ITEM 1. Recommendation of PSY 2012 as a Pre-Req for DEP 2004

Discussion: The Cluster reiterated its recommendation that PSY 2012 be a pre-requisite for DEP 2004 because of the reasons stated in the Curriculum Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2010.

Data source consulted) Revised Course-Social Sciences Effective August 2010

DEP 2004 Human Growth and Development (Add Recommended prerequisite of PSY 2012) 3 credits

Justification: The cluster proposes adding PSY 2012 as a prerequisite to DEP 2004 for the following reasons:

a.) It would align DEP 2004 with DEP 2102 (Child Growth and Development). DEP 2102 has the same prerequisite.

b.) A report from Institutional Effectiveness has established a clear correlation between students first taking a general Psychology class and their overall grade in a later Developmental Psychology class (File 2009GR07). Students who took a general Psychology class first had higher grades in a Developmental Psychology class with fewer failures and withdrawals.

c.) Students taking DEP 2102 which has a prerequisite of PSY 2012, have a higher success rate (Program Health Indicators). Developmental Psychology professors base much of their class requirements on knowledge gained in a general Psychology class. An example is that general Psychology is a Gordon Rule class and students learn how to write college level research papers. Research papers are a requirement in all subsequent classes but basic instruction in creation and research techniques is usually not part of the course curriculum. Just as important are the fundamental psychological theories that are learned in PSY 2012 and are built upon in DEP 2004.

The largest group of students who take DEP 2004 are Limited Access Nursing students who take the course as a prerequisite for the program. Because of issues with the Nursing program course sequencing and their accrediting requirements to make this kind of change to the program, the addition of PSY 2012 as a prereq to DEP 2004 is not possible at this time. A compromise solution is to add PSY 2012 as a “Recommended Prerequisite” to the course which will inform students that PSY 2012 will help them to be successful in the course but not restrict them from registering for DEP 2004 if the prereq has not been taken.

Action:
The Cluster acknowledged the issues that would occur with this change because of Nursing Curriculum, and changes in course offerings, especially at a smaller campus, like Belle Glades, but felt it is a necessary change that would benefit the probability of student success.

ITEM 2. APA Changes

Discussion: Doug Cornwell, from the library, discussed the changes in the new edition of the APA Manual (6th ed). He pointed out that there was some confusion about which version instructors were assigning.

Data source consulted: Handout was provided which gave examples of the changes
Action: The Cluster suggested that all instructors utilize the new edition for uniformity and clarity for students and Library and Writing Lab Staff. Instructors should direct students to the Library Web Page “Tips & Tutorials” for examples. It was also suggested that students be directed to “Noodle Tools” for assistance in developing accurate Reference pages.

Item 3:
Mike Miles asked about the creation of an Honor’s section of PSY 2012.
Discussion: The Cluster was in favor of Mike moving forward with this project.
Action: Mike will begin work on developing an honors course and will bring it back to the Cluster for review.

Item 4:
Other course development issues.
Discussion: Gisela Diaz asked about the group’s feelings about reviving a “Human Sexuality” class, and Vanger Simmons asked about the possibility of teaching a section of Feminist Psychology (SOP2740) on the Glades Campus.
Action: The Cluster voiced some concerns about creating a human sexuality class, so will think further about that before moving forward. Since Feminist Psychology is an established course taught every semester at the Lake Worth Campus, the cluster felt that teaching a section at the Glades was up to the Academic Dean there.

Item # 5:
Changes in the Human Services program:
Discussion: Lois Pasapane asked the group to approve of two changes in the Human Services program:
(1) To give students in the Youth Development Track (AS 2374) a choice of SYG 2361, Death & Dying, OR SYG 2430, Marriage & Family.. Currently, they must take the SYG 2361.
(2) To allow Gerontology (GEY 2000) to be offered in the Fall Term instead of Spring because it will allow students a choice of alternatives in two, rather than one semester, which often delays graduation.
Action: The Cluster agreed with both proposed actions.

OTHER:
Our discussion of the General Education Learning goals was completed in our general Social Science Meeting before our individual cluster meeting.

Attendance:
Maria Arbona
Esther Berry
Gisela Diaz
Michael Mile
Lois Pasapane
Vanger Simmons

Submitted by:
Lois Pasapane

[name], Scribe
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