PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEGREE PROGRAMS IN THE
UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2010-2012

NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM(S):

1) BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN URBAN STUDIES
2) URBAN STUDIES HONORS PROGRAM

EXPLAIN CHANGE(S) TO DEGREE PROGRAM:

1) The Urban Studies degree will now permit either Mathematics 316 (MATH 316) or Statistics and Scientific Computation 305 (SSC 305) to satisfy the required semester of statistics. The grade cut-offs for satisfactory completion of statistics and calculus will be set at C- instead of C.

2) The Urban Studies Honors program will no longer require a defense of the honors thesis, and the two-semester honors thesis course (URB 679H) will now be allowed as a substitute for the one-semester senior project course (URB 370) required of all majors. The grade cut-off for satisfactory completion of the honors thesis (URB 679H) will be lowered from A to A-. In addition, we have removed the grade requirement (A in each course) for core courses URB 360 and 370 from the honors program.

Indicate pages in the Undergraduate Catalog where changes will be made:

1) p. 329; 2) p. 313

GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S):

1) The new requirements reflect the new plus-minus grading system and attempt to replicate the same stringency that was built into the previous requirements. Adding SSC 305 Statistics in Policy Design as an option to satisfy the required semester of statistics gives URB majors an alternative to the standard statistics course offered through the Math department. The two courses are considered equivalent.

2) The current requirements for graduation with honors are overly stringent and relaxing them will encourage students to try to graduate with honors, thereby increasing student motivation to excel in the program. In addition, allowing honors students to substitute the two-semester honors tutorial course, which requires research and creation of an honors project culminating in an honors thesis, for the URB 370 Senior Project eliminates a redundant requirement; the senior project is essentially a non-honors research and thesis requirement.

SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE(S):
Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? If yes, then how?
No.

Will this proposal change the number of required hours for degree completion? If yes, please explain.

No.

Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, please explain.

No.

**COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS:**

(Circle yes or no)

Department: **Yes**  
Date: **April 3, 2009**

College:  
Yes  
No  
Date:

Dean:  
Yes  
No  
Date:

Please include a draft of the catalog copy on an attached page. The draft should be based on the text of the current catalog available at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/pages/catalog_chgs/catcopy.html.

**CHANGES IN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN URBAN STUDIES IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER OF THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2010-2012**

On page 329, under the heading **DEGREES**, in the **MAJORS AND MINORS** subsection of the College of Liberal Arts chapter of the *Undergraduate Catalog, 2008-2010*, make the following changes:

**Urban Studies**

The urban studies program is administered by the Department of Geography and the Environment.  
**Major:** Twenty-four semester hours of coursework, consisting of Urban Studies 301, 315, and 360; Urban Studies 370 or an approved equivalent course; and twelve additional hours of upper-division coursework in urban studies.  

In addition, all urban studies majors must complete Mathematics 408C or 408K and Mathematics 316 or Statistics and Scientific Computation 305 with a grade of at least C- in each. **Other comparable statistics courses may be approved by petition.** Mathematics 403K and 403L may not be counted toward this requirement.
On page 313, under the heading LIBERAL ARTS HONOR PROGRAMS, PLAN I, in the ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES subsection of the College of Liberal Arts chapter of the Undergraduate Catalog, 2008-2010, make the following changes:

**Urban Studies Honors Program**

Majors who plan to seek special honors in urban studies should apply to the honors adviser for admission to the honors program at the beginning of their third year; they must apply no later than a year before they expect to graduate. A University grade point average of at least 3.00 is required for admission. The requirements for graduation with special honors, which are in addition to the requirements for the major except that Urban Studies 679H substitutes for Urban Studies 370, are (1) grades of \( \text{A} \) in Urban Studies 360 and 370; (2) at least \( \text{A-} \) in both halves of Urban Studies 679H, *Honors Tutorial Course*; [with a grade of \( \text{A} \) in each half]; (3) satisfactory defense of the honors thesis completed in Urban Studies 679H; (4) a University grade point average of at least 3.00 and a grade point average of at least 3.50 in the coursework required for the major and for honors; and (5) completion in residence at the University of at least sixty semester hours of coursework counted toward the degree.