

Minor Description for Social Psychology:

Social Psychology graduate students are required to present to the Social Psychology faculty a written outline of a planned course of study in an area complementary to the area of specialization, but outside of the Social Program.

The minor requires 6 hours of credit (two courses) but students often take more than the required number of credit to complete the minor.

The minor proposal should be submitted to the social psychology faculty during the fall term of the third year for those students entering the program with a Bachelor's degree, and during the fall term of the second year for students entering the program with an M.A. degree. Minor proposals should be submitted by email to the program chair with all other social psychology faculty copied on the email.

Coursework for the approved minor area of study must be completed prior to the final defense for the doctoral dissertation, but may be completed before or after admission to candidacy.

Recently approved Minors:

- Educational Psychology
- Marketing (See example A)
- Minor in Quantitative Methods in Social Psychology
- Minor Concentration in Psychological Statistics and Data Analysis (See example B)
 - Note: This is a departmental quantitative minor and has specific requirements as noted below.

Once you have received verbal/email approval for your minor proposal, you will need to complete a general petition form. You can obtain a general petition form from the academic advising office in the psychology department. The general petition should include the courses you will take to complete your minor and should be signed by the program chair. Turn in the completed and signed general petition in to the academic advising department.

Email example:

Email correspondence:

Date: Jan 21, 1998
To: Clayton Neighbors, Director of Social Psychology Program Committee
CC: Dr. Linda Acitelli, Dr. Richard Evans, Dr. Chip Knee, Dr. Lynne Steinberg
From: Jane Brown
Re: Minor Proposal

Attached is the revised version of my minor proposal for your consideration.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jane Brown

Example A

To: Social Psychology Faculty

From: Jane Brown

Proposal for Minor Concentration in Marketing

Introduction and
Rationale for
choosing minor

The purpose of this letter is to apply for a doctorate minor in Marketing at the University of Houston. Since a considerable overlap exists between the topics studied in Social Psychology and Marketing, I am hoping that a minor in Marketing will help me become a better-rounded job candidate in the application of social psychology. I also feel that the domain of Marketing has considerable overlap with my personal interests in the field of Social Psychology, including persuasion, social marketing, nonverbal communication, social norms, subliminal priming, and supraliminal priming.

Planned courses

To meet the requirements for this minor, I plan to take at least two marketing courses as specified in the graduate student handbook. In the fall of 2012, I will take Marketing Administration (MARK 6361), since this course is a prerequisite for almost all other marketing courses. After that, I will take 1-2 more marketing courses. My decision for which courses to take at that point will be based upon which subject material I find most appealing from the Marketing Administration course, and which courses are offered during that particular semester. Some courses (as well as their descriptions) from the Bauer College of Business graduate catalog that seem of interest to me at this moment are as follows:

- Marketing Planning and Strategy (MARK 7375)
 - o Development of a marketing plan for a specific product or service.
- Practical Marketing Analysis (MARK 7393)
 - o Evaluating marketing alternatives in business decisions.
- Marketing Research Methods (MARK 8336)
 - o Marketing research tools and techniques.
- Behavioral Constructs in Marketing (MARK 8337)
 - o Development of a model of buyer behavior.

I appreciate your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Jane Brown

Example B:

To: Social Psychology Faculty

From: Jane Brown

Proposal for Minor Concentration in Psychological Statistics and Data Analysis

Introduction and
Rationale for
choosing minor

The purpose of this letter is to apply for a doctorate minor in statistics and data analysis at the University of Houston. I am proposing statistics and data analysis as a minor because I realize the importance of acquiring skills in data analysis and research design. I believe that improving my quantitative skills and better familiarizing myself with statistical applications software will allow me to function more effectively as a researcher in the field of social psychology, and make me more marketable as a job applicant after I graduate.

Preparation/
qualification for
proposed minor

To meet the requirements for this minor, I have complete required courses in quantitative methods, including: 6300 Statistics for Psychologists; 6302 Experimental Design; and 6313 Multivariate Statistics. I have received an A in each of these courses.

Planned courses

In fulfillment of the minor requirements I intend to complete 7305 Structural Equations in Psychological Analysis and 7379 Categorical Data in Psychology. I will enroll in SEM in the Spring of 2012 and Categorical Analysis in Fall of 2012. In addition, although not required, I will also complete courses in 7301: Applied Data Analysis in Psychology; Longitudinal Data Analysis; and Advanced Structural Modeling as they are offered and fit within the constraints of my course schedule.

Additional
requirements if
applicable

Finally, this minor requires the completion of a research practicum. In fulfillment of this requirement, I will serve as a teaching assistant for the first two semesters of the required statistics sequence and have received formal approval from Dr. Francis to complete this requirement in the Fall and Spring of next year.

I appreciate your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Jane Brown

Minor Concentration in Psychological Statistics and Data Analysis

Doctoral students may wish to develop a minor concentration in statistics and data analysis as a part of their overall program. In the past, having higher than required levels of expertise in these fields has allowed our graduates to enter a wide range of research and teaching positions.

In addition to developing the ability to lead and direct research, there will be an emphasis on developing the skills needed to become the quantitative member of a research team

In order to declare a minor concentration in psychological statistics and data analysis, one must attain an average grade of **A minus** or better in courses declared as contributing to the concentration. No more than one course in the concentration can have a grade of **B** or below.

1. Prerequisite courses

6300 Statistics for Psychologists (required of all doctoral candidates)

6302 Experimental Design (required of all doctoral candidates)

2. Required course

6313 Multivariate Statistics

3. Primary Elective Courses (At least 1 courses from the following list.)

7305: Structural Equations in
Psychological Analysis

7379: Categorical Data in
Psychology

Advanced Structural Modeling
Item Response Theory

Longitudinal Data Analysis

4. Secondary Elective Courses (At least 1 course from the following list or a 2nd course from the Primary Elective list.)

Exploratory Data Analysis
Psychological measurement
Epidemiology
Bio-Statistics

7301: Applied Data Analysis in
Psychology

7304: Survey Methods in Psychology

7332: Program Evaluation

7345: Psychological Methodology

5. Research Practica (One of the three tracks listed below)

- a. A minimum of two special problems courses under the direction of a quantitative faculty member*
- b. Two-semesters of research experience at 50% effort under the supervision of a quantitative faculty member.

- c. Serving as a teaching assistant for the first two semesters of the required statistics sequence.

* A quantitative faculty member is defined as one who teaches courses listed in sections 1, 2, or 3 above as her or his primary teaching responsibility.