5. Special Consideration

College of Education and Human Development
Department of Educational Psychology
Minor in Creative Studies
October 10, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Bob Knight, Chair
   University Curriculum Committee

FROM: Dr. James Kracht, Associate Dean
      College of Education and Human Development

SUBJECT: Proposed Minor in Creative Studies

You will find a proposal for a 15 semester hour Minor in Creative Studies attached. The proposal has been approved by the faculty of the Department of Educational Psychology and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee of the College of Education and Human Development. The College of Architecture has agreed to allow the inclusion of ENDS 101 in the minor.

We believe this minor will be a worthy addition to the array of minors available at Texas A&M University.

Xc:/ Linda Lacey, Mike Benz
Texas A&M University
Proposed Minor Field of Study

Name of Minor Program: Creative Studies

Department: Educational Psychology

College: Education and Human Development

Will grant a minor ☐ Yes ☐ No Academic Year: 2004 - 2005

A selection from among the following courses will constitute a minor field of study.

A. The following _6_ hours of course work are required.

   EPSY 430 Creativity Theories and Research
   EPSY 432 Creativity and Creative Problem Solving

B. Select _9_ hours from the following courses.

   EPSY 431 Personal Creativity and Giftedness
   EPSY 433 Lateral Thinking
   ENDS 101 Design Process

   one 3 credit related course from the student's area of study to be approved by coordinator of Creative Studies (example - AGED students could use AGED 342 - Learning Organizations ENGL students could use ENGL 347 - Writer's Workshop or ENGL 385 - Playwriting)

Please indicate further requirements such as grade point requirement, prerequisites, resident (if above the minimum 6 hours at the 300- to 400-level), capstone or methods courses.

Minimum of _15_ hours required.

Minimum of 6 hours at 300- to 400-level


Reviewed and approved by:

Department Head/Program Director Date AGC Dean of College Date
Further information concerning the minor in Creative Studies---

In July of 2002, The Board of Regents approved an Institute of Applied Creativity. During the 2002 – 2003 academic year, a group of key individuals including:
- the Dean of the College of Education (where the Institute is housed),
- the Department Head for the Department of Educational Psychology (where the graduate courses in creativity originate),
- faculty members from the Department of Educational Psychology and the College of Architecture (who are presently teaching courses in creativity)

met regularly to put into place a more formalized program in the area of applied creativity. One of the initiatives coming from this effort was a focus on developing coursework in the undergraduate level to augment the courses and program focus already in place at the graduate level. The first step in this process was the establishment of a certificate program in creative studies at the undergraduate level. The undergraduate certificate was approved and is now in place.
The minor in Creative Studies allows students to move beyond certification and meld their major with the power of a focus in creative studies. The recent emphasis in the “9-11 Report” on the lack of creative thinking as one of the contributing factors to the 9-11 attack as well as the establishment of the National Innovation Initiative within the Council for Competitiveness speak to the national need for creative and innovative thinking in all career areas.
It is not surprising that creative and innovative thinking is becoming a strong focus and area of need in many corporations, health care organizations, and K-12 schools. In the original proposal to the Board of Regents the following paragraph appeared as part of an explanation for the establishment of an Institute for Applied Creativity.

"Creativity and the production of knowledge are the currency of the new millennia. To be viable in the future, our students and the citizens of the State of Texas will have to produce knowledge as individuals and within teams to create jobs at an unprecedented rate. It is estimated that one third of the jobs that will be available in the world in 2012 have not been invented yet. Texas will be competing globally to develop the leaders and pioneers of the new millennia. It is imperative, as educators, that we prepare our graduates to face the changing world by making them well prepared for creative endeavors. With the establishment of the Institute for Applied Creativity, Texas A&M University will take the lead in developing individuals capable of creating and producing new knowledge."

It is important to set our students apart as having credentials in the field of creative and innovative thinking so that they will be able to take on leadership positions in corporations and non-profit agencies. The field of creativity (under the direction of the Creative Education Foundation in Massachusetts) is presently in the process of establishing standards and requirements that can be used by corporations and agencies needing to recognize various levels of expertise within the field of creativity. Part of that process will be the requirement of courses of
study in creative studies. Dr. Joyce Juntune, from the Department of Educational Psychology, is serving on the National Certification Task Force that will provide guidance in this area. The establishment of a minor in Creative Studies at Texas A&M puts us into the leadership position in this area.

LINK to EPSY---

The Department of Educational Psychology is leading the effort in this area because this is where the graduate courses in creativity and the graduate program focus in creativity presently resides. There is a cross-college research group that has been meeting over the past year with the goal of collaborative research in the area of creativity. Some of the members of this group teach courses on creativity within their colleges. However, only a few of them were willing at this point to allow students from other departments to enroll in their courses. The certificate course listings represent the courses that would be open to students from any department on campus. It is expected that more courses will be added in the future as more courses become open to more students.