

MEMO

To: The UVM Faculty Senate
From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse, Co-Chairs
Date: January 11, 2024
Re: New Minor in Military Leadership

With electronic ballot closing on January 11, 2024, the Curricular Affairs Committee supported the creation of a new Minor in Military Leadership (15 approved, 2 opposed).

The CAC reviewed a proposal for a new Minor in Military Leadership submitted by College of Education and Social Services (CESS). The proposed minor is a collaboration between the Department of Military Studies, which is not located in a degree-granting unit, and the CESS Department of Education. The Military Studies department and course offerings will remain in their current structural location and LCT Travis McCracken will be the point of contact for the minor. The partnership with CESS allows participating Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) cadets to receive an appropriate credential for their participation in their Military Leadership curriculum associated with their training in military studies. The proposers are hoping for a starting date of August 2024.

Program Description and Rationale

Throughout the four years of a student's undergraduate experience in the Military Leadership Minor, they will learn Army leadership doctrine both theoretically in the classroom and practically in training environments. Students will learn leadership principles and theoretical frameworks and be provided the opportunity to apply this knowledge in training simulations. This theoretical academic coursework and practical application of the theoretical leadership frameworks, furthers the University's mission to create, evaluate, share, and apply knowledge and prepare students to be accountable leaders.

The Department of Military Studies is an instructional unit situated in the Provost's office, thus outside of a college or school and therefore cannot formally sponsor a minor. Thus, the Department of Education stepped forward because they believe that UVM students deserve the opportunity to see their work in the ROTC program transcribed as a minor. The minor fits the

Department's vision and values by contributing to a student self-authored professional identity and gaining the skills and abilities to participate in leadership in changing global contexts. In this minor, the Department of Education will certify transcripts that the minor has been completed.

Justification and Evidence for Demand

ROTC programs are a common fixture at US institutions of higher education, and UVM has the distinction of having the oldest program in the country. However, while most other institutions with ROTC programs offer an academic credential, such as a minor, associated with completing the coursework required as an ROTC cadet, UVM does not. A scan of institutions demonstrated that minors are very commonly associated with ROTC programs.

Relationship to Existing Programs

The minor in Military Leadership has no identifiable overlap with other minors currently offered at the University.

Curriculum

The curriculum is developed and overseen by the US Government. Eighteen credits of courses in Military Studies are required to complete the minor as specified below:

Number	Name	Credits
MS 1110	Introduction to ROTC & the US Army	1
MS 1120	Introduction to Military Skills & Followership	1
MS 1210	Leadership & Team Development	2
MS 1220	Individual & Team Leading	2
MS 2131	Lead & Train Small Organizations	3
MS 2132	Lead & Manage Small Organizations	3
MS 3241	Leadership Challenges & Goal Setting	3
MS 3242	Lead Organizations Ethically & Competently	3

Admission Requirements and Process

The minor can be completed only by contracted Cadets in the ROTC program and that MS 2131, 2132, 3241, and 3242 are only open to Cadets.

Anticipated Enrollment and Impact on Current Programs

The minor sponsors anticipate that approximately 20 students per year who complete the ROTC program will seek to complete the Military Leadership minor. By offering students the opportunity to earn a minor for their work in the ROTC program, additional students may become interested in the ROTC program and attend entry-level Military Studies courses to learn more about the program. Additional Cadets in the ROTC program would result in students receiving tuition paid by the Army.

Advising

LTC Travis McCracken (Professor & Chair of Military Science) will be the point of contact for students enrolled in this minor.

Assessment Plan

Oversight of the curriculum, assessment of student performance and outcomes, and responsibility for faculty and staffing courses will remain with Military Studies.

Staffing Plan, Resource Requirements, and Budget

No new courses or staffing changes are required. There will be no changes to the budget or financial arrangements for the program.

Evidence of Support

Letters of support were obtained from:

- Jennifer A Dickinson (Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success)
- Kimberly J. Vannest (Chair, Department of Education)
- Travis J. McCracken (Chair, Department of Military Studies)

Summary

The CESS Curriculum Committee (6 approve and 0 disapprove), CESS faculty (14 approve, 3 disapprove, 2 abstain), and CESS Dean Shepherd have approved this proposal. We received one public comment about the title of the minor (originally Leadership & Military Studies) and wanting more clarity related to the fact that the minor focuses on leadership within the context of the military which they felt was lacking in the abstract. The commenter was concerned that the minor might be misleading to students because it centered leadership more broadly, when in reality the minor is focused on leadership within the context of the ROTC curriculum. We reached out to the proposers who readily agreed to a name change for the minor. The commenter felt satisfied with that response and supports the name adjustment (now Military Leadership). No other public comments were received.

Having the oldest ROTC program in the US and not supporting them with the opportunity to have an academic credential associated with their work seems like a missed opportunity.