




MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. George Flowers, Dean, Graduate School
From: Dr. Steven Brown, Chair, Department of Political Science 
Date: December 11, 2015
RE: Temporary Course Substitutions for Community Planning Program Curriculum

As you know, the Master in Community Planning (MCP) program recently transferred into the Department of Political Science and the College of Liberal Arts from the College of Architecture, Design, and Construction. Faculty in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program and the MCP faculty are currently working together to revise MCP and MPA curricula to take advantage of all faculty expertise and program synergy. Significant revisions are expected to be in place by Fall 2017. Until then, however, some flexibility is necessary in the MCP curriculum for several reasons:

- 1) one faculty member remained with the College of Architecture, reducing the number of courses available to MCP students;
- 2) some courses in the MCP program are relics of input and approaches from its previous college;
- 3) the MCP program is hiring two additional faculty; until they join the faculty, expertise and thus course offerings are limited to the three current MCP faculty;
- 4) as the MCP and MPA faculty rebuild the curriculum to take advantage of program synergies, flexibility will allow MCP students to take advantage of courses from the Political Science Department and the expertise of MPA faculty, furthering the Provost's goal of program integration.

While these curriculum revisions are made, we request that some of the more specific requirements of the MCP program – particularly courses CPLN 6060, 6070, 6080, and 6090 – be relaxed, so that any CPLN, POLI, LAND, or GEOG (the latter three have dual degrees with MCP) numbered 6000 to 8999, as well as other advisor-approved electives from other departments, may be automatically substituted in their place. In essence, the specified courses will become free electives until the new MCP curriculum goes into effect in Fall 2017.

Additionally, as the current curriculum is now reflective of other faculty expertise, we request that, in a limited number of cases, some students be allowed to repeat CPLN 6060, 6070, 6080, and 6090 IF the course content of the two courses is substantially different from the course as previously offered. If this anomaly does occur, a memo will be drafted to the Graduate School explaining the differences in content and including the two substantially different syllabi.

Thanks for your support as we continue this transition.