Revised Minor in Psychology

I. Current Requirement

Six course units including:
1) psychology 100
2) either 211, 212, or 213
3) either 215, 217, or 218
4) psychology 200 (if a course in statistics has been completed elsewhere, one additional course at the 200 level or above)
5) two additional courses numbered 300 or above

II. Proposed Requirement

Six course units including:
1) psychology 100
2) either 211, 212, or 213
3) either 215, 217, or 218
4) psychology 227 (if a course in statistics has been completed in another department, one additional course at the 200 level or above)
5) psychology 300 (Research Methods)
6) one additional course numbered 301 or above

RATIONALE:

Our decision to change our minor requirements is based on our impression, developed over the last few years, that students minoring in psychology are frequently unprepared to succeed in our advanced seminars. Specifically, they require more training in both statistics/research methods and writing in psychology than they obtain in the current minor. Most of our upper division courses require students to read and interpret primary source empirical articles. To do so, students need a knowledge of statistics and research design. The advanced classes also typically have a large writing and literature research component. The skills to this are typically taught in Psychology 300 – Research Methods, which is our department writing intensive course. PSY 200 was developed for minors to condense the material in two courses into a single course. This has not been successful and students have entered into the upper division seminars without prerequisite skills.

This change will produce a more rigorous minor sequence that is strongly focused on methodology. It should be noted that many students minoring in psychology will complete their statistics requirement elsewhere (i.e., political science, economics/business, sociology) and thus will have an additional elective course available to them.