

See additional rationale provided, starting on page 6.

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON – PROGRAM CHANGE PROPOSAL

Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

COLLEGE (check one):	Arts and Sciences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business		Education	
Proposal Submitted By: Anand Rao			Date Prepared: 10/03/16			
Department /Program:		Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication Digital Studies Minor				

Note: for any program change entailing the addition any new courses, or revisions to existing courses, separate proposal for those course actions must also be submitted.

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE EXISTING PROGRAM (check no than one of the following)	
Revise requirements for existing major	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revise requirements for a concentration within an existing major	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revise requirements for an existing degree program	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revise requirements for existing certificate program	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revise requirements for existing minor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation Date: FALL semester, year:	FALL 2017


REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR CHANGES TO EXISTING PROGRAMS:

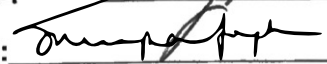
1. **Rationale statement** (Why is this program change needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. **Impact Statement** (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, technology, and impacts created by this program change. Supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. evaluating the resource impact and feasibility of the program change are required.)
3. **Catalog Copy** (Provide the *existing* Catalog Description and the complete statement of the *proposed* new Catalog description that reflects the program changes)

PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW PROGRAM NOT REQUIRING STATE ACTION (check no more that one of the following)	
New concentration within existing major	Name: _____
New minor	Name: _____
New Major but NOT a new degree*	Name: _____
*Use ONLY for interdisciplinary majors that will be grouped as part of the "Special Majors/General Liberal Arts and Sciences" degree (CIP Code 24.0101) or reported as a BLS degree (CIP Code 24.0199)	
Implementation Date (semester and year):	_____

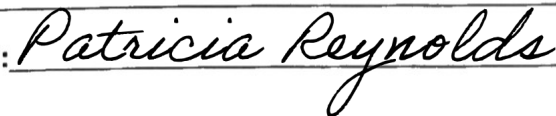
REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR NEW PROGRAMS NOT REQUIRING STATE APPROVAL:

1. **Rationale statement** (Why is this additional program needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. **Impact Statement** (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, technology, and impacts created by this program change. Supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. evaluating the resource impact and feasibility of adding the new program are required.)
3. **Catalog Copy** (Provide the complete Catalog Description for the proposed new program)
4. Any change that impacts another Department must have a written statement (such as a copy of an email) from the Chair(s) agreeing to the change.

Department Chair Approval:  Date: 11/2/2016

CCC Chair Approval:  Date: 11/30/16

Dean Approval: Richard Finkelstein Date: 11/30/16

UCC Chair Approval:  Date: 2/23/2017

*Provost Approval: _____ Date: _____

**Required only in cases of proposals for new concentrations, new minors, or new majors that do not involve a new degree*

Rationale

This proposal requests several small changes to the catalog description of the Minor in Digital Studies to expand the list of electives offered for the minor. These changes are listed below and reflected in the following pages of current and revised catalog copy.

Changes to the Electives – addition of the following elective options

ENGL 300 (_ELECTIVES)

ENGL 301 (_ELECTIVES)

Impact Statement

These changes will not alter or add to the resources required to support this program.

Current Catalog Copy (2016-17)

Digital Studies Minor

Requirements for the Digital Studies Minor

Eighteen (18) credits to include one introductory class (DGST 101); twelve (12) credits from ARTS 104, 341, 454; COMM 353, 357; CPSC 106; DGST 201, 395, 483 (up to 3 credits); ENGL 203, 245, 252, 253, 314, 345, 350, 359, 386, 451; HISP 303; HIST 300AA, 325, 427, 428; MUTC 100, 170, 320, 330, 370; PSCI 363, 450; THEA 433, 481 or other courses as approved by the director, where the courses chosen reflect at least two disciplines with 6 credits at 300-level or higher; and a 3 credit capstone from HIST 428; ENGL 451; individual studies (491/492) or other courses as approved by the director.

Proposed Catalog Copy (2016-17)

Digital Studies Minor

Requirements for the Digital Studies Minor

Eighteen (18) credits to include one introductory class (DGST 101); twelve (12) credits from ARTS 104, 341, 454; COMM 353, 357; CPSC 106; DGST 201, 395, 483 (up to 3 credits); ENGL 203, 245, 252, 253, 300, 301, 314, 345, 350, 359, 386, 451; HISP 303; HIST 300AA, 325, 427, 428; MUTC 100, 170, 320, 330, 370; PSCI 363, 450; THEA 433, 481 or other courses as approved by the director, where the courses chosen reflect at least two disciplines with 6 credits at 300-level or higher; and a 3 credit capstone from HIST 428; ENGL 451; individual studies (491/492) or other courses as approved by the director.

Changes to the Communication & Digital Studies Major and the Digital Studies Minor
Additional Rationale – February 2017

I appreciate the opportunity to provide an additional rationale and answer concerns raised in the curriculum committee's discussion of our proposals. The Communication and Digital Studies major is in its second year and currently has 120+ majors. The major is structured with three sections: Communication Core (15 credits), Digital Studies Core (9 credits), and Electives (12 credits, with at least 6 in 300 and 400 level courses). The proposed changes include tweaks and updates to the major that provide better flexibility to meet increasing demand by adding courses to the electives section of the major. I have structured this rationale to respond to the two questions/concerns raised in earlier discussions by the curriculum committee:

1. The proposal did not explain why the elective courses listed as new options were appropriate to the minor; is there sufficient digital content in each course? (For example, the catalog description for "Magazine Studies" does not say anything about feature writing for online environments.)

Sorry that we were not clearer in our original proposal. Here is some explanation for each of the elective course options listed in the proposal. Here is some additional explanation for the addition of these courses as electives in the major:

COMM 370- all suffixes

Not including the 370-level special topics in communication as an option in the major was an oversight in our original major proposal. The department chair has been granting special permission for sections of COMM 370. All COMM 370 courses are offered with the intention of supporting the major.

COMM 491: Individual Study

COMM 491 was originally listed as an option to satisfy the capstone for the major as we did not know if we would have sufficient student demand to be able to offer COMM 460, the senior seminar in communication. With more than 100 majors we have plenty of demand for COMM 460 and will be offering it every year. This proposal removes COMM 491 as a capstone option and includes it as an elective option for those instances where a faculty member would like to work with a student on a special individual project.

COMM 205: Public Speaking, COMM 206: Small Group Communication, and COMM 209: Argumentation

These three courses are currently part of the Communication Core for the major- students are required to take 2 of the 3 courses. We have had students who take all 3, and this proposal allows for those students to count the third course as a lower-level elective (but only if the Communication Core is completed).

ENGL 300 and ENGL 301

These are the only new course additions to the major (all other courses listed in this proposal are already part of the major in some way). Both courses have been reviewed by myself, as Director of the Comm & Digital Studies Program, and Zach Whalen, as Director of the Digital Studies Minor. While the catalog description might not explicitly state digital content, both courses do centrally address digital content and they meet the principles that have been outlined as important for Digital Studies courses. There are other courses that have been approved as Digital Studies in the past that do not include specific language in their catalog descriptions but do centrally address DS-related content.

ARTS 104, CPSC 106, and CPSC 110

These three courses are currently part of the the Digital Studies Core for the major- students are required to take 1 of the 3 courses. We have had students who take more than 1, and this proposal allows for those students to count the second (or third) of these courses as a lower-level elective (but only after the Digital Studies Core is completed).

2. Committee returned the proposals and requested an explanation for the need to add an additional 10 elective choices to a major that already has 27 elective choices

As outlined above, 8 of the 10 courses included in this proposal are already part of the major. It is important to include the option for them to appear as electives as it provides students with greater flexibility and reinforces the importance of those courses already listed as options in the Communication Core and the Digital Studies Core. Without this change they will only take the minimum number of courses required, missing out on what the additional courses have to offer.

The Communication and Digital Studies major is an interdisciplinary major and the elective courses represent a variety of disciplines. Since those courses are offered by different departments, it can be difficult to coordinate

schedules of course offerings. Additionally, many of the courses housed in other departments are not part of a regular course rotation (some are only taught once every two years). This presents some difficulty in making sure that students have access to the elective courses that they need in order to complete the major in a timely manner. Including the courses listed in this proposal as elective options both rewards students for working beyond the minimums listed in the Core sections of the major, while also providing greater scheduling flexibility.