

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE
FORM C
Form Number: C1302**

Fields marked with * are required

Name of Initiator: Rikk Murphy **Email:*** rikk@unm.edu **Date:*** 10-18-13
Phone Number:* 505-277-5009 Initiator's Title* Coordinator Program Advisement, Psych Dept

Associated Forms exist? * Yes
Faculty Contact* Derek Hamilton Administrative Contact* Rikk Murphy
Department* Psychology Admin Email* rikk@unm.edu
Branch Admin Phone* 505.277.5009

Proposed effective term:

Semester Year

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program
Name of New or Existing Program * PhD Psychology Behavioral Neuroscience Concentration
Select Category Degree Type
Select Action

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog. If there is a change, upload current and proposed requirements.

See current catalog for format within the respective college (upload a doc/pdf file)

Does this change affect other departmental program/branch campuses? If yes, indicate below.

Reason(s) for Request * (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

[Reason for Request-Beh Neuro.docx](#)

Upload a document that includes justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications.*

[Justification.docx](#)

Reason for Request:

We are requesting the deletion of the Cognitive/Learning, Cognitive Neuroimaging, and Behavioral Neuroscience Concentrations and the creation of a Cognition, Brain and Behavior (CBB) concentration.

The purpose of the CBB area is to provide advanced training on the principles of behavior and cognitive processes and their neurobiological bases. In the past we have required three core courses and an annual seminar, and have organized elective courses into three distinct tracks. These elective tracks, Cognitive/Learning, Cognitive Neuroimaging, and Behavioral Neuroscience, were erroneously listed as concentrations. This organization created some confusion amongst current and prospective students in that the specific elective courses that were listed were incorrectly thought to be *required*. Rather, the requirement is that a specified number of credits be completed from the pool of elective courses. It also created a situation where it was difficult to routinely offer courses that would satisfy the distinct elective requirements for each 'concentration' based on faculty availability and student interest and need. Therefore, we are requesting a change to eliminate the separate training 'concentrations' and associated elective specifications in favor of a simpler organization that frees up students to tailor course-work for their specific needs and interests. Current students in the separate concentrations would be transitioned into the new CBB concentration.

Budgetary and Faculty Load Implications

This modification will not require additional budgetary resources or additions to our current faculty. There are no direct implications regarding faculty load. The elective courses required for the CBB concentration are already being offered in our department, and the faculty will continue to teach elective courses at the current level.

Long-Range Planning:

This modification will allow the CBB area to better meet the long-range and primary goal of training Ph.D. students in the area cognition, brain and behavior, while reducing confusion about our course requirements, particularly elective courses, for current and prospective students. Further, by eliminating the organization of specific elective course descriptions in separate concentrations this should also reduce confusion about the concentration and its organization. By eliminating these sources of confusion through the simplification of how the elective requirements are specified we will also hopefully help students reduce the total time to graduation.