**PROGRAM CHANGES**

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

**Submission Date: 1/9/14**

**Submitter Name: Kathryn Edwards**

**College: Arts & Humanities**

**Department**: Communication

**Program Title:** Master of Professional Communication (MPC)

Check all that apply:

\_X\_\_\_New course(s) required for major, minor, emphasis, or concentration.

\_\_\_\_Modified course(s) required for major, minor, emphasis, or concentration.

\_X\_\_\_Credit hour change(s) required for major, minor, emphasis, or concentration.

\_\_\_\_Credit hour change(s) for a course which is required for the major, minor, emphasis, or concentration.

\_\_\_\_Attribute change(s) for any course.

\_\_\_\_Program name change.

\_X\_\_\_Deletion of required course(s).

\_\_\_\_Program mode of delivery/format change (Graduate Programs ONLY)

\_\_\_\_Other changes (specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**JUSTIFICATION:**

We are adding three new courses to the program: MPC 6010 Intro to Graduate Study and Communication Theory, MPC 6350 Visual Communication in the Workplace and MPC 6620 Conflict Resolution and Mediation.

We are deleting our current one credit hour course, MPC 6000 Intro to Graduate Studies and replacing it with MPV 6010 Intro to Graduate Study and Communication Theory, a three credit hour course that includes a heavier emphasis on communication theory. We believe the new course will be a better introduction to graduate study and the assignments in this course will better prepare students to complete a research project in MPC 6700 Research Methods.

We are also changing the number of credit hours from 37 to 33. The new streamlined program has been restructured to give students more options in their core required courses. The number of electives has been reduced, which accounts for the change from 37 to 33 (with the exception of eliminating the one credit hour course, explained above). Because students have more options in their core required courses than in the current program, we believe students can better tailor the program to meet their educational and professional goals.

When our current program was created, we planned to have students take 2-3 courses at the 5000-level that were cross-listed with undergraduate courses. Although the proposed program reduces the total number of credit hours, it actually increases the academic rigor of electives by allowing only one 5000-level course to count. Last year we added two new electives at the 6000-level. This year we are adding two more 6000-level courses. We are trying to strike a balance between offering enough 6000-level electives to truly give students choices, while streamlining the number of 6000-level offerings to maximize the use of faculty resources. Because there are fewer electives required in the new program, we will be able to offer enough 6000-level electives so students will not need to take 5000-level electives to complete their program in two years.

Copy the present program from the current catalog and add the required changes (exactly as you wish them to appear in the catalog). Use strikeout (~~strikeout~~) when deleting items in the program and highlight (highlight) when adding items. If multiple changes are being proposed, please provide a summary.

See attached file: MPC Catalog Copy 2013 Program Changes

See summary file: MPC Program Change Summary 13-14

**Submit the original (and 20 copies) to the Faculty Senate Office, MC 1033,** and an **electronic copy (Word Doc) to** bstockberger @weber.edu

**INFORMATION PAGE**

Did this program change receive unanimous approval within the Department? YES

If not, what are the major concerns raised by the opponents? NA

Explain any effects this program change will have on program requirements or enrollments in other departments including the Bachelor of Integrated Studies Program. In the case of similar offerings or affected programs, **you should include letters from the departments in question stating their support or opposition to the proposed program**.

This change will not affect other graduate programs.

Indicate the number of credit hoursfor course work within the program. (Do not include credit hours for General Education, Diversity, or other courses unless those courses fulfill requirements within the proposed program.)

The proposed program requires 33 credit hours. Graduate programs must require at least 30 credit hours. Currently, there are three other master’s programs at WSU that require 33 or fewer credit hours. The number of credit hours falls within the Utah State Board of Regent’s requirements for masters programs in the Utah State Higher Education system (USHE).

Indicate the number of credit hours for course work within the current program. (Do not include credit hours for General Education, Diversity, or other courses unless those courses fulfill requirements within the current program.)

The current program requires 37 credit hours. We are eliminating a one credit hour course and combining that material in a new course that adds a greater emphasis on communication theory. While the new program represents eliminating one three credit hour graduate course, students will have more flexibility to tailor their core and elective courses to meet their educational and professional goals.

**Graduate Programs only**: Describe any proposed changes in the instructional mode of delivery or course format that are program-wide in nature or that affect more than one-third of the course taught in the program (e. g. changing from in-class to online instruction).

We are not changing the mode of delivery. We teach all of our courses using an eight-week, hybrid format. Students receive 24 hours of classroom instruction, supplemented by approximately 24 hours of online instruction, with an additional 60-70 hours of readings and projects outside of class.