

November 8, 2023

TO: Becky Bitter, Senior Assistant Registrar

FROM: Glen Duncan, Professor and Chair

RE: 359A UMCB 3 requirements

Dear Becky,

I received a note from Anna Schilter about a concern raised at the November 2 Faculty Senate meeting. Discussion item #1 included a program change to the BS NEP degree. The concern is specific to the high credit load associated with the proposed program change. The purpose of this memorandum is to explain why the proposed credit load is higher than the standard 120 for most WSU undergraduate majors.

I appreciate the senators concern; this is an example of how the Senate operates in the best interests of WSU and our students. I also appreciate your comments in support of the program change.


There are three reasons why the proposed credit load for the BS NEP is 134 credits. Foremost, the program is not a standard "2 + 2" – there is a culminating 9 credit internship in summer of the senior year. When considering the credit load over 4 years, the proposed BS NEP is 125 credits. While higher than the standard 120 credits for most undergraduate degrees at WSU, there are several that do not conform to this standard (e.g., Civil Engineering = 128, Construction Engineering = 127, Applied Physics = 121, Wine and Beverage Business Management = 124, Materials Science and Engineering = 123, Mechanical Engineering = 124).

Second, the proposed degree change eliminates the two "tracks" that were previously in place for the BS NEP (i.e., Applied Exercise and Community and Population Health tracks). Over the past few years, we found that many students were opting to complete both tracks and reported that the workload was manageable.

Finally, we are adding a 3-credit undergraduate research methods course that NEP faculty determined is an important addition to the curriculum. Thus, the 125 credits over 4 years includes the additional 6 credits that students will now take once the tracks are eliminated, and another 3 credits for the research methods course. The additional 9 credits are offset somewhat by 2 reduced credits in existing courses.

Please find attached a 4+ year BS NEP degree program that is annotated with the credit load per semester, and notes the total credit load over 4 years and with the summer internship. Let me know if you need additional information regarding the proposed change.

Sincerely,



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