



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

August 15, 2012

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2012-2013

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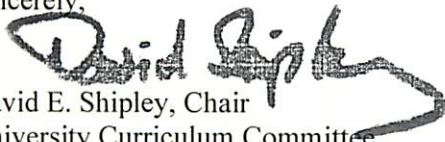
Undergraduate Student Representative

Graduate Student Representative

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal to change the name of the minor in Child and Family Development to Human Development and Family Science will be an agenda item for the August 22, 2012, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,



David E. Shipley, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Jere W. Morehead
Dr. Laura D. Jolly




The University of Georgia

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Linda Kirk Fox
Dean

TO: President Michael Adams
Provost Jere Morehead

FROM: Linda Kirk Fox, Dean 

DATE: May 2, 2012

RE: Name change of **Minor in Child & Family Development**
to **Minor in Human Development and Family Science**

In the final draft of the proposal to change the names of the department, the undergraduate major, and graduate degree programs, the minor was accidentally omitted. On April 6, 2012, faculty members were notified that the departmental and major name changes would take effect in fall semester 2012. The faculty request approval for changing the name of the Minor to reflect the name of the department: Minor in Human Development and Family Science. The reasons for changing the name of the minor are consistent with those articulated in the request to change the name of the department and major degree programs.

We ask you to change the name of the minor, consistent with the department and major degree programs, to **Minor in Human Development and Family Science**.

- 1) Over a number of years, colleges of family and consumer sciences have moved to renaming those departments focused on the lifespan within the context of families. A recent national study of such departments (Hans, Smith, & Kimberly, annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, 2010) revealed that while there still is diversity in naming, the most common names are Human Development and Family Science and Human Development and Family Studies. Conversely, the least common departmental names are Child and Family Development, and Family and Child Development (nationwide only three departments use these names, including UGA).

- 2) The shift in the discipline is the result of providing additional clarity to this interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary academic unit. A primary and unique feature of our department is the scientific study of individual development within the context of family systems and dynamics; moreover, this developmental focus crosses the lifespan, and accounts for the multiple contexts that affect individuals, most principally the family.
- 3) The name change we request is well-aligned with the discipline. We are not requesting this change because it is common nationally but rather because it more accurately reflects the nature of our department, including our instruction, research and outreach activities.
- 4) As far as we can tell, Human Development and Family Science is consistent with the administrative structure of UGA and the University System. We do know that HDFS is consistent with UGA's College of Family and Consumer Sciences, and with national norms.
- 5) Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) clearly communicates the nature of this department both within and outside of UGA. As an example, I met with 20 academic advisors from Franklin College, a meeting centered on updating them on opportunities for undergraduate students. I told them that we were requesting this name change and their immediate response was one of support because they feel it helps them to explain the nature of our department to prospective students. In short, HDFS is focused on the intersections of human developmental processes and family dynamics, and this revised department name is a most efficient way to communicate that. Because we are committed to the scientific study of families, employing the term "science" accurately reflects an important aspect of this academic unit.
- 6) Prefixes are exactly matched to this new name, and will be HDFS (Human Development and Family Science).

I am available to provide any additional information and clarifications as this request moves through the UGA system.

C: Jay Mancini
Jennifer Gonyea

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