Proposal Of A New Undergraduate Or Graduate Program

1. Proposing College / School: College of Liberal Arts
   Department: Political Science

2. Proposed Program Title: Minor in Public Administration

3. CIP Code of Proposed Program: 44.0401

4. Proposed Implementation Date: 01/2013

5. Relationship of Proposed Program to the Auburn University Mission Statement and Strategic Plan:

   (Auburn University’s mission statement may be accessed at the following site: http://www.auburn.edu/administration/trustees/policymanual/vision_and_mission.html; Auburn University’s strategic plan may be accessed at the following site: http://ccm.auburn.edu/strategic_plan/)

   The University Mission Statement reads, in part: ”[T]he University will emphasize a broad and superior undergraduate education that imparts the knowledge, skills, and values so essential to educated and responsible citizens.” Priority 1 (Elevating Academics), Initiative 2 (Strengthen Learning and Teaching) of the University Strategic Plan states, in part: ”[E]fforts will include enhancing courses to ensure, for example, that students engage in problem-solving and critical writing and gain an understanding of other cultures, the global forces making this an interdependent world, and the growing sustainability challenge.” The study and practice of public administration is entirely compatible with both of these statements of aspiration.

6. Expected Program Outcomes and Assessment Methods:

   (Expected outcomes must be stated clearly and must include student learning outcomes and an assessment plan for ascertaining the extent to which the expected outcomes are achieved and for designing improvements based on analysis of assessment results.)

   Students completing the minor should have a more in-depth understanding of the theory and practice of public administration, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of a career in the public service. The minor would also be an asset to students interested in graduate study in public administration and/or public policy. As with other majors in the Department of Political Science, students minoring would be asked to complete an exit survey, and have their work evaluated as part of the department’s ongoing writing assessment plan. Additionally, there is likely to be a relatively high percentage of minors who would complete internships (as is the case for PUBA majors). The Department is deliberating whether to restructure certain elements of our internship program to enable it to serve as something of a capstone course.

7. Degree Requirements (Including All Formal Options):

   (For programs at the undergraduate level, please provide a curriculum model for the program as well as for each formal option.)

   Proposed Minor in Public Administration

   Overview

   The Minor in Public Administration requires 15 credits of coursework. It consists of a common Core of two classes (6 credits) and a choice of one of two tracks (9 credits) in either Public Management or Non-Profit Organizations and Community Governance.

   Common Core (6 credits)
   POLU-3250 Intro to Public Administration
   POLU-3270 Policy Process
Track (9 credits): Select A or B

Track A: Public Management: Select 3 of following:
POLL-2100 State & Local Politics
POLL-3260 Organization Theory
POLL-3750 Issues in Public Administration
POLL-3760 Issues in Public Policy
POLL-4050 Local Government
POLL-4140 Public Finance
POLL-4160 Public Personnel Administration
POLL-5170 Election Law
POLL-5270 Election Administration
POLL-5550 Issues in Public Administration
POLL-5660 Issues in Public Policy

Track B: Non-Profit Organizations and Community Governance
Must Take:
POLL-5370 Non-Profit Management
POLL-5550 Non-Profit Law (proposal pending to change course number to POLL-5160)
Select 1 of following:
POLL-3340 Conflict Resolution
POLL-4140 Public Finance
POLL-5150 Intergovernmental Relations
POLL-5180 Administrative Law
POLL-5340 Mediation
POLL-5550 Field Research
POLL-5550 Non-Profit Fundraising

8. Specific Admission and/or Continuation Requirements:

None.

9. Existing Courses and New Courses Required:

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POLL-5170 Election Law
10. Relationship of Proposed Program to Other Auburn University Programs:
(If "yes" for either item, please provide explanation in the space provided below.)

Will the program support or be supported by other program(s) at Auburn University?  Yes  No
Will this program replace any existing program(s), or specializations / options / concentrations within existing program(s) at Auburn University? Yes  No

11. New or Additional Resources / Resource Shifting Required:
(If "yes" for any item, please provide explanation in the space provided below.)

Will additional faculty lines be required? Yes  No
Will new or additional space (e.g.: laboratory or classroom) be required? Yes  No
Will additional library resources be required? Yes  No
Will additional GTA support be required? Yes  No

Explanation of or provision for new or additional resources / explanation of program's support or replacement of other programs:

In AY 2011-12, the Department of Political Science underwent Academic Program Review. The major finding of the site visit team was that the Department was overburdened with programs (PhD, MPA, 2 Graduate Certificates, 3 undergraduate majors) given existing resources. This finding was endorsed by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and the Provost. These same principals recommended that the Department give due consideration to eliminating the Public Administration (PUBA) undergraduate major. The faculty voted unanimously to do so, and replace it with a considerably less resource-laden minor.

12. Potential Duplication of Other Programs in the State:
(If the program would overlap with or duplicate a similar offering at another institution in the state, articulate the program's necessity and/or any differences from similar programs.)

13. Collaboration With Other Institutions:
(Indicate whether or not the proposed program will -- either immediately or in the future -- involve collaboration with other post-secondary institutions. If so, provide all relevant details.)
Will not

14. Distance Education:
(If Distance Education will be incorporated in the delivery of the proposed program, provide details of implementation, scope, etc.)
15. Documented Need for Proposed Program:
(Elaborate upon the methodology used to appropriately assess regional, state, or national need and/or student demand for program.)

Currently there are approximately 100 students majoring in Public Administration (PUBA), so there obviously is significant student demand. The problem is that demand exceeds capacity, so scaling the undergraduate offering back to a minor should alleviate some of the stress on our other programs.

16. Employment Opportunities:
(Provide specific examples of employment opportunities anticipated for graduates of the proposed program.)

Careers in government and nonprofit organizations are a major segment of the work force in the United States. Academic preparation in public administration prepares students to compete successfully for these jobs.