Rice University | School of Social Sciences
Proposal to Eliminate the Policy Studies (POST) Major

SUMMARY

The School of Social Sciences proposes to eliminate the Policy Studies (POST) major concurrent with the approval for the new Social Policy Analysis (SOPA) major. The coordination of this effort will impact 50 current POST majors and 31 existing POST courses.

Despite the elimination of the POST major and its associated courses, a number of departmental courses from around the university will continue to exist to support any POST major who desires to finish the degree requirements under their assigned matriculation term. If approved, the School of Social Sciences will remove the POST major from Rice University’s General Announcements at the start of the 2017-2018 academic year.

This proposal is contingent on the approval of the SOPA major.

RATIONALE

The new SOPA major is a school-based course of study that introduces students to problems, policies, and methods in social policy and welfare. Social Policy Analysis distinguishes itself from Policy Studies by emphasizing interdisciplinary coursework and research methods for evaluating interventions and policies as well as advancing the study of evidence-based practice. Policy Studies limits itself to the study of the process of creating, developing, and implementing policy, but does not focus on specific problems and their policy solutions.

Rice University’s School of Social Sciences SOPA major leverages its rigor with faculty expertise in research design and qualitative and quantitative analysis, in a way that the current POST major does not. The new SOPA major also capitalizes on established community partnerships from the Gateway Program for undergraduates and faculty connections to generate training opportunities for students to make the greatest possible impact.

Ultimately, the momentum from the SOPA major will set the School of Social Sciences on a groundbreaking path that produces knowledge and influences social policies as diverse as health, education, poverty, and criminal justice.

PLAN OF ACTION

As of fall 2016, there are currently 50 POST majors: 28 seniors, 17 juniors, and 5 sophomores. Due to the timing of this proposal it is possible second semester sophomores may declare a POST major during the spring 2017 semester resulting in more students impacted. Current majors will have the option to either finish the POST degree requirements as they are today or convert to the new SOPA major.
### POST majors by Matriculation Term and Year of Study (as of Fall 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sophomores</td>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sophomores</td>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Administration:**
  - Advising and degree certification for current POST majors will remain with Policy Studies Director, Don Ostdiek, through the 2017-2018 academic year. Thereafter, advising for POST majors will move to the SOPA Faculty Director.
  - Students who wish to change from POST to SOPA will be advised and have their degrees certified with the SOPA Faculty Director.

- **Curricular Impact**
  The POST major consists of 11 courses. Four courses are in the Basic Curriculum, six courses in an Area of Study, and one course for the Internship Capstone Requirement.

### Impact to POST Core Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current POST Core Curriculum</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 100 Principles of Economics</td>
<td>Courses will still exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ECON 101 Introduction to Microeconomics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ECON 103 Introduction to Macroeconomics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ECON 111 AP/Oth Credit in Microeconomics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ECON 113 AP/Oth Credit in Macroeconomics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 200 Microeconomics</td>
<td>Course will still exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 203 Macroeconomics</td>
<td>Course will still exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 210 Behavioral Economics</td>
<td>Course will still exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 239 Law and Economics</td>
<td>Courses will still exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ECON 260 Microeconomics and Public Policy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>or ECON 265 Microeconomics and Public Policy Towards Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ECON 270 Macroeconomics and Public Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ECON 275 International Macroeconomics and Public Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 337 Public Policy &amp; Bureaucracy</td>
<td>Courses will still exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or POLI 336 Politics of Regulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOCI 348 Organizational Sociology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI 317 The Congress</td>
<td>Courses will still exist</td>
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<tr>
<td>or POLI 318 The Presidency</td>
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<tr>
<td>or POLI 321 American Constitutional Law</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>or POLI 342 Politics of the Judiciary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current POST Course</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 350- Global Urban Lab London</td>
<td>Core course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 351- Ethics in the Media</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 352- International Economics</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 353- The Social Dynamics of London</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 354- Understanding Britain Today</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 355- European Government and Politics</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Area of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Area of Study</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Current POST Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POST 356</td>
<td>Politics, Democracy, and Islam</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POST 357</td>
<td>International Finance</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POST 358</td>
<td>International Marketing</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POST 359</td>
<td>Exploring the Global City</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POST 360</td>
<td>Global Workforce Management</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POST 361</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POST 362</td>
<td>Gender and Citizenship in Modern Europe</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POST 363</td>
<td>Managing Global Supply Chains</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 370</td>
<td>Public Diplomacy and Global Policy</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POST 401</td>
<td>Energy Policy</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 411</td>
<td>Sustainable Development (cross-listed with GLHT 411)</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 420</td>
<td>Competition and Managed Health Care</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POST 499</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POST 501</td>
<td>Energy Policy</td>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Impact to Other POST Courses

The following POST courses exist with no assignment to either the Core Curriculum or an Area of Study. It is proposed all be inactivated and/or moved to a new department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current POST Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POST 340</td>
<td>Not assigned</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td>EDUC 350 will still be offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 400</td>
<td>Not assigned</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td>ANTH 400 course will remain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 415</td>
<td>Not assigned</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td>Recommend move to UNIV- Rice in Copenhagen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 416</td>
<td>Not assigned</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td>Recommend move to UNIV- Rice in Copenhagen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 420</td>
<td>Not assigned</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 499</td>
<td>Not assigned</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST 501</td>
<td>Graduate Equiv</td>
<td>Inactivate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact to Required Internship Course

Current POST majors will continue to have opportunities to participate in internships for course credit through the following departments:

- Art History (HART)
- Health Sciences (HEAL)
- Humanities (HUMA)
- Political Science (POLI)
- Religion (RELI)
- University (UNIV)