

EP.09.05

**PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO
ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR**

RECEIVED
JUL 22 2008
OFFICE OF THE SENATE

Title of the proposed minor: Revisions to the Undergraduate Minor in Astronomy

Sponsoring unit(s): Associate Professor Brian D. Fields, Curriculum Committee Chair,
Department of Astronomy, 333-5529, bdfields@astro.uiuc.edu

Associate Dean Ann M. Mester, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 3-1350,
mester@uiuc.edu

Brief description of the program of study: Students will receive a background in astronomy through one of the introductory sequences (100, 121/122, and/or 210), and are then allowed freedom to choose subtopics in astronomy to explore at a more advanced level.

Justification: The minor was often perceived as more difficult than the major, as it actually required at least two 400-level astronomy classes, while the major, due to a mix-up with course-renumbering, did not. The requirements for the minor have been broken into three categories: Basic Astronomy, Advanced Astronomy, and Additional Courses. To fulfill the Basic Astronomy requirement, students may take 100, or 121/122, or 210. University rules require at least 6 hours of advanced (300-level and above) classes for a minor, so this is the Advanced Astronomy requirement. Finally, the student must complete additional Astronomy courses at any level for a total of 18 hours in the minor.

Budgetary and Staff Implications: The proposed revisions to our existing minor will not impact our budget or staff.

Requirements: The proposed revised minor requires 18 hours of astronomy classes, including an introductory sequence: ASTR 100, ASTR 121/122, and/or ASTR 210. After completing the introductory class(es), the students must complete additional astronomy classes to fulfill the 18 hour requirement, including at least 6 hours at the 300-level or above.

Prerequisites for the minor: None


Expected enrollment in the minor: We hope this revised minor will increase enrollment from about 1 student per year to 5-10 students per year.

Admission to the minor: Students will need to meet with an astronomy advisor.

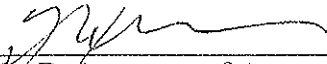
Minor advisor: Minor students will meet with the faculty advisor for their graduating class year, just as Astronomy majors do.

Certification of successful completion: The college of the student will confirm whether the minor has been completed, based on the course work designated by the college of the sponsoring department/unit. If a Minor Modification Form is needed, the college offering the minor will review the course substitutions, in consultation with the department sponsoring the minor if needed, and approve completion of the minor with the college of the student.

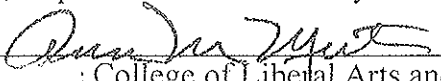
CLEARANCES:



Curriculum Committee Chair, Department of Astronomy



Chair, Department of Astronomy



: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee

Proposed Effective Date: upon approval