Proposal Template

Prior to presenting at the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) for review, please provide answers to the following questions, as relevant. Please contact Matthew Boots (mboots1@iu.edu) with any questions.

Title: IST online MSEd: change portfolio requirement and electives requirement

GSC presenter: Elizabeth Boling

This proposal is for a...

☒ program change   ☐ new program   ☐ policy change   ☐ new policy

Include responses to each question, as relevant:

1. What are you proposing and why? (If proposing a change, then the description and rationale should be relevant to the change(s) only.)

We are proposing two changes to the online IST MSEd.

1) Require enrollment in R505 Professional Portfolio. The portfolio requirement is in place now, but with the option to complete it independently versus enrolling in R505 Professional Portfolio. We are proposing the change because we note that students need more direction and support than they are getting now when they elect to complete the portfolio independently.

2) Revise the "9 outside electives" requirement to allow electives from any regular course (e.g.., not dissertation credits) eligible for graduate credit, including courses inside and outside the major. Currently the students request permission to use these credits inside the major to build depth in the program, or broaden their expertise in the major. Others run into obstacles when they try to find credits outside the major that are also offered online. Those students with interests outside the major will be advised and encouraged to use these credits in their areas of interest.

2. How will this impact enrollment?

Portfolio -- This will increase enrollment in the course, although it will take the place of an unspecified elective in the major and therefore not increase credit hours taken in the program overall.

Elective credits – We do expect some increase in credit hours within the major because we know there is demand for these credits. With the proposed flexibility, however, we recognize that not all the credits possible will be returned to the major.

3. How will this impact students' time to degree?

It is possible this will decrease time to graduation for some online students who would otherwise be delayed in finding appropriate electives outside the major. Otherwise, no change is expected.

4. How will this impact specific student populations and/or DEI issues?

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Online students already working in the field will experience a program more clearly focused in the area of interest for which they are earning this credential; we consider this a positive impact on these students. Students facing time or financial pressures will not have to go hunting for courses, spend time seeking permission to register, or face differing (often higher) tuitions for their elective courses – but those who do want to pursue credits outside the major will be able to do so. We do not anticipate adverse impact.

5. How will this impact School of Education resources, including faculty loads?

We have capacity in elective courses expected to be sought for electives and in the current optional Portfolio courses. No impact is anticipated.

6. How will this be effectively sustained over time?

As a requirement, it is expected that the Portfolio will be consistently enrolled at acceptable numbers and allow us to retain this requirement for graduation with consistently rather than relying on email communications and individual advisors to ensure that students fulfill it.

The flexible policy on elective credits is expected to simplify advising and is manageable with current faculty numbers.

7. What was the departmental vote tally for this proposal? (e.g., "12 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstained")

11 votes were cast in favor of these changes. 0 opposed; 0 abstained.

M.S.Ed. in Instructional Systems Technology (Online)

Degree Requirements (36 cr.)

Major Requirements (18~~5~~ cr.)

- R505 Workshop in Instructional Systems Technology: Professional Portfolio in IST (3 cr.)

- R511 Instructional and Performance Technologies Foundations (3 cr.)

- R521 Design and Development of Instructional and Performance Interventions (3 cr.)

- R541 Instructional Development and Production: Design Thinking (3 cr.)

- R561 Evaluation of Instructional and Performance Improvement Systems (3 cr.)

- R621 Analysis for Instructional & Performance Improvement (3 cr.)

Specialization Electives (9~~12~~ cr.)

Options here include all IST master's program courses that are available online. Additionally, students with a focus on adult education, learning science or other related area may take up to 6 credits from such an area with approval of the advisor, providing that these courses are available online. R686 Internship in Instructional Design is not required but is permissible.

~~Outside~~ Electives (9 cr.)

Select electives from any regular course (e.g.., not dissertation credits) eligible for graduate credit, including courses inside and outside the major. ~~one course from the following (depending upon the student's professional goals):~~

- ~~D505 Adult Learning through the Lifespan (3 cr.)~~

- ~~P540 Learning and Cognition in Education (3 cr.)~~

~~Other electives may be strongly recommended by the advisor based on student's goals.~~

~~Requirement for Graduation~~

~~Online students may opt to take the R505 Professional Portfolio, in which case it counts as a Specialization Elective. They may, alternatively, elect to complete the portfolio independently with guidance from an advisor and not receive course credit. In this case the department verifies completion of the portfolio requirement.~~

Proposed changes from IST for GSC 9/24/2020