

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**  
240 SH  
September 7, 2023

*Attending:* Cornelia Lang (chair), Jill Beckman, Asha Bhandary, Rodica Curtu, Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Jennifer Eimers (staff), Anita Jung, Cinda Coggins Mosher, Amira Qidwai, Amy Strathman

*Absent:* Christine Shea, Jan Wessel

1. Minutes from the August 31, 2023, meeting were approved.
2. Morten Schlutter, Professor, Religious Studies, presented a proposal to close the Religion and Media minor. Since the minor was created in 2019, one student has enrolled, and with fewer faculty in Religious Studies, the department would like to focus their efforts on the Religious Studies minor. Any student who enrolls before the proposed closure would be able to complete the minor with currently offered classes. Other students interested in religion and media can pursue those interests within the Religious Studies major or minor. UEPCC supports the closure.
3. Miriam Landsman, Associate Professor and Director, School of Social Work; Tomeka Petersen, Admissions and Program Coordinator; and Kate Kemp, Program and Admissions Administrator presented a proposal to revise admission requirements for the Social Work BA.

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accrediting body requires admission criteria and a process for evaluating admission. CSWE allows either selective admission or admitting students simultaneously to institution and program. Previously Social Work applied selective admission with a cap of 45 students admitted, so they were turning away qualified students. The new admission requirements will open up space for more students to complete the BA in Social Work and will thereby increase the number of mental health care professionals in the state of Iowa. CLAS administration is supporting additional faculty and an additional staff person dedicated to practicum placements in the students' final semester in order to grow the program.

**The current requirements:**

- Complete SSW:1022 with a grade of C or higher
- 2.50 cumulative GPA
- Completion of application forms and statement

**Proposed admission requirements beginning Fall 2024:**

Incoming transfer and first-year students will declare the Social Work BA, rather than social work interest. This change will offer students faster advising about Social Work.

Students will be permitted to register for the “professional core” social work courses when:

- The student has successfully completed the following courses with a C or above:
- SSW1022 Social Justice and Social Welfare in the U.S. or approved Intro to Social Work course
- PSY1001 or transfer equivalent
- SOC1010 or transfer equivalent

And meet these requirements:

- 2.0 G.P.A. minimum overall
- Completion of 45 s.h. or more

When students have completed these requirements, they will submit a signed “Acceptance to Complete the Major Agreement Form.” In it they are asked to share their professional goals/interests, and also includes an affirmation of expectations in the professional coursework, which will explain evaluation of Core Competencies, academic, and professional behavior expectations. This form will alert students to the transition from taking general coursework to being evaluated for specific competencies, a requirement of accreditation.

A 4+1 (BA +MSW) program is also in development.

UEPCC members were supportive of these changes.

#### 4. Adjournment of meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Maurel-Destruel  
Associate Professor, French and Italian  
Secretary pro tem, UEPCC