

✓ No FS 1-27-98

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PLAN A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

October 1, 1997

Constituent Institution: East Carolina University

API Discipline Specialty Title: Undergraduate Multidisciplinary Minor

API Discipline Specialty Number: none

Type of Degree: Minor

Proposed program is at a more advanced level than those previously authorized: No

Proposed program is in a new discipline division: No

Program Tracks (if any): none

Proposed date of establishment: August, 1998

1. Describe the proposed new degree program for which planning authorization is being sought. Include a statement of educational objectives. Describe the relationship of the proposed new program to the institutional mission, the relationship of the proposed new program to other existing programs at the institution, and special features or conditions that make the institution a desirable, unique, or appropriate place to initiate such a degree program.

A. Description: The multidisciplinary minor is designed for students who have interests not met by existing minors. The minor will focus on a theme (e.g., evolution, new historicism) in which relevant courses are offered by two or more departments (e.g., anthropology, biology, and geology, or English and history). The Department of Psychology has had a comparable minor for several years and the proposal here would extend the ability of other departments to provide a similar minor for their students. The proposed minor will not allow students to reproduce existing departmental or other multidisciplinary minors.

The multidisciplinary minor will be administered by the student's major department and will not require new courses, new faculty, or new administrative positions. Good advising of students will be key to the success of this minor.

The proposed new minor is congruous with the educational mission of the University as found in Goal 1 Achieve Distinction in Undergraduate Education of the "Strategies for Distinction: University Directions, 1995-2000." Goal 1 includes the objectives of promoting "independent learning programs" and enhancing advising "aimed at improving retention and graduation rates." The program affords students with an opportunity to integrate the knowledge of the student's major with the knowledge of other disciplines.

Admission to the Multidisciplinary Minor. The student must be a declared major in a department and have completed 30 semester hours. If a student is interested in the multidisciplinary minor, he/she should discuss with his/her advisor the topic or theme around which the student would like to build a minor. A written plan will subsequently be devised by the student and advisor and submitted to the faculty member assigned by the department to oversee the multidisciplinary minor and to the departmental chair or his/her representative. Criteria for approval include thematic unity and coherence, clarity of educational objectives, and the requirements explained below. If the plan is approved, the student under the supervision of his/her advisor will proceed to complete the course of

study. The plan must be in place before the student has completed 80 semester hours and before the senior summary is submitted. A copy of the approved plan for the multidisciplinary minor will be attached to the senior summary.

Requirements for the Multidisciplinary Minor.

1. The minor must consist of at least 24 semester hours of which at least 6 semester hours must be upper-division courses.
2. The courses for the minor should come from at least two different disciplines other than the student's major but not more than four.
3. The minor will have a theme around which courses will be selected.
4. The multidisciplinary minor cannot duplicate existing multidisciplinary minors.

2. **List all other public and private institutions of higher education in North Carolina currently operating programs similar to the proposed new degree program for which planning authorization is being sought.**

N/A

3. **Indicate the current and projected demand for graduates of the proposed new degree program for which planning authorization is being sought. Provide documentation about the sources of data used to arrive at current and projected demand figures.**

There is interest among ECU students in multidisciplinary minors. For example, according to Dr. Dorothy Muller of ECU's Undergraduate Studies Office, of the 293 ECU graduates in 1996 who had College of Arts and Sciences minors, 42 were minors which were in some way interdisciplinary.

4. **Describe the procedures which will be used to plan the proposed new degree program. Please identify the person responsible for planning, the planning schedule, and the expected date of submission of a program proposal if planning authorization is approved.**

The new minor is based on the composite minor in the Department of Psychology. The program is being planned for the College of Arts and Sciences under the direction of Dr. Keats Sparrow, dean. Linda Wolfe, Anthropology, is the contact person and will be attending the various committee meetings. We plan to submit the document for authorization to establish as soon as permission to plan is approved.

5. **Describe the method of financing the proposed new program.**

This minor will not entail any addition costs.

6. **Estimate the number of students that would be enrolled in the program during the first year of operation.**

Estimated number of students in the program the first year: 17-34 (About 1-2 students per department per year.)

Chancellor: _____