Expedite Course Change Cover Sheet (October 2015)

Submitted by: Randall Helmstutler

Date Prepared: 11/2/2015

Department/Discipline(s) and Course Number(s): Mathematics/ MATH 325

Course Title: Discrete Mathematics

Type of change (check all applicable):

- Number
- Title
- Credits
- Description
- Prerequisites
- X Deletion
- Cross list

* This course number must be approved by the Office of the Registrar before the proposal is submitted.

** To cross list courses between departments/colleges, there should be two cover sheets submitted with the proposal – one by the chair of each department with signatures from the relevant College Curriculum Committee Chair.

Effective Date: FALL Semester, Year 2016

Current Catalog Entry

Prerequisite: MATH 201 or CPSC 125.

Includes topics such as discrete probability, graph theory, recurrence relations, topics from number theory, semigroups, formal languages and grammars, finite automata, Turing machines, and coding theory.

Proposed Catalog Entry

Prerequisite: MATH 201. CPSC 125 may be used as a substitute for MATH 201 with department approval.

Includes topics such as discrete probability, graph theory, recurrence relations, topics from number theory, semigroups, formal languages and grammars, finite automata, Turing machines, and coding theory.

JUSTIFICATION (including impact on majors, minors, concentrations, and general education courses within the University curriculum; attach additional pages if required). 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.

Once upon a time, MATH 201 and CPSC 125 were the same course, or at least close enough so that both courses played the same prerequisite role in each department. Formerly, CPSC classes that needed CPSC 125 as a prereq also allowed MATH 201 as a prereq, and vice versa for MATH classes with MATH 201 as a prereq. Recent curriculum changes in the Department of Computer Science have altered the content of CPSC 125 so that they no longer permit MATH 201 to count as an equivalent prerequisite for CPSC courses.

While the content of MATH 201 has not changed, the Department of Mathematics feels that this new version of CPSC 125 is sufficiently different to prevent its use as an across-the-board prerequisite for our theory courses requiring proof-writing experience (the main role of MATH 201 and the former CPSC 125). At the same time, we recognize that a strong student with solid performance in CPSC 125 and MATH courses may be well-prepared for success in MATH 325, so we do not wish to hold up such a student’s progress by requiring an additional course. Thus, the department has agreed (and is willing) to allow CPSC 125 as a prerequisite replacement for MATH 201, vetted and approved by the department chair on a case-by-case basis.

Since the CPSC curriculum changes that created this split are already in place, there is no impact on any other program or department. This course is an elective only in the MATH major.
MATH 325 is an elective in the MATH major and counts in no other program, so there is no one to transition. The only holdovers would be new CPSC/MATH double majors or major/minors who wish to take MATH 325 as part of their MATH requirements, and these would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Expedites course changes are posted for a 10-class day comment period. If no comments are raised during that time, the proposal becomes final. All expedited proposals approved in this way will be noted on the UCC web site.

If comments are raised, the proposal may be reviewed by the UCC and then approved or it may be returned to the CCC for additional deliberation (as required).