

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

DATE: August 2014

FROM: The Graduate School

The Graduate Council submits the following items from the **August 14, 2014** meeting for consideration.

### **Action Items:**

- I. Create a New Course  
LEAD 598 Independent Study in Organizational Leadership

**University College  
School of Professional Studies  
Proposal to Create a New Course  
(Action Item)**

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**1. Identification of proposed course:**

- 1.1 Course prefix (subject area) and number: LEAD 598
- 1.2 Course title: Independent Study in Organizational Leadership
- 1.3 Abbreviated course title: Ind Study in Org Leadership  
(maximum of 30 characters or spaces)
- 1.4 Credit hours: 1 – 6; repeatable for up to 6 credits (variable)
- 1.5 Grade type: standard letter grade
- 1.6 Prerequisites/corequisites: Permission of instructor.
- 1.7 Course description: Individual research, literature review or professional development project in a specific area of leadership, in close cooperation with supervising faculty.

**2. Rationale:**

- 2.1 Reason for developing the proposed course: Leadership is a very diverse subject, and the present leadership curriculum covers many aspects of the leadership process, but not all. Students who want to explore alternative aspects of leadership presently have no mechanism to conduct research and further their understanding of that field. Additionally, transfer students in particular often need a variable number of credits to graduate due to articulation of their previous studies. The proposed Independent Studies course will provide students a pathway to graduation that enhances their learning experience while affording them a degree of subject flexibility. The course supports the University mission to provide pathways for people to gain the knowledge and credentials they need to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen-leaders of a global society.
- 2.2 Projected enrollment in the proposed course: One to three students per semester; limited to students enrolled in the Masters or Certificate in Organizational Leadership. We do not anticipate students outside the School of Professional Studies taking this course.
- 2.3 Relationship of the proposed course to courses now offered by the department: Organizational-Leadership is the only graduate program within the School of Professional Studies, and thus the school does not currently offer a graduate level independent study course. This proposal closes that gap.
- 2.4 Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other departments: various other academic departments at WKU offer independent study courses for similar reasons as those proposed. Examples include:  
AGRI 597: Independent Special Projects/Agriculture  
BIOL 675: Independent Advanced Topics/Biology  
MATH 598: Graduate Seminar  
COMM 595: Independent Study in Communication  
FLK 579: Independent Study Folklore

Examples in University College include:  
ICSR 579 Independent Study in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities  
GWS 590 Directed Study in Women's & Gender Studies

- 2.5 Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other institutions: The following universities offer similar courses, as most leadership curriculums recognize the need for students to conduct research and gain knowledge of a specific aspect of leadership not covered in their curriculum. Given the nature of Leadership Studies, the discipline is often taught in various academic departments.

Northern Kentucky University: MGT 699 – Independent Study: Management  
Kansas State: LEAD 502 – Independent Study in Leadership Studies  
Gonzaga University: ORGL 590 – Independent Study  
Ball State: MGT 697 – Independent Study

### **3. Discussion of proposed course:**

- 3.1 Schedule type: L
- 3.2 Learning Outcomes: students will analyze, synthesize, research, or explore various topics in leadership studies with the primary learning outcome to gain an overview or deeper understanding of a chosen aspect of leadership.
- 3.3 Content outline:
- Under the guidance of a Leadership Studies faculty member, the student will develop a proposal for a study investigating an aspect of leadership that is appropriate to the student's needs or to complement other aspects of his or her program of study.
  - The student will develop a program of study or establish a methodology to conduct a research project. The student will work with the supervising faculty to define learning milestones, deliverables, and the means of assessment.
  - The student will provide a weekly status report to the supervising faculty member and meet periodically throughout the semester to discuss progress, identify difficulties, and assess learning.
- 3.4 Student expectations and requirements: The student will be required to produce a final product or portfolio (as appropriate for the work undertaken). Examples include a comprehensive paper or report, a collection of shorter essays, a website, video product, or a combination based on prior agreement with the supervising faculty member.
- 3.5 Tentative texts and course materials: will vary based on the research project but must include primary source materials.

### **4. Resources:**

- 4.1 Library resources: given the nature of an independent study, it is not possible to determine the library resources necessary. Presently, the library has adequate resources to support this course based on previous faculty research.
- 4.2 Computer resources: adequate.

### **5. Budget implications:**

- 5.1 Proposed method of staffing: existing faculty can support this proposed course.
- 5.2 Special equipment needed: none.
- 5.3 Expendable materials needed: adequate resources exist within the School.
- 5.4 Laboratory materials needed: none.

**6. Proposed term for implementation:** Spring 2015

**7. Dates of prior committee approvals:**

School of Professional Studies Curriculum Committee	7/15/2014
University College Curriculum Committee	8/1/2014
Graduate Council	8/14/14
University Senate	