

# Simon Fraser University

S.95-48

Office of the Vice-President, Academic

## Memorandum

**TO:** Senate

**FROM:** J.M. Munro, Chair  
Senate Committee on  
Academic Planning

**SUBJECT:** Graduate Curriculum  
Revisions - Department  
of Psychology  
SCAP Reference: SCAP 95-38

**DATE:** August 10, 1995

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Action undertaken by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee and the Senate Committee on Academic Planning gives rise to the following motion:

**MOTION:** "that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.95- 48 , the proposed curriculum revisions including

- i) Revision to the composition of the Ph.D. Supervisory Committee
- ii) Changes to the Experimental Psychology regulations regarding timing of the Ph.D. requirements
- iii) New Graduate Course - PSYC 825-2 - Intervention (Ongoing)
- iv) Changes to course requirements in Statistics and Research Design"

*J.M. Munro*

Simon Fraser University

Kim Bartholomew  
Department of Psychology

MEMORANDUM

TO: Andrea Lebowitz, Associate Dean of Arts

FROM: Kim Bartholomew, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee, Psychology

DATE: May 1, 1995

TOPIC: Proposed revision to composition of PhD Supervisory Committee

Graduate Regulation 1.6.4 specifies that the supervisory committee consists of "the Senior Supervisor and, in most cases, at least one other faculty member". The committee must be approved by the Graduate Program Committee and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The Psychology Department's policy for the PhD Supervisory Committee specifies three faculty members, all of whom must be members of the Psychology Department. One of the committee members must take primary responsibility for ensuring that the dissertation is methodologically sound. Additional members may be added subject to the approval of the Graduate Program Committee.

We propose that this policy be changed such that only the Senior Supervisor and one additional committee member need be members of the Psychology Department. If the third committee member is drawn from outside of the department, it must be documented that this individual is an expert in the field of the thesis research. In other respects, our policy would remain the same.

**Current calendar wording re Ph.D. Supervisory Committee:**

Students are required to choose a faculty member in the Psychology Department as the Senior Supervisor and Chair of the PhD Supervisory Committee and two or more additional members. At least two of the additional members must be members of the Psychology Department. One committee member must be able to act as advisor with respect to measurement and design aspects of the dissertation research.

**Proposed calendar wording re Ph.D. Supervisory Committee:**

Students are required to choose a faculty member in the Psychology Department as the Senior Supervisor and Chair of the PhD Supervisory Committee and two or more additional members. At least one of the additional members must be a member of the Psychology Department. One committee member must be able to act as advisor with respect to measurement and design aspects of the dissertation research.

**Rationale for change:**

Many of our doctoral committees have 4 or 5 members in order to include individuals outside the department who are experts in the specific area under study and, in some cases, who have facilitated the thesis research. Such large committees can place an excessive burden on the student due to the need to meet the standards of all committee members. Large committees also complicate the process of getting the thesis approved and defended.

Simon Fraser University

Kim Bartholomew  
Department of Psychology

**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** Andrea Lebowitz, Associate Dean of Arts

**FROM:** Kim Bartholomew, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee, Psychology

**DATE:** May 1, 1995

**TOPIC:** Proposed changes in Experimental Psychology Graduate regulations

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The current graduate regulations for our PhD in Experimental Psychology require that: 1) the comprehensives cannot be taken before successful completion of the PhD course requirements, 2) the comprehensives must be taken within four years of admission to the PhD program, and 3) the dissertation proposal be submitted before the end of the second year in the program.

These regulations are inconsistent with current practise and make little pedagogical sense. The comprehensives in Experimental Psychology consist of three projects or papers. There is no reason that course requirements need to be completed before the comprehensives are initiated, and, in fact, we do not enforce this policy. One or more of the comprehensives are typically on topics related to the dissertation proposal; they help to provide students with sufficient background to design their dissertation research. Therefore, it is not reasonable to require the dissertation proposal to be completed two years prior to the comprehensives. In practise, the comprehensives are usually completed before the dissertation proposal, and we do not enforce the two year time limit on the dissertation proposal.

Proposed Revision

In order to bring our calender regulations in line with current practise and expectations, we propose that the graduate regulations for our PhD in Experimental Psychology be changed as follows: 1) The comprehensives and PhD course requirements must be completed within two years of admission to the PhD program, and 2) the dissertation proposal must be approved before the end of the third year in the PhD program. These new regulations do not specify the order in which the various requirements are completed. The expectation is that in most cases comprehensives and required courses will be completed in the first year of the PhD and the dissertation proposal will be approved by the second year.

The new regulations would apply to students entering the PhD program in the term following the approval of the changes.

These changes have been approved by the Psychology Department's Experimental Committee, Graduate Studies Committee, and Faculty.

## Calendar Changes

### **Current wording regarding timing of PhD Comprehensive Examination:**

The examination cannot be taken before successful completion of the course requirements and the MA thesis but must be taken within four years of admission to the PhD program.

### **Proposed wording regarding timing of PhD Comprehensive Examination:**

The examination must be completed within two years of admission to the PhD program.

### **Current wording regarding timing of PhD Proposal:**

The candidate is required to present a dissertation proposal before the end of the second year in the program, and is expected to complete the PhD dissertation within four years of entrance to the program.

### **Proposed wording regarding timing of PhD Proposal:**

The candidate is required to present a dissertation proposal before the end of the third year in the program, and is expected to complete the PhD dissertation within four years of entrance to the program.

### **Current wording regarding PhD course requirements:**

PhD students are required to take two subject courses (in addition to those taken for the MA degree), and complete comprehensive examinations and a doctoral dissertation. Normally, the two subject courses will be in the student's area of specialization.

### **Proposed wording regarding PhD course requirements:**

PhD students are required to take two subject courses (in addition to those taken for the MA degree), and complete comprehensive examinations and a doctoral dissertation. The two subject courses must be completed within two years of entrance to the PhD program. Normally, the two subject courses will be in the student's area of specialization.

RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PSYCHOLOGY 825-2

RATIONALE:

*We are currently using Psych 823-2 for two purposes: 1) as the practicum component of Psych 822, the required clinical course on intervention, and 2) for students required to maintain involvement in clinical activity in two of every three-semester they are enrolled in the doctoral program. The addition of Psych 825-2 would allow us to separate the ongoing clinical training from the intervention course.*

NEW GRADUATE COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

Calendar Information:

Department: Psychology

Course #: Psyc 825-2

Title: Intervention (Ongoing)

Description: Clinical Practicum Course

Credit Hrs: 2

Vector:

Prerequisite(s), if

any: Admission to the clinical program. Psych 820, 821, 822, 823, and 880 (Practicum). Graded on satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Enrollment and Scheduling:

Estimated Enrollment: All clinical students beyond their second year in the program.  
When will the course first be offered: 95-3

How often will the course be offered: Every semester

Justification: Same as Rationale on Page 2.

Resources: None

Which Faculty member will usually teach the course: N/A

What are the budgetary implications of mounting the course: None

Are there sufficient library resources (append details): None required

- Appended:
- a) Outline of the course
  - b) An indication of the competence of the Faculty member to give the course
  - c) Library resources
- Approved:

Approval:		
Departmental Graduate Committee:	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date: Mar 16/95
Faculty Graduate Committee:	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date: May 15, 1995
Faculty:	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date: 19 May 95
Senate Graduate Committee:	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date: 20 June 95
Senate:		Date:

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

FAX-COM COVER SHEET

Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C.  
V5A 1S6

FAX: (604) 291-3427  
Office: (604) 291-3354

TO: Ralph Stanton  
Library/Collections Mgt.

DATE: 17 March 1995  
FROM: Lorie Tarcea, Graduate Advisor  
Psychology Department  
PHONE: 291- 4367

DIAL # : 9- 291-3023

Charge: (circle one)  
\$100/year allot.  
Personal  
Grant # \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(please specify)

8 pages (including this one)

(Please, leave this portion attached to the FAX confirmation, in the tray beside the Fax machine)

(cut here)

COMMENTS: Psych 825-2 this course requires no library resources. The course  
has long been established and only the course number is new. Graduate students  
registering in this course are receiving credit for clinical supervision. Students  
are required to see clients at our psychology clinic under supervision of a  
registered clinical psychologist two out of every three semesters they are in  
the program.

# FAX

W.A.C. Bennett Library, Room 4003  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, BC Canada  
V5A 1S6

TEL (604) 291-4084  
FAX (604) 291-3023

## TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Date: March 24, 1995 Time: 9:45 a.m.  
From: Ralph Stanton Division: Library Management  
Telephone: (604) 291-5946 e-mail:

### TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

Company/Department: SFU  
Location: Psychology  
Attention: LORIE TARCEA  
FAX #: 3427

### REMARKS/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

re: Psych. 825-2

The Library has no interest in doing a course assessment for Psych. 825-2, since it is a clinical supervision situation.

We are transmitting 1 page(s) including this cover page. If you do not receive all of the pages being transmitted, please contact us immediately at the above number.



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Andrea Lebowitz, Associate Dean of Arts

**FROM:** Kim Bartholomew, Graduate Program Chair, Psychology

**DATE:** May 11, 1995

**TOPIC:** Proposal for Changes to Graduate Course Requirements in Statistics and Research Design

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At present, all graduate students in psychology take a two course statistics sequence in the first year of their MA program (Psyc 910-5 and Psyc 911-5). In addition, students in the Clinical Psychology program take a course in research design in the second year of the MA (Psyc 824-3).

Over the past two years, the Psychology Department has reviewed the methods component of our graduate training. This process has involved two surveys of graduate students and extensive discussion in all relevant departmental committees, including the Experimental Committee, the Clinical Committee, the Graduate Studies Committee, the Graduate Student Caucus, and an Ad Hoc Committee on the Teaching of Graduate Statistics. We concluded that, given the large and growing body of statistical knowledge required of psychologists, the first year statistics courses have become too demanding of incoming graduate students. Many students feel that they spend a disproportionate amount of time on their statistics courses and that too much material is covered too quickly for it to be properly absorbed and understood. As a consequence, students often have difficulty applying design principles to their subsequent research efforts. This criticism is echoed by some faculty who have complained that, by the time students under their supervision are ready to undertake their thesis research, they have forgotten how to apply whatever they once learned about research design.

A new course structure is proposed which reduces the amount of instruction in the M.A. program and transfers it to the Ph.D., thereby extending research design and statistics over a longer period of time. Under this proposal it is hoped that students, as they proceed through their graduate training, will be given the opportunity to develop their methodological skills in a more gradual way and find ways of applying their design and statistical knowledge more effectively to their thesis and related research.

### The Proposal

The MA level statistics courses (Psyc 910 & 911) will be reduced from 5 credits to 3, with a corresponding reduction in the content of these courses. These courses will continue to be offered every year.

Two 1.5 credit Measurement Seminars (Psyc 715-1.5) will be required at the Ph.D. level. The measurement seminars will cover specialized topics such as Psychometrics, Structural Modelling, and Categorical Data Analysis. Students will be required to complete a seminar on Psychometrics in the first year of the Ph.D., and a second seminar on a different topic within the first two years of the Ph.D. Students would have the opportunity to select a topic which is most closely related to their area of research. A seminar on psychometrics will be offered once per year, and a second seminar on a different topic will be offered at least once per year.

Finally, a course in Research Issues in Psychology (Psyc 824-3) will be offered for Experimental Psychology students, parallel to the design course already required of students in Clinical Psychology. This course focuses on practical issues in planning and conducting research, rather than specific quantitative methodology, and is designed to facilitate the preparation of students' MA thesis proposals. Psyc 824 will be offered twice per year, once for Experimental students and once for Clinical student.

It is expected that the new requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. programs would come into effect in 96-3.

This proposal does not require the creation of any new courses, only some changes in credit hours and titles. The proposed changes are outlined below.

### Current Degree Requirements in Research Design

#### M.A.

##### **Clinical Program:**

Psyc 910-5 Research Design I: Experiments  
Psyc 911-5 Research Design II: Research Studies  
Psyc 824-3 Research Design in Clinical Psychology

##### **Experimental Program:**

Psyc 910-5 Research Design I: Experiments  
Psyc 911-5 Research Design II: Research Studies

### Proposed Degree Requirements in Research Design

#### M.A.

##### **Clinical and Experimental Programs:**

Psyc 910-3 Research Design I: Experiments  
Psyc 911-3 Research Design II: Research Studies  
Psyc 824-3 Research Issues in Psychology

#### Ph.D.

##### **Clinical and Experimental Programs:**

Psyc 715-1.5 Proseminar in Measurement (Psychometrics)  
Psyc 715-1.5 Proseminar in Measurement (Special Topic)

### Summary of Changes in Graduate Courses

1. Psyc 910-5, Research Design I: Experiments, & Psyc 911-5, Research Design II: Research Studies, to be reduced from 5 credits to 3.
2. Psyc 824-3, Research Design in Clinical Psychology, to be renamed Research Issues in Psychology.
3. Psyc 715-5, Proseminar in Measurement, to be reduced from 5 credits to 1.5 credits. Multiple offerings of this seminar will be given, with the specific topic indicated in parentheses after the title, e.g., Seminar in Measurement (Psychometrics).

## Changes in calendar description of degree requirements

### **EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM:**

#### **MA**

##### **Current calendar entry:**

Students admitted to the experimental program with a Bachelors degree are required to obtain satisfactory performance in PSYC 910 (Research Design I), PSYC 911 (Research Design II), and four subject courses, and to complete an MA thesis (PSYC 898). ... In the first year of the program, students are expected to complete PSYC 910, 911, and at least two of the four subject courses, and to initiate work in PSYC 898 (MA Thesis).

##### **Proposed calendar entry:**

Students admitted to the experimental program with a Bachelors degree are required to obtain satisfactory performance in PSYC 910 (Research Design I), PSYC 911 (Research Design II), PSYC 824 (Research Issues in Psychology), and four subject courses, and to complete an MA thesis (PSYC 898). ... In the first year of the program, students are expected to complete PSYC 910, 911, 824, and at least two of the four subject courses, and to initiate work in PSYC 898 (MA Thesis).

#### **PhD:**

##### **Current calendar entry:**

PhD students are required to take two subject courses (in addition to those taken for the MA degree), and complete comprehensive examinations and a doctoral dissertation. Normally, the two subject courses will be in the student's area of specialization.

##### **Proposed calendar entry:**

PhD students are required to complete two subject courses (in addition to those taken for the MA degree), two offerings of Psyc 715 Proseminar in Measurement, comprehensive examinations, and a doctoral dissertation. *The required courses must be completed within two years of entrance to the PhD program.* Normally, the two subject courses will be in the student's area of specialization.

\* The italicized sentence will be included if Proposal B is also approved.

### **CLINICAL PROGRAM:**

There are no changes to the MA program in Clinical Psychology. The required PhD courses are not specified in the calendar. Instead, there is a table listing the expected course sequence. Psyc 715-1.5 will be added to this table in the third and fourth years of graduate study. A sentence will also be added highlighting the additional methodology course requirements.

##### **Current calendar entry:**

After successful completion of the MA courses, students may then be admitted to the PhD program and complete the remaining three years of the program (see table). Students in residence in the third year and beyond are required to maintain a clinical case load and/or engage in other clinical work (e.g., program evaluation), under the supervious of clinical faculty.

##### **Proposed calendar entry:**

After successful completion of the MA courses, students may then be admitted to the PhD program and complete the remaining three years of the program (see table). Students in residence in the third year and beyond are required to maintain a clinical case load and/or engage in other clinical work (e.g., program evaluation), under the supervious of clinical faculty. Students are also required to complete two offerings of Psyc 715 Proseminar in Measurement within the first two years of the PhD program.

COURSE ALTERATION AND RATIONALE

*(PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR THE FOLLOWING  
CHANGES: Change of Title, Change of Course  
Description, Change of Credit Hour, Change of Vector,  
Change of Prerequisite, Change in Requirements for Graduate  
Program, etc.)*

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

FROM: Current Calendar Entry: Psych 824-3 Research Design in Clinical  
Psychology  
Prerequisites: Psych 910, 911 or permission of instructor

TO: Proposed Calendar Entry: Psych 824-3 Research Issues in Psychology  
Prerequisites: Psych 910, 911 or permission of instructor

RATIONALE: This course is presently required of graduate students in Clinical Psychology only. Under the proposed program changes, it will also be required of graduate students in Experimental Psychology. Therefore, the title being changed to a more general form.

COURSE ALTERATION AND RATIONALE

*(PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR THE FOLLOWING  
CHANGES: Change of Title, Change of Course  
Description, Change of Credit Hour, Change of Vector,  
Change of Prerequisite, Change in Requirements for Graduate  
Program, etc.)*

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

FROM: Current Calendar Entry: Psych 715-5 Proseminar in Measurement

TO: Proposed Calendar Entry: Psych 715-1.5

RATIONALE: The course credits are being reduced from 5 to 1.5. The reduced seminar will provide an introduction to a specialized topic (such as Psychometrics or Categorical Data Analysis) in contrast to the in depth treatment of such topics previously provided in the 5 credit seminar. The particular topic will be indicated in parentheses after the title. Ph.D. students will be required to complete a minimum of two offerings of Psych 715.

COURSE ALTERATION AND RATIONALE

*(PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: Change of Title, Change of Course Description, Change of Credit Hour, Change of Vector, Change of Prerequisite, Change in Requirements for Graduate Program, etc.)*

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

FROM: Current Calendar Entry: Psych 910-5 Research Design I: Experiments  
*Reviews the basic logic of controlled experimentation, and focuses on analysis of variance designs commonly used in psychological research. Particular emphasis is given to the relative merits of the several designs when there are multiple research questions to be answered.*

TO: Proposed Calendar Entry: Psych 910-3 Research Design I: Experiments  
*Reviews the basic logic of controlled experimentation, and focuses on analysis of variance designs commonly used in psychological research. Particular emphasis is given to the relative merits of the several designs when there are multiple research questions to be answered.*

RATIONALE: The credit hours of Pych 910 are being reduced from 5 to 3, with an accompanying reduction in coverage of material of approximately one third and a reduction in lecture hours from 4 to 3 per week. This is part of a reorganization of statistics training involving cutting back the first year MA statistics courses (Psych 910 and 911) and adding two 1.5 hour seminars in quantitative methods at the PhD level.

COURSE ALTERATION AND RATIONALE

(PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR THE FOLLOWING  
CHANGES: Change of Title, Change of Course  
Description, Change of Credit Hour, Change of Vector,  
Change of Prerequisite, Change in Requirements for Graduate  
Program, etc.)

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

FROM: Current Calendar Entry: Psych 911-5 Research Design II:Research Studies  
*Focuses on multivariate regression and correlation models. Deals with ways of  
answering questions when direct experimental manipulation is not feasible, and  
emphasizes new applications.*

TO: Proposed Calendar Entry: Psych 911-3 Research Design II:Research Studies  
*Focuses on multivariate regression and correlation models. Deals with ways of  
answering questions when direct experimental manipulation is not feasible, and  
emphasizes new applications*

RATIONALE: The credit hours of Psych 911 are being reduced from 5 to 3, with an  
accompanying reduction in coverage of material of approximately one third and a reduction in  
lecture hours from 4 to 3 per week. This is part of reorganization of statistics training involving  
cutting back the first year MA statistics courses (Psych 910 and Psych 911) and adding two 1.5  
hour seminars in quantitative methods at the PhD. level.