

CNS EVIDENCE AND INQUIRY CERTIFICATE

REQUEST TO CHANGE EVIDENCE AND INQUIRY CERTIFICATE OR REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION ON THE UNIVERSITY TRANSCRIPTS<sup>1</sup>

- Type of Proposal: [ ] New Certificate Program [x] Change an Existing Certificate Program [ ] Delete a Program

Note: If the certificate program proposed for addition or change includes a requirement of 21 to 24 semester credit hours, an additional form is required for THECB approval/notification.<sup>2</sup>

Proposed classification:<sup>3</sup> [x] Exclusive [ ] General [ ] Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACSCOC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

- Is this a new transcript-recognized certificate program? Yes [ ] No [x]
Is this a request to delete an existing transcript-recognized certificate program? Yes [ ] No [x]
Does the certificate offer courses that will be taught off campus? Yes [ ] No [x]
Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? Yes [ ] No [x]
Will courses be developed specifically for the new certificate? Yes [ ] No [x]

2. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES: (Please check all that apply)

- [ ] Courses in other colleges [ ] Courses in proposer's college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges [ ] Flags
[ ] Course in the core curriculum [ ] Change in course sequencing for an existing program [x] NSC 109 (Topic 4) and NSC 323 (Topic 1) to replace 2 unnumbered topic offerings.
[ ] Change in admission requirements (external or internal) [ ] Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office)

3. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE:

- a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes [ ] No [x]
If yes, then how?
b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes [ ] No [x]
If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes [ ] No [x]
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes [ ] No [x]
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

If 3 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions. If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

How many students do you expect to be impacted?
Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:
Person communicated with:

## CNS EVIDENCE AND INQUIRY CERTIFICATE

Date of communication:

Response:

4. **OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE NAME:** Evidence and Inquiry Certificate
5. **PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**<sup>4</sup> N/A
6. **CIP CODE** (administrative unit awarding the certificate):<sup>5</sup> N/A
7. **STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVE:**<sup>6</sup> N/A
8. **NUMBER OF STUDENTS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE THE CERTIFICATE EACH SEMESTER:** N/A
9. **NUMBER OF HOURS REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION (Note: If the number of required hours is 21 to 24, THECB form is required):**<sup>7</sup> 22
10. **LIST FACULTY ON THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FACULTY COMMITTEE.**<sup>8</sup>

| Name of Faculty Member     | College/Department      | Title at UT Austin | Highest Degree and Awarding Institution            |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>Huk, Alex. Director</b> | CNS / Neuroscience      | Assoc Professor    | PhD, Stanford                                      |
| Aldrich, Richard*          | CNS / Neuroscience      | Professor          | PhD, Stanford                                      |
| Buskirk, Ruth              | CNS / Biology Ins Ofc   | Sr. Lecturer       | PhD, U of California, Davis                        |
| Carlson, Caryn*            | COLA / Psychology       | Professor          | PhD, U of Georgia                                  |
| Carter, Mia*               | COLA / English          | Assoc Professor    | PhD, U of Wisconsin, Milwaukee                     |
| Colgin, Laura*             | CNS / Neuroscience      | Asst Professor     | PhD, U of California, Irvine                       |
| Dailey, René*              | Moody / Comm Studs      | Assoc Professor    | PhD, U of Calif, Santa Barbara                     |
| De Lozanne, Arturo*        | CNS / Molecular Bio.    | Assoc Professor    | PhD, Stanford                                      |
| Garza, Thomas*             | COLA / Slavic & Eur.    | Assoc Professor    | EdD, Harvard                                       |
| Gleason, Marci*            | CNS / HDFS              | Asst Professor     | PhD, New York U                                    |
| González-Martin, Rachel*   | COLA / Mex Amer Studies | Asst Professor     | PhD, Indiana U                                     |
| Jellison, Judith*          | Fine Arts / Music       | Professor          | PhD, Florida State U                               |
| Mauk, Mike*                | CNS / Neuroscience      | Professor          | PhD, Stanford                                      |
| Roberts, Brian*            | COLA / Government       | Professor          | PhD, Washington U                                  |
| Roberts-Miller, Patricia*  | COLA / Rhetoric         | Professor          | PhD, U of California, Berkeley                     |
| Roux, Stanley*             | CNS / Molecular Bio.    | Professor          | PhD, Yale  |
| Sadun, Lorenzo*            | CNS / Mathematics       | Professor          | PhD, U of California, Berkeley                     |
| Schnyer, Rosa*             | School of Nursing       | Clin Asst Prof     | DAOM, Oregon College of Acupuncture & Oriental Med |
| Scott, Mike                | CNS / Computer Sci      | Sr Lecturer        | MS, Rensselaer                                     |

## CNS EVIDENCE AND INQUIRY CERTIFICATE

**11. ACADEMIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**<sup>9</sup> Use this table to identify the courses that qualify for this certificate program.

| Course Abbreviation and Number | Course Title   | SCH <sup>10</sup> |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| NSC 109, Topic 4               | <i>Topic 4: Polymathic Field Invention</i>   | 1                 |
| NSC 323, Topic 1               | <i>Topic 1: Polymathic Capstone Thesis Preparation Seminar #</i><br># NSC 109, Topic 4 | 3                 |

**12. OTHER CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS:** N/A

**13. GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S):** The faculty administering the certificate created NSC 109 (Capstone Field Invention) to address issues that students were having in developing a focus for their interests. The purpose of the course is to help students focus and combine some of their top intellectual interests, identify and consult with faculty with relevant expertise regarding useful courses, and write a cogent description and defense of their Capstone field of study. The course has proven extremely useful in helping students refine their field and improve their writing, in preparation for taking the four courses that will ultimately define their field of study.

The faculty created NSC 323 (Capstone Thesis Preparation Seminar) after realizing that the 1-hour NSC Capstone preparation seminar of previous years allowed insufficient time for the preliminary research and writing necessary for a substantial honors-level thesis. NSC 323 requires a student to develop a bibliography of scholarly readings and notes to support the thesis, a well-formulated research question of appropriate scope that lends itself to an evidence-based answer, written thesis proposal, identification of a faculty mentor to supervise and support the thesis, and a draft outline of the thesis.

Note: The NSC 109 and NSC 323 numbered topics added to the course inventory have been offered for 4 years as unnumbered topic courses. Thus, these new courses do not increase the instructional budget.

**14. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS:**

Department approval date: November 17, 2016 Approved by whom: Evidence and Inquiry steering committee

College approval date: September 20, 2017 Approved by whom: Course and Curriculum Committee

Dean approval date: September 20, 2017 Approved by whom: David Vanden Bout, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

## CNS EVIDENCE AND INQUIRY CERTIFICATE

### Evidence and Inquiry Certificate

The Evidence and Inquiry Certificate, pursued by students in the Polymathic Scholars Program and open by application to others, allows students to design an area of study shaped by questions that require evidence and methodologies outside their major. Students work with faculty ~~and academic consultants~~ to identify interests, map them onto academic disciplines at the University, and determine questions related to those interests that might be answerable by research that combines expertise from at least two disciplines. Students describe their area of study, identify primary questions, name two University of Texas at Austin faculty members with research experience relevant to their field, and justify the courses they would take in a written proposal that must be ~~approved~~ reviewed by ~~a three members member~~ of the program's faculty steering committee panel. Students ~~have the opportunity to present complete~~ an original research project thesis in their final year a capstone seminar. Those who plan to pursue the certificate ~~should~~ must apply ~~to the program for admission~~ no later than the end of their third long semester. More information about the Evidence and Inquiry Certificate is available on the College of Natural Sciences website.

The certificate program requires ~~18~~ 22 semester hours of coursework, including at least ~~nine~~ eleven hours completed in residence. Students must meet the following requirements:

1. Undergraduate Studies 303 (Topic: Originality in the Arts and Sciences) or another critical thinking or research methods substitute course for students who apply for admission after completing a signature course  
Critical thinking or research methods course from an approved list available from the adviser. The approved list may include Undergraduate Studies 303, (One of the following subjects: Originality in the Arts and Sciences; Research Methods; or Critical Thinking for the 21st Century). Other subjects or courses may be eligible for substitution by petition.
2. Natural Sciences 109 (Topic 4: Polymathic Field Invention)  
Four additional courses, including at least six semester hours of upper-division coursework, from the student's approved evidence and inquiry area of study
3. Four additional courses, including at least six semester hours of upper-division coursework, from the student's approved evidence and inquiry area of study  
Senior Capstone Seminar: Natural Sciences 371
4. Senior Capstone Sequence: Natural Sciences 323 (Topic 1: Polymathic Capstone Thesis Preparation Seminar) and Natural Sciences 371

In the College of Natural Sciences, the Evidence and Inquiry Certificate may be used to complement any major. Some certificate courses will also fulfill degree requirements established by the student's major department and are given later in this section; however, some of the ~~18~~ 22 hours required for the certificate may be in addition to the number of hours required for the degree.

Please include a draft of the catalog copy immediately following the above form. If this is an update of an existing copy, the draft should be based on the text of the current catalog available at: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/undergraduate/>. **Strike through and replace (with underlines) only the specific language to be changed. Do NOT use track changes, and do not include hyperlinks in the catalog copy.** Submit form electronically to the Office of the General Faculty and Faculty Council at [fc@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:fc@austin.utexas.edu). For questions on completing this section, please contact Victoria Cervantes, [fc@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:fc@austin.utexas.edu), 471-5934 or Brenda Schumann, [brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu), 475-7654.

---

#### <sup>1</sup> **Minimum Criteria for Certificate Recognition on the Transcript:**

- a) The transcript-recognized undergraduate academic certificate program must be completed in conjunction with or within one year of completion of an undergraduate degree at The University of Texas at Austin; students pursuing an integrated undergraduate/graduate program must complete the requirements for the certificate within one year after completing the undergraduate requirements of their program. A maximum of nine credit hours in the certificate program may be taken after completion of the undergraduate degree.

## CNS EVIDENCE AND INQUIRY CERTIFICATE

---

- b) Transcript-recognized undergraduate academic certificate programs must require a minimum of eighteen hours of certificate course work, but not more than twenty-four hours.
- c) At least half of the required coursework in the certificate program must be completed in residence at The University of Texas at Austin.
- d) A student may **not** earn a certificate in the same field of study as his or her major, and at least one course required in the certificate program must be outside the requirements of the major. However, courses in the certificate program outside the major may fulfill other degree requirements such as general education requirements or required elective hours.
- e) Students apply for transcript recognized undergraduate academic certificates at the time they complete their undergraduate degree or the certificate program, whichever comes later. Transcript recognition is awarded at that time.

<sup>2</sup> To add a certificate program that requires 21 to 24 SCH's OR to increase the number of hours of an existing certificate program from 20 or less to 21 to 24 SCH's, complete the [THECB Certificate Program Certification Form](#) and submit it to the provost's office, [lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu). To change the number of required hours for certificates currently requiring 21 to 24 SCH's, complete the [THECB Request to Change Semester Credit Hours Form](#) and submit it to the provost's office, [lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu). Certificate programs that require 20 or fewer SCH's do not require THECB forms.

<sup>3</sup> **EXCLUSIVE:** of *exclusive* application and of primary interest only to a single college or school ("no protest" period is *seven calendar days*); **GENERAL:** of *general* interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty) ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*); *major* legislation must be submitted to the General Faculty for adoption ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*).

<sup>4</sup> Transcript-recognized minors will not appear on the University transcripts until next catalog.

<sup>5</sup> Use the federal CIP code selector site to pick a code, <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode>. After all other areas of this form are completed, forward a copy to the Office of Institutional Reporting, Research, and Information Systems (IRRIS) [IRRIS\\_data\\_request@utlists.utexas.edu](mailto:IRRIS_data_request@utlists.utexas.edu) with a request to verify the CIP code ("CIP CODE" in the subject line). Include your contact information, so an IRRIS member may contact you with any questions.

<sup>6</sup> Include heading in *Undergraduate Catalog* where changes will be made.

<sup>7</sup> See footnote 1b above: 18 to 24 hours are required. See footnote 2 above for THECB requirements if over 20 hours.

<sup>8</sup> For inclusion on transcripts, the faculty committee must have a minimum of five members and at least 2/3 of the committee must be tenured or tenure-track.

Note with an asterisk those faculty members who are tenured or tenure-track. Please also note the program chair who will be responsible for authorizing the students' certificates. Specify changes to the committee membership by noting those no longer on the committee and those added to the committee. (*Add and delete rows as needed.*)

<sup>9</sup> Note with an asterisk (\*) courses that would be added if the certificate program is approved. Specify changes to the qualifying courses by noting those no longer qualifying and those now qualifying. (*Add and delete rows as needed.*) If the course numbers and titles change on a regular basis, please indicate the types of courses and number of hours for required for each. Note with a hashtag (#) courses that require a prerequisite and provide the prerequisite course numbers.

<sup>10</sup> Semester Credit Hours.