



**Graduate Council**

**Agenda—May 12, 2016  
Special Time – 2:00  
Academic Affairs Conference RM 239**

- I. Call to Order: 2:00
- II. Consideration of April 14, 2016 minutes
- III. Committee Reports
  - a. Curriculum Committee: Report included, Discussion
    - i. Temporary Course Proposal – SLP 567 School Based Speech Language Pathology  
  
Informational Item: does not require Committee or Council approval
  - b. Student Research Grants Committee: No report included, Discussion
  - c. Policy Committee: No Report included, Discussion
- IV. Report from Dean of the Graduate School
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Graduate Council Chair Comments
- VII. 2016-17 Graduate Council Elections: Vice Chair and Committee Chairs
- VIII. Announcements & Adjourn

# Graduate Council Program and Curriculum Committee (GCC)

## Report to the Graduate Council

Date: May 3, 2016

From: Marge Maxwell, Chair, Program and Curriculum Committee

**Consent Agenda Report.** The GCC submits the following consent items from its May 3, 2016 meeting for approval by the Graduate Council.

1. Delete a Course - NA
2. Create a New Course - NA
3. Revise Course
  - SWRK 433G Ethical Issues and Dilemmas in Social Work
  - SWRK 436G Services to Children
  - SWRK 501 Cultural Competency in Social Work Practice
  - SWRK 510 Human Behavior in the Social Environment
  - SWRK 520 Generalist Social Work Practice
  - SWRK 522 Group Dynamics in Social Work Practice
  - SWRK 523 Rural Community Organization and Development
  - SWRK 530 Foundation of Social Welfare Policy
  - SWRK 540 Foundations of Social Work Research Methods
  - SWRK 560 Foundation Field Practicum I
  - SWRK 561 Foundation Field Practicum II
  - SWRK 612 Social Work in Diverse Rural Areas
  - SWRK 620 Advanced Psycho-Social Approaches for Rural Practice
  - SWRK 622 Integrated Social Work Practice with Families
  - SWRK 623 Social Work Clinical Assessment and Intervention
  - SWRK 630 Rural Social Welfare Policy
  - SWRK 637 Theories of Addiction
  - SWRK 640 Applied Social Work Research
  - SWRK 647 Addictions: Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment Planning
  - SWRK 660 Advanced Field Practicum I
  - SWRK 661 Advanced Field Practicum II
  - SWRK 667 Counseling Substance Abusers and Their Families
  - SWRK 671 Social Work and the Law
  - SWRK 672 Child Sexual Abuse
  - SWRK 673 Grief and Loss: Issues and Interventions
  - SWRK 675 Expressive Therapies in Social Work Practice
  - SWRK 676 Social Work with Migrants
  - SWRK 678 Environmental Justice: Theory, Policy, and Practice
  - SWRK 695 Special Topics in Social Work
4. Revise Program
  - 0446 MA in Religious Studies - **TABLED**
5. New Certificate Program - NA

**Revise a Course  
(Action)**

Date: 4/11/2016

College, Department: CHHS, Social Work

Contact Person: Patricia Desrosiers, [patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu](mailto:patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu), (270) 745-4557

**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 433G
- 1.2 Course title: Ethical Issues and Dilemmas in Social Work

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

3. **Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

4. **Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

**5. Dates of committee approvals:**

Department of Social Work	4/12/16
CHHS Graduate Curriculum Committee	4/18/2016
Graduate Curriculum Committee	5/3/2016
Graduate Council	
University Senate	

*\*Course revision proposals require a Course Inventory Form be submitted by the College Dean's office to the Office of the Registrar.*

**Revise a Course  
(Action)**

Date: 4/11/2016

College, Department: CHHS, Social Work

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**1. Identification of course**

1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 436G

1.2 Course title: Services to Children

**2. Proposed change(s):**

2.1 course number:

2.2 course title:

2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours

2.4 grade type:

2.5 prerequisites:

2.6 corequisites:

2.7 course description:

2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

**4. Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 501
- 1.2 Course title: Cultural Competency in Social Work Practice

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 510
- 1.2 Course title: Human Behavior in the Social Environment

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 520
- 1.2 Course title: Generalist Social Work Practice

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 522
- 1.2 Course title: Group Dynamics in Social Work Practice

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 523
- 1.2 Course title: Rural Community Organization and Development

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 530
- 1.2 Course title: Foundation of Social Welfare Policy

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 540
- 1.2 Course title: Foundations of Social Work Research Methods

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 560
- 1.2 Course title: Foundation Field Practicum I

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title: Generalist Field Practicum I
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** New Council of Social Work Education Program Standards (2015 Educational Policy Accreditation Standards) changed language so we are bringing our language in line with theirs. Credit hour error needs correction.

**4. Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

**5. Dates of committee approvals:**

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 561
- 1.2 Course title: Foundation Field Practicum II

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title: Generalist Field Practicum II
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 612
- 1.2 Course title: Social Work in Diverse Rural Areas

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 620
- 1.2 Course title: Advanced Psycho-Social Approaches for Rural Practice

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 622
- 1.2 Course title: Integrated Social Work Practice with Families

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 623
- 1.2 Course title: Social Work Clinical Assessment and Intervention

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 630
- 1.2 Course title: Rural Social Welfare Policy

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 637
- 1.2 Course title: Theories of Addiction

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 640
- 1.2 Course title: Applied Social Work Research

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 647
- 1.2 Course title: Addictions: Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment Planning

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 660
- 1.2 Course title: Advanced Field Practicum I

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title: Advanced Generalist Field Practicum I
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** New Council of Social Work Education Program Standards (2015 Educational Policy Accreditation Standards) changed language so we are bringing our language in line with theirs. Credit hour error needs correction.

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**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 661
- 1.2 Course title: Advanced Field Practicum II

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title: Advanced Generalist Field Practicum II
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

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Graduate Curriculum Committee	5/3/2016
Graduate Council	
University Senate	

*\*Course revision proposals require a Course Inventory Form be submitted by the College Dean's office to the Office of the Registrar.*

**Revise a Course  
(Action)**

Date: 4/11/2016

College, Department: CHHS, Social Work

Contact Person: Patricia Desrosiers, [patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu](mailto:patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu), (270) 745-4557

**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 667
- 1.2 Course title: Counseling Substance Abusers and Their Families

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

**4. Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

**5. Dates of committee approvals:**

Department of Social Work	4/12/16
CHHS Graduate Curriculum Committee	4/18/2016
Graduate Curriculum Committee	5/3/2016
Graduate Council	
University Senate	

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**Revise a Course  
(Action)**

Date: 4/11/2016

College, Department: CHHS, Social Work

Contact Person: Patricia Desrosiers, [patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu](mailto:patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu), (270) 745-4557

**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 671
- 1.2 Course title: Social Work and the Law

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

**4. Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

**5. Dates of committee approvals:**

Department of Social Work

4/12/16

CHHS Graduate Curriculum Committee

4/18/2016

Graduate Curriculum Committee

5/3/2016

Graduate Council

University Senate

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**Revise a Course  
(Action)**

Date: 4/11/2016

College, Department: CHHS, Social Work

Contact Person: Patricia Desrosiers, [patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu](mailto:patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu), (270) 745-4557

**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 672
- 1.2 Course title: Child Sexual Abuse

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

**4. Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

**5. Dates of committee approvals:**

Department of Social Work	4/12/16
CHHS Graduate Curriculum Committee	4/18/2016
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**Revise a Course  
(Action)**

Date: 4/11/2016

College, Department: CHHS, Social Work

Contact Person: Patricia Desrosiers, [patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu](mailto:patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu), (270) 745-4557

**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 673
- 1.2 Course title: Grief and Loss: Issues and Interventions

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

**4. Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

**5. Dates of committee approvals:**

Department of Social Work	4/12/16
CHHS Graduate Curriculum Committee	4/18/2016
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**Revise a Course  
(Action)**

Date: 4/11/2016

College, Department: CHHS, Social Work

Contact Person: Patricia Desrosiers, [patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu](mailto:patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu), (270) 745-4557

**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 675
- 1.2 Course title: Expressive Therapies in Social Work Practice

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

**4. Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

**5. Dates of committee approvals:**

Department of Social Work	4/12/16
CHHS Graduate Curriculum Committee	4/18/2016
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**Revise a Course  
(Action)**

Date: 4/11/2016

College, Department: CHHS, Social Work

Contact Person: Patricia Desrosiers, [patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu](mailto:patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu), (270) 745-4557

**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 676
- 1.2 Course title: Social Work with Migrants

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

**4. Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

**5. Dates of committee approvals:**

Department of Social Work

4/12/16

CHHS Graduate Curriculum Committee

4/18/2016

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**Revise a Course  
(Action)**

Date: 4/11/2016

College, Department: CHHS, Social Work

Contact Person: Patricia Desrosiers, [patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu](mailto:patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu), (270) 745-4557

**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 678
- 1.2 Course title: Environmental Justice: Theory, Policy, and Practice

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

**4. Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

**5. Dates of committee approvals:**

Department of Social Work	4/12/16
CHHS Graduate Curriculum Committee	4/18/2016
Graduate Curriculum Committee	5/3/2016
Graduate Council	
University Senate	

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**Revise a Course  
(Action)**

Date: 4/11/2016

College, Department: CHHS, Social Work

Contact Person: Patricia Desrosiers, [patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu](mailto:patricia.desrosiers@wku.edu), (270) 745-4557

**1. Identification of course**

- 1.1 Course prefix and number: SWRK 695
- 1.2 Course title: Special Topics in Social Work

**2. Proposed change(s):**

- 2.1 course number:
- 2.2 course title:
- 2.3 credit hours: CURRENT: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 6 hrs)  
PROPOSED: 3 hours (repeatable for a maximum of 9 hours)
- 2.4 grade type:
- 2.5 prerequisites:
- 2.6 corequisites:
- 2.7 course description:
- 2.8 other:

**3. Rationale for revision of course:** Credit hour error needs correction.

**4. Term of implementation:** Spring 2017

**5. Dates of committee approvals:**

Department of Social Work	4/12/16
CHHS Graduate Curriculum Committee	4/18/2016
Graduate Curriculum Committee	5/3/2016
Graduate Council	
University Senate	

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**Potter College of Arts & Letters  
Department of Philosophy and Religion  
Proposal to Revise A Program  
(Action Item)**

Contact Person: Eric Bain-Selbo, [eric.bain-selbo@wku.edu](mailto:eric.bain-selbo@wku.edu), x5744

**1. Identification of program:**

- 1.1 Current program reference number: 0446
- 1.2 Current program title: MA in Religious Studies
- 1.3 Credit hours: 35

**2. Identification of the proposed program changes:** Reduction of credit hours from 35 to 32.

**3. Detailed program description:**

**Current program**

The M.A. program in Religious Studies requires a minimum of ~~35~~ graduate credit hours. No more than 12 hours may be in 400G courses. Students may take up to six hours in graduate courses in other departments. Students must complete a thesis or a culminating project. Students considering further doctoral study in religious studies are encouraged to take the thesis option.

Required Courses: All students must complete RELS 500 (Theory and Method in the Study of Religion, four credit hours), two offerings of RELS 601 (Graduate Seminar in Religious Studies, four credit hours), RELS 602 (Thesis and Project Development Seminar, one credit hour), and RELS 603 (Thesis and Project Colloquium, one credit hour). These required courses total 14 credit hours.

Thesis : Students on the thesis track may take up to six credit hours of Thesis Writing (RELS 599). Students completing an alternative project will take additional coursework in lieu of RELS 599. Students must petition to not complete a thesis, and provide a proposal for the alternative project by the end of their second semester.

Electives: The student's remaining credit hours may be taken in further RELS 601

**Proposed program**

The M.A. program in Religious Studies requires a minimum of **32** graduate credit hours. No more than 12 hours may be in 400G courses. Students may take up to six hours in graduate courses in other departments. Students must complete a thesis or a culminating project. Students considering further doctoral study in religious studies are encouraged to take the thesis option.

Required Courses: All students must complete RELS 500 (Theory and Method in the Study of Religion, four credit hours), two offerings of RELS 601 (Graduate Seminar in Religious Studies, four credit hours), RELS 602 (Thesis and Project Development Seminar, one credit hour), and RELS 603 (Thesis and Project Colloquium, one credit hour). These required courses total 14 credit hours.

Thesis : Students on the thesis track may take up to six credit hours of Thesis Writing (RELS 599). Students completing an alternative project will take additional coursework in lieu of RELS 599. Students must petition to not complete a thesis, and provide a proposal for the alternative project by the end of their second semester.

Electives: The student's remaining credit hours may be taken in further RELS 601



courses, other RELS graduate courses, RELS 400G courses, independent studies, or graduate courses in other departments (with consent of adviser).

Research Tool: Appropriate language work in the student's area of emphasis is recommended (e.g., Hebrew for students doing work in Jewish scripture). Graduate level language courses may count for as many as six credits toward completing the degree. Research methods courses in other departments may be used to meet this requirement upon approval of the Department Head of Philosophy and Religion. If not completing the research tool requirement in any other way, students must pass a reading examination in either French or German.

courses, other RELS graduate courses, RELS 400G courses, independent studies, or graduate courses in other departments (with consent of adviser).

Research Tool: Appropriate language work in the student's area of emphasis is recommended (e.g., Hebrew for students doing work in Jewish scripture). Graduate level language courses may count for as many as six credits toward completing the degree. Research methods courses in other departments may be used to meet this requirement upon approval of the Department Head of Philosophy and Religion. If not completing the research tool requirement in any other way, students must pass a reading examination in either French or German.

**4. Rationale for the proposed program change:** There are two central reasons for this change. First, the reduction in total credit hours frees up more time for students at the end of their program to finish the thesis. Most of our students write a thesis, and finishing the thesis while taking two or more standard courses is difficult (even more so for Graduate Assistants with various course responsibilities). Second, reducing the total credit hours reduces by three hours the number of hours for which they have to pay tuition. In addition, since this change frees up some time during their last semester, they are more likely to finish their thesis on time and avoid having to pay an hour's worth of tuition for "Maintaining Matriculation" during the summer or even the following fall.

**5. Proposed term for implementation and special provisions (if applicable): 201630**

**6. Dates of prior committee approvals:**

**Religious Studies program**

**March 2, 2016**

Department of Philosophy and Religion

**March 7, 2016**

Potter College Curriculum Committee

Graduate Curriculum Committee

**TABLED – MAY 3, 2016**

Graduate Council

University Senate