3-25-2012

Prerequisite grade requirements for admission to the Social Work Major

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution # 07 2012-2013
College Senate

Supersedes Res #: ______________________

TO: Dr. John R. Halstead, College President

FROM: The College Senate: 3/25/2013

RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)

II. Recommendation (Urging the Fitness of)

III. Other, For Your Information (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJ: Requirements for Soc Work Major (#12_12-13UC)

Signed: ___________________________ Date: 4/1/13

(Mark Chadsey, 2012-13 College Senate President)

Please fill out the bottom portion and follow the distribution instructions at the end of this page.

TO: Mark Chadsey, College Senate President

FROM: John R. Halstead, College President

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle choice)

a. Accepted - Implementation Effective Date**: Fall 2013

**Implementation of resolution requires final approval from SUNY- State Education Department. YES

b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on ____/____/____

c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI

a. Received and acknowledged ____/____/____

b. Comment:

Signed: ___________________________ Date: 4/1/13

(Dr. John R. Halstead, President, The College at Brockport)

DISTRIBUTION:

Upon approval, the College President will forward copies of resolutions to his staff who will, in turn, forward copies to their staff. The College Senate Office will post resolutions to the College Senate Web at http://www.brockport.edu/collegesenate/resolutions.
COLLEGE SENATE OFFICE
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER PAGE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: OCTOBER 10
Incomplete proposals will be returned and proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

INSTRUCTIONS
- Use committee guidelines available at brockport.edu/collegesenate/proposal.html.
- Prepare ONE complete document in Word format: include this proposal cover page, proposal, attachments and support letters from your department chair and dean if applicable.
- Locate the Resolution # and date this proposal will replace at our “Approved Resolutions” page on our Web site.
- Email completed proposal to senate@brockport.edu (General Education Proposals and questions go to diamphron@brockport.edu in the Vice Provost’s Office first.)
- Make revisions on the paperwork emailed to you from the Senate office that shows the assigned routing number on top. Submit updated document to senate@brockport.edu.
- Questions? Call the Senate office at 395-2586 or the appropriate committee chairperson.

1. PROPOSAL TITLE: Please be somewhat descriptive, ie. Use a course number and/or title, indicate if for GED code, etc.
   Prerequisite grade requirements for admission to the Social Work Major

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:
   This proposal changes the acceptable grade for pre-requisite courses required from students seeking admission to the Social Work major to a “C” or better.

3. WILL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AFFECTING BUDGET BE NEEDED? X NO ___ YES EXPLAIN
   YES

4. DESCRIBE ANY DATA RELATED TO STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT USED AS PART OF THE RATIONALE FOR THE REQUESTED SENATE ACTION.

5. HOW WILL THIS AFFECT TRANSFER STUDENTS: It will require achieving a “C” or better in four pre-requisite courses.

6. ANTICIPATED EFFECTIVE DATE:
   Fall 2013 (to affect applicants for the Fall 2014 cohort)

7. SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES: PLEASE DATE ALL REVISED DOCUMENTS TO AVOID CONFUSION.
   First Submission | Updated on | Updated on | Updated on

8. SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)
   Name: Kenneth Herrmann
   Department: Social Work
   Phone: 5507
   Email: khermann@rochester.rr.com

9. COMMITTEES: (Senate office use only)
   Standing Committee
   __ Executive Committee
   __ Enrollment Planning & Policies
   __ Faculty & Professional Staff Policies
   __ General Education & Curriculum Policies
   __ Graduate Curriculum & Policies
   __ Student Policies
   X Undergraduate Curriculum & Policies
   Forwarded To
   Standing Committee
   Executive Committee
   Senate
   Passed GED’s go to Vice Provost
   College President
   OTHER
   Dates Forwarded
   11/5/2012
   2/25/2013
   3/5/2013, 3/25/13
   REJECTED -WITHDRAWN

NOTES:
1. A side-by-side comparison of the old and new program. Credit hours must be included for each course and totaled in clear tabular form. (Not/Applicable)

2. A brief rationale for changes, e.g. new direction in field

The Department of Social Work requires students in the undergraduate program to apply for the major. Similar to other professional training programs at the College, such as nursing, successful completion of pre-requisite courses prior to beginning in the major is an admission requirement. Social Work students are required to complete the following or an equivalent: Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100), Introduction to Psychology (PSH 110), Human Biology (BIO 281, BIO 221), and Statistics (MTH 243, PSH 202, SOC 200).

Any grade that passes each of these courses has been accepted as a completion of this requirement. For instance, an applicant could have a D- in one or more of these courses and still be accepted into the major. In recent years, this has raised a number of concerns:

- **Student quality:** The undergraduate program receives over 120 applications each year, while only being able to admit 75 students to the fall cohort and 25 students to its spring cohort. Raising the minimal standards for prerequisite courses will help the program admit better qualified students based on this indicator of academic performance and will improve the integrity of the program.

- **Major requirements:** All social work major courses require a minimum grade of "C" or better. Prerequisite courses are equally important and need to be held to the same standard.

- **Graduate school:** Many of our undergraduates continue on to graduate school. Most graduate social work programs and other disciplines require a "C" or better in these same prerequisite courses. Students who do not receive a C or better in these course encounter barriers to graduate school admission and must retake these courses in order to be considered for graduate school admission.

It is anticipated that this change will go into effect for students applying to the major for the fall 2014 semester. Students may apply for admission for fall 2014 between September 2013 and March 2014. Thus, this change is expected to go into effect starting fall 2013. This gives the department time to communicate this change to transfer schools (e.g., MCC, GCC, FLCC, etc.) who can then inform their students.

The table below is a summary of students accepted to the BSW program who had a C- or less in a prerequisite course (Applications submitted between 11/1/11-8/15/12).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort (total accepted)</th>
<th>Human Biology</th>
<th>Intro to Sociology</th>
<th>Intro to Psychology</th>
<th>Statistics</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2013 (25)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2012 (78)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Description of any new courses (Not applicable)
5. Staffing issues (Not applicable)
6. Academic administration commentary
   a) Letter of recommendation from chair (attached)
   b) Letter of recommendation from Dean of School (attached)
7. Resources, facilities that may be needed to implement the program (Not applicable)
8. If appropriate, letters of support from cooperating or affected agencies, ITS, library or other units/departments that may be involved
I support the Social Work department’s proposal to require a C or better grade in the listed pre-requisite courses for admission to the undergraduate social work program for reasons outlined in the Department’s proposal.

RE: BSW prerequisite proposal
Scheidt, Douglas
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2012 10:55 AM
To: Dauenhauer, Jason

Please be aware that I support the SWO department proposal to require a C or better grade in the listed pre-requisite courses for admission to the undergraduate social work program. This program is currently at capacity, so the increased standard is not expected to be a detriment to enrollments. Instead, it will require strong preparation in support of our high quality, rigorous academic programs, a strategic priority.

Douglas M. Scheidt, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education & Human Services
SUNY College at Brockport
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Brockport, NY 14420

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