



Request to Disestablish Academic Program/Plan

Name of Academic Program: Minor in Government and Public Policy(GPPMINU)
Academic Department: School of Government and Public Policy, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Geographic Site: Main Campus
Instructional Modality: In-Person
Last Term of operation: Spring 2027
Brief Description: The Government & Public Policy minor accommodates the interests and needs of students from a variety of degree programs. Students are introduced to the various sub-fields of political science and public policy and gain the foundational knowledge of political processes and institutions.
Reason for Disestablishing the Program: <p>Currently the department houses a single minor, Government and Public Policy (GPP). This minor is designed to give students a survey of many different subjects within the governance and policy space, including political science, public affairs, criminal justice, and law.</p> <p>The minor itself, however, is not particularly satisfying from a substantive perspective. If anything, students get too broad of a survey across different fields, without the opportunity to specialize in any specific discipline. Indeed, students are required to diversify across disciplines. As an example, students are unable to take all political science classes as part of the GPP minor, and instead are required to diversify. This minor is thus rather unsatisfying for students who are interested in a disciplinary minor, such as a minor in political science, public affairs, or law, both due to the name (e.g., GPP instead of Political Science) and substance of the minor.</p> <p>The minor itself was created in response to resource constraints, as under previous funding models, SGPP was constrained in its ability to offer classes to students outside of our majors. The GPP minor is</p>



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designed to *not* produce a pathway between this minor and any of SGPP’s majors. SGPP majors paid program fees and were given the first chance to enroll in classes; minors did not have to pay these fees, and so classes were restricted to give paying students greater access. Previous funding models were also seen as disincentivizing minors, which contributed to the logic of the GPP minor. This ultimately did a disservice to students, who were overly constrained in their options.

Currently, SGPP is in a position to revisit minors and provide better options to students. With a new funding model and the removal of program fees, we can design minors that correlate to each of our majors (e.g., a Political Science minor to match our Political Science major), and we are currently working on plans to reestablish Political Science, and offer minors in both Public Affairs and Law. These minors will be quite beneficial, as they better match student demand, are more substantively meaningful, and create a pathway for students to add a major after exploring different fields through the minor.

Taken together, this allows us to disestablish the GPP minor, which has few merits from a substantive perspective and is worse for students to move between minors and majors. The GPP minor had also become something of a repository for low-enrolling courses, which made it less interesting to students overall. We’d like to disestablish this minor to create something more satisfying and useful in its place.

Disestablishment Plan:

We will continue to support all students who are withing the Government and Public Policy minor. Students will be given the option to continue in the Government and Public Policy minor or to switch to other minors. We are working to reestablish a Political Science minor by fall 2024, and to establish a minor in Law and another in Public Affairs by Fall 2025. (There is also an existing Criminology minor offered by Sociology, which pairs well with our Criminal Justice major).

In the short-term, the new Political Science minor will be most useful for students who may want to switch. Advisors will work with students who may want to switch minors to make for an easier transition.

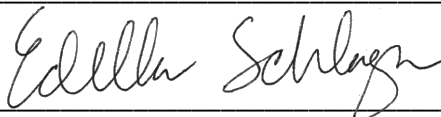
How will program resources be reallocated? (i.e., faculty and administrative positions; infrastructure, etc.):

All resources will continue to be used, but they will primarily move towards supporting the new Political Science Minor in Fall 2024, and a series of new minors by Fall 2025.

Is this program in an ABOR designated high demand field? YES NO
Is the discontinued program in education, health, science, technology, engineering or math (STEM)?

No

Department Head Name: Edella Schlager

Department Head Signature: 



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Date: 11/22/23

Dean/Assistant Dean Name: Amy Kimme Hea

Dean/Assistant Dean Signature: