their 3rd year and beyond are required to register in PSYC 823 in at least two semesters/year.
2. PSYC 823-4 Practicum in Intervention
Add Prerequisite of: PSYC 880, Registration in PSYC 822, etc. the same.
3. PSYC 880-3
Remove PSYC 822, 823 as prerequisites. These have never been prerequisites.



Ronald Roesch, Ph.D.
Professor and
Director of Clinical Training

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