FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY™

Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. Richard Harvey

DATE: January 9, 2019

SUBJECT: Curriculum Proposal #18-19-4
Science and Technology/Natural Science/Forensic Science

I recommend approval of the attached Curriculum Proposal 18-19-4. The B.S. in Forensic Science is growing and going towards accreditation from the American Academy of Forensic Science, we believe it is time to add a 22/23-hour **Forensic Investigative Science minor**. Students would be able to adopt courses already available in the Forensic Science program and Criminal Justice program.

cc: Susan Ross
Steve Roof
Mark Flood
Kristy Henson
Laura Ransom
Cheri Gonzalez
Lori Schoonmaker

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL (Submit one hard copy and an electronic copy to the Associate Provost by the second Tuesday of the month.)

Proposal Number:	18-19-04
School/Department/Program:	Science and Technology/Natural Science/Forensic Science
Preparer/Contact Person:	Mark Flood & Kristy Henson
Telephone Extension:	x4309 &
Date Originally Submitted:	
Revision (Indicate date and label it Revision #1, #2, etc.):	
Implementation Date Requested:	Fall 2019

I. **PROPOSAL**. Write a brief abstract, not exceeding 100 words, which describes the overall content of the proposal.

The B.S. in Forensic Science is growing and going towards accreditation from the American Academy of Forensic Science, we believe it is time to add a 22/23-hour **Forensic Investigative Science minor**. Students would be able to adopt courses already available in the Forensic Science program and Criminal Justice program.

II. **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL**. Provide a response for each letter, A-H, and for each Roman Numeral II–V. If any section does not apply to your proposal, reply N/A.

A. Deletion of course(s) or credit(s) from program(s)

1. N/A

Total hours deleted. 0

B. Addition of course(s) or credit(s) from program(s)

1. Minor in Forensic Investigative Science

CRIM 1100 Introduction to Criminal Justice (3)
CRIM 2226 Crime Scene Investigation (3)
CHEM 1101 General Chemistry I (4) or CHEM 1105 Chemical Principles (5)
BIOL 1106 Biological Principles II (4)
FORS 2201 Introduction to Forensic Science (4)
FORS 3200 Forensic Biology (4)

Total hours added. 22-23

C. Provision for interchangeable use of course(s) with program(s)

N/A.

D. Revision of course content. Include, as an appendix, a revised course description, written in complete sentences, suitable for use in the university catalog.

N/A

B.

E. Other changes to existing courses such as changes to title, course number, and elective or required status.

N/A

F. Creation of new course(s). For each new course

N/A

1. Include, as an appendix, a course description, written in complete sentences, suitable for use in the college catalog.

Appendix A contains the catalog course descriptions for the proposed minor.

2. Include, as an appendix, a detailed course outline consisting of at least two levels.

N/A

3. In order to meet the requirements as outlined in Goal One of the Strategic Plan, please include Outcome Competencies and Methods of Assessment as an appendix. Examples are available upon request from the Chair of the Curriculum Committee.

Appendix C also contains the Outcome Competencies and Methods of Assessment for the proposed new course.

G. Attach an itemized summary of the present program(s) affected, if any, and of the proposed change(s).

1. Describe how this proposal affects the hours needed to complete this program. Specifically, what is the net gain or loss in hours? Use the format for Current and Proposed Programs in Appendix A.

2. Include proof that this proposal meets the degree definition policy (Board of Governor's Policy #52) as part of the Proposed Program in Appendix A.

3. Exceptions to the degree definition policy: As per policy #52, programs seeking exceptions to any of the maximum credit hour limits must submit formal requests to the Board of Governors for approval. Explain the rationale for the exception by documenting the existence of one or more of the criteria in paragraph 4.2.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSAL.

A. **Quantitative Assessment**: Indicate the types of assessment data, i.e., surveys, interviews, capstone courses, projects, licensure exams, nationally-normed tests, locally developed measurements, accreditation reports, etc., that were collected and analyzed to determine that curricular changes were warranted. Quantitative data is preferred.

The Forensic Science program is growing. We currently have 70 declared majors and 5-7 recruit visits a semester. With graduation numbers of typically 1-5 students per academic year, our program needs to continue to work on recruitment and retention. Several of our Forensic Science majors transfer into Chemistry or Criminal Justice majors here on campus. As the Forensic Science program grows, a minor will entice those students obtaining degrees such as Criminal Justice, Biology, and Chemistry to obtain this minor. The Criminal Justice program requires all students declare a minor. Forensic Science and Criminal Justice are intertwined careers, as criminal justice graduates usually enter into law enforcement and forensic science graduates enter into laboratory environments processing evidence collected by law enforcement. As criminal justice houses 300 majors, it is fair to say some of these students will be interested in pursuing a forensics minor as the topics overlap. This minor would increase forensic science student enrollment and assist in retention of students who chose to change majors later on in their college career.

The addition of this minor allows us to compete with WVU, as they are currently the only institution in the state that offers a forensic investigative science minor. We know of at least 2 students who have transferred to WVU because we did not offer this type of minor on our campus.

B. **Qualitative Assessment**: Based upon the assessment data above, indicate why a curricular change is justified. Indicate the expected results of the change. Be sure to include an estimate of the increased cost, or reduction in cost of implementation. FOR EXAMPLE: Will new faculty, facilities, equipment, or library materials be required?

This minor will increase the amount of students in the Forensic Science program's sophomore level courses (FORS 2201 and FORS 3200) by 5-10 students per year. That will help solidify our program's course offerings of higher level specialization courses if we could also convince half of those students to also take an upper level forensics elective. It will also increase student retention if/when a student changes their major from Forensic Science, as they are still able to obtain a minor in Forensic Investigative Science. It is important to continue to attract new Forensic Science students and to offer students options that will improve their marketability. New facilities, faculty and equipment will not be needed to implement this new Forensic Investigative Science minor.

III. Should this proposal affect any course or program in another school, a memo must be sent to the Dean of each school impacted and a copy of the memo(s) must be included with this proposal. In addition, the Deans of the affected schools must sign below to indicate their notification of this proposal.

By signing here, you are indicating your college's/school's notification of this proposal.

College/School	Dean	Signature
Sci Tech	Steven Root	Steven Root
Social Science	Jeff Snowside	

IV. Should this proposal affect any course to be added or deleted from the general studies requirements, a memo from the chair of the General Studies Committee indicating approval of the change must be included with this proposal.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.

APPENDIX A

Minor in Forensic Investigative Science
Proposed Program

Required Minor Courses		**HRS**	
BIOL 1106	Biological Principles II	4	
CHEM 1101	General Chemistry I	4	
or			
CHEM 1105	Chemical Principles	5	
CRIM 1100	Intro to Criminal Justice	3	
CRIM 2226	Crime Scene Investigation	3	
FORS 2201	Introduction to Forensic Science	4	
FORS 3200	Forensic Biology	4	
TOTAL Required Courses			22-23

TOTAL HOURS FOR MINOR	**22-23**

APPENDIX B

Minor in Forensic Science
Proposed schedule

Fall	**Spring**
CHEM 1101- General Chemistry 1 – (4hrs) /or/ **CHEM 1105** – Chemical Principles - (5hrs)	**BIOL 1106** – Biological Principles II – (4hrs)
CRIM 1100 – Introduction to Criminal Justice – (3hrs)	**CRIM 2226 –** Crime Scene Investigation – (3hrs)

Fall	**Spring**
FORS 2201 – Introduction to Forensic Science – (4hrs)	**FORS 3200** – Forensic Biology - (4hrs)

APPENDIX C

Minor in Forensic Investigative Science
Program Outcomes and Assessments

Outcomes for the minor in Forensic Investigative Science:
Students who complete this program will:

- **Develop a basic fundamental knowledge of the natural sciences, including, scientific inquiry, cell theory, and basic chemistry of life.**
    - Courses mapped to outcome: BIOL 1106 and CHEM 1101/CHEM 1105

This will be assessed by quizzes and exams in FORS 2201 and FORS 3200 that incorporate underlying information from these courses, students earning a 70% or higher deemed as success.

- **Apply crime scene processing, collecting, and analyzing skills, from the viewpoint of field collection and lab analysis.**
    - Courses mapped to outcome: CRIM 2226, FORS 2201, FORS 3200

This will be assessed by graded assignments and lab activities with students earning a 70% or higher deemed as success.

- **Develop a basic fundamental knowledge of forensic science and how it relates to the natural sciences.**
    - Courses mapped to outcome: FORS 2201, FORS 3200

This will be assessed by exams, assignments, and quizzes with students earning a 70% or higher deemed as success.

- **Apply scientific inquiry to forensic science.**
    - Courses mapped to this outcome: FORS 2201, FORS 3200

This will be assessed by in class research projects with students earning a 70% or higher deemed as success.

FM

Flood, Mark

Thu 8/9, 4:15 PM

Shields, Deanna; Smallridge, Joshua; Roof, Steven; Hemler, Debra; Henson, Kristy

Reply all

Deleted Items

[redacted]

Kristy Henson is a new faculty member in Forensic Science and we are now looking to expand our course offerings and improve our program. We would like to possibly discuss offering a new Forensic Investigative Science minor.

A rough idea would be that students take:
Intro to CJ (3 credits)
CSI (3) or perhaps Criminalistics (3)
Chem 1101 (4) (basic chem course)
BIOL 1106 (4) (basic cell biology course)
Intro to Forensic Science (4)
Forensic Biology (4)
Forensic specialization elective (4 hours)
That would mean the minor would 26 hours. What are your thoughts on this?? Please reply to all so that everyone gets to see and reflect on the responses.
Mark

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#SoarFalcons

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