DATE: Tuesday, November 11, 2014
TO: Dr. Katherine G. Aiken
    Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
FROM: Jodie Nicotra, Associate Chair, English
SUBJECT: Minor Change Notification Request

The University of Idaho is writing to notify the Idaho State Board of Education per Board Policy Section III.G.3.c.ii of the change(s) which we believe is minor.

- Department of English: split current Writing Minor into two distinct minors: a Professional Writing Minor AND a Creative Writing Minor

The following information is being provided to ensure the minor, non-substantive change(s) is in alignment with our institutional responsibilities and accreditation.

Mission and Core Themes:
Splitting the current (generic) Writing Minor into two more specific ones (a Creative Writing Minor and a Professional Writing Minor) will most directly further University Goal #3, Communicate. Since the university currently has no formal WAC (Writing across the Curriculum) program, bolstering the individual writing curricula that are housed in English will help to advance the university goal of making students more effective written communicators.

Moreover, diversifying the current Writing Minor and more clearly defining its purpose will better allow different groups of students to more easily meet their goals. Students who want experience and scaffolded instruction in creative writing but who may not want to make that their primary focus of study will be interested in earning a Creative Writing minor. Conversely, the Professional Writing Minor will appeal to students majoring in STEM fields, as well as humanities and social sciences majors who aim to find work in occupations that require a lot of writing. For each group, being able to list a more clearly defined minor title on their resumes will benefit their professional goals.

Educational Offerings:
The current (generic) Writing Minor will be split into two distinct writing minors: a Professional Writing Minor and a Creative Writing Minor. The changes to the curriculum are indicated below:

**Curriculum:**

Writing Minor: **Professional Writing Minor**
The Writing Minor is not open to English majors.

Engl 202 Introduction to Professional Writing (3 cr)
Engl 440 Reading, Writing, and Rhetoric (3 cr)

One of the following courses (3 cr):
Engl 202 Introduction to Professional Writing (3 cr)
Engl 207 Persuasive Writing (3 cr)
Engl 208 Personal and Exploratory Writing (3 cr)

Two of the following courses (if not taken above); also note that Engl 208 and Engl 293 cannot both count towards fulfillment of the requirements for the Writing Minor (6 or 7 cr); note that you can only count one JAMM course toward the requirement:
Engl 202 Introduction to Professional Writing (3 cr)
Engl 207 Persuasive Writing (3 cr)
Engl 208 Personal and Exploratory Writing (3 cr)
Engl 215 Introduction to English Studies (3 cr)
Engl 291 Beginning Poetry Writing (3 cr)
Engl 292 Beginning Fiction Writing (3 cr)
Engl 309 Advanced Prose Writing (3 cr)
JAMM 121 Media Writing (3 cr)
JAMM 275 Introduction to Broadcast Media (4 cr)
COMM 235 Organizational Communication (3 cr)

Three of the following courses (9 cr) – note that you can only count one of the JAMM courses toward this requirement:
Engl 313 Business Writing (3 cr)
Engl 316 Environmental Writing
Engl 317 Technical Writing (3 cr)
EnglJ498(s) Internship (for 3 credits)
Engl 391 Intermediate Poetry Writing (3 cr)
Engl 392 Intermediate Fiction Writing (3 cr)
Engl 393 Intermediate Nonfiction Writing (3 cr)
Engl 402 Internship in Tutoring Writing (3 cr)
Engl 491 Advanced Poetry Writing (3 cr, max arr)
Engl 492 Advanced Fiction Writing (3 cr, max arr)
Engl 493 Advanced Nonfiction Writing (3 cr, max arr)
JAMM 425 Feature Article Writing (3 cr)
JAMM 426 Narrative Journalism (3 cr)

Courses to total 20 21 credits for this minor

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**Creative Writing Minor**

The Writing Minor is not open to English majors.

- ONE full numerical sequence in a creative writing genre (e.g. Engl 291/391/491)
- The first two courses in a second genre (e.g. Engl 292/392) and the beginning course in the third genre (e.g. Engl 293)
- Either the advanced course in the second genre, the intermediate course in the third genre, or Playwriting (The J 440) or Foundations of Screenwriting (The 541, with instructor permission).

**Engl 440**  Reading, Writing, and Rhetoric (3 cr)

One of the following courses (3 cr):
- Engl 202  Introduction to Professional Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 207  Persuasive Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 208  Personal and Exploratory Writing (3 cr)

Two of the following courses (if not taken above); also note that Engl 208 and Engl 293 cannot both count towards fulfillment of the requirements for the Writing Minor (6 cr):
- Engl 202  Introduction to Professional Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 207  Persuasive Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 208  Personal and Exploratory Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 215  Introduction to English Studies (3 cr)
- Engl 291  Beginning Poetry Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 292  Beginning Fiction Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 293  Beginning Nonfiction Writing (3 cr)
- JAMM 121  Media Writing (3 cr)

Three of the following courses (9 cr)
- Engl 309  Advanced Prose Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 313  Business Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 317  Technical Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 391  Intermediate Poetry Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 392  Intermediate Fiction Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 393  Intermediate Nonfiction Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 402  Internship in Tutoring Writing (3 cr)
- Engl 491  Advanced Poetry Writing (3 cr, max arr)
- Engl 492  Advanced Fiction Writing (3 cr, max arr)
- Engl 493  Advanced Nonfiction Writing (3 cr, max arr)
- JAMM 425  Feature Article Writing (3 cr)

Courses to total **21 20** credits for this minor

**Planning:**
With the format of the current Writing Minor, students can take courses that are more geared toward creative writing (but not a full complement of creative writing courses) or they can gear the curriculum more toward professional writing, depending on their career aspirations and personal goals. However, all students in the Writing Minor are currently required to take Engl 440 (Reading, Writing, and Rhetoric, soon to be renamed Client-Based Writing), in which students work with Moscow-based nonprofit and university organizations to produce grant proposals and other forms of professional writing.

Because the curriculum for Engl 440 presumes that students have a degree of professional writing skill (i.e., that they’ve taken at least one course that focuses on professional writing), students who have taken mostly creative writing courses for the minor are at a disadvantage in the course. Moreover, Engl 440 doesn’t adequately serve their needs – if students wish to be better writers of fiction or poetry, for instance, producing grant proposals wouldn’t help them achieve this goal.

Rather than change the requirements for the current writing minor (so that students aren’t required to take Engl 440, for instance), it would be more coherent and efficacious to split the minor into two distinct emphases. Doing this would better serve students who wish to focus exclusively on creative writing, because a specific Creative Writing Minor would offer a more complete array of creative writing courses. It would also help students who wish to have a background in professional writing, because assigning a specific “Professional Writing” title to the minor will be more appealing to future employers.

The current minor is not available to English majors, but this is a disadvantage to students who want to show that they have taken courses in professional and/or creative writing above and beyond the requirements of the English major. Thus, the revised minors can be completed by students majoring in English as well.

Budget:
There are no anticipated additional revenue or expenditures, since neither of the new (Creative Writing and Professional Writing) minors will require additional courses to be taught. The change is more geared toward clarifying and polishing the current curriculum than adding a new program.

Student Services:
Since the splitting of the current Writing Minor into two distinct minors doesn’t require the addition of new courses, there will be no negative impact on student services.

Physical Facilities:
No new facilities will be necessary.

Library and Information Resources:
The library resources currently devoted to the writing courses will be sufficient for the revised Writing Minor.
Faculty:
Writing courses are currently staffed by a mix of full-time (board-appointed) faculty and temporary lecturers. There is no anticipated change in the staffing of these courses.