Proposal for Delivery of an Existing Program in Psychology with Blended Modality

Oregon State University's School of Psychological Science currently offers a BA/BS degree in Psychology in Corvallis, Bend and online.

The School seeks to create an innovative pathway to earn this same Psychology degree. We propose to expand our partnerships with community colleges to offer a variant of the 2+2 degree completion model[1] and to supplement our existing upper-division courses in the online Psychology degree program with a blended modality (50% face-to-face (f2f) and 50% online), using a model similar to Portland State University's Hybrid BSW program offered in Eugene. This innovative pathway to an OSU Psychology undergraduate degree is unique and is not currently delivered by either Portland State University or University of Oregon.

The most affordable path to earning an OSU undergraduate degree is to complete 120 credits from a community college and 60 upper-division credits from OSU, either online or at the Bend or Corvallis campus. We propose to deliver the 60 upper-division credits using the blended modality. This approach is based on the Eduventures study[2] that found that more than half of the survey respondents in the Portland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) would prefer a program that offers blended modalities of face-to-face and online, with face-to-face sessions offered during the weekday (40%) or weeknight (40%).

There is no difference between the proposed BA/BS Psychology program and the Psychology programs currently offered in Corvallis, Bend or fully online. The 50/50 blended delivery format is currently used, or planned for use, for delivery of these same courses at the Corvallis campus. This format provides flexibility for many students who struggle to manage non-school related activities in their schedule.

Through our partnerships with community colleges, our goal is to provide affordable access to a high-quality, quantitatively-focused Psychology degree to prepare students who are not able to attend on-campus degree programs in Bend or Corvallis for careers and graduate school in psychological science.

Our plans build upon successful partnerships with Oregon public universities and community colleges, dual degree and transfer partnerships, and a successful online program that draw Portland area students. Our partners at other institutions have not expressed to us undue hardship even as access to OSU 4-year degrees has grown.

In sum, we propose an innovative, cost-effective, flexible degree to provide access to OSU's School of Psychological Science's research-based psychology degree to hundreds of students in Portland who currently have no path to a similar degree.

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[1] Two years of lower-division coursework completed at the community college and two years of upper-division coursework completed at the university.

[2] Eduventures Statewide Needs Assessment 2016, "Survey of Prospective Learners in the Portland Metropolitan Statistical Area".