**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

**School of Social Work**

**Proposal to Require**

**Writing Competency Exam for Incoming Social Work Majors**

Bottom of Form

Students desiring to register for SOW 3302 (Profession of Social Work) will be required to complete the BSW School of Social Work Writing Competency Exam and earn a satisfactory score of 70%. Students will register for the exam with the FAU Testing and Evaluation Center <http://www.fau.edu/testing>. There will be a $10.50 fee to take the exam.

Background

A student's performance in the WAC course, SOW 3302, is viewed as one of the most important indicators for success in the BSW program. A prerequisite to core courses in the major, students failing this course are blocked from timely progression toward graduation. In addition, the student’s grade in this course is a factor in admission to Advanced Standing track for the MSW program. Unfortunately, too many students fail to do well in this course because of their lack of preparedness in basic writing skills. It is essential that a student’s basic knowledge of grammar, sentence structure, composition and the rules of academic integrity be sufficient to prepare them for success in this class. The goal of the exam is to increase the likelihood that our students are prepared to succeed as BSW majors.

Proposed Strategy-

Students planning to register for SOW 3302 (Profession of Social Work) will be required to complete the BSW School of Social Work Writing Competency Exam and earn a satisfactory score of 70%. Students will register for the exam with the FAU Testing and Evaluation Center <http://www.fau.edu/testing> . There will be a $10.50 fee to take the exam.

Multiple versions of the exam will be provided. The exam will consist of approximately 40 multiple-choice questions plus a one page essay and students will be allowed 90 minutes to take the exam. The one page essay will be graded separately by School of Social Work faculty.

Student who fail to achieve the required 70% on the exam may retake it prior to registering for the course the following semester. Students are strongly encouraged to take the ENC 3213, *Professional Writing* in the interim as this WAC course also fulfills an upper level requirement for the major.

Timeline

The Writing Competency Exam will be in place for summer semester, 2017 following notice of impending changes to FAU admissions and CDSI advisors as well as advisors and program coordinators at the three major state colleges. Students will be informed of the required exam upon declaring their major in Social Work through advising, catalog and formal “welcome” letter to the School of Social Work.

Evaluation

The process will be evaluated on an ongoing basis for efficiency and facility from both faculty and student viewpoint. It is expected that the following expected outcomes

* Decrease in numbers of students withdrawing from SOW 3302 sections per semester due to failing grades.
* Increase in number of students passing SOW 3302 on first attempt
* Increase in admission of FAU BSW graduates applying for FAU Advanced Standing Program
* Timely graduation for students who remain in the major.

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| ***Approved by:***  Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  College Curriculum Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  College Dean: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  UUPC Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Undergraduate Studies Dean: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  UFS President: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Provost: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | ***Date:***  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |