Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)
Course Approval Sheet

Department: Decision Sciences College: Business
Course Number: DS 660 Course Title: Communication for Business Analytics
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This proposal is a: (please check one)

_____ Minor Modification to an Existing Course
_____ Substantial Modification to an Existing Course
__X__ Completely New Course

Relationship of course to major(s). Please indicate how this course fits in the major.

This course will serve as a capstone course in the major, including case studies on ethics and a final project on sustainability. Students will integrate material learned in other courses in the major to analyze case studies and write and present their results on an individual/group basis. Because it is a capstone course, students must complete at least two Decision Sciences concentration courses before taking this course. This also serves to embrace the “writing in the discipline” concept. Concentration courses are taken at the end of the junior year at the earliest, but more typically during the senior year; thus this is a senior level course.

Prerequisite: A prerequisite for the course is the completion of English 214 or its equivalent with a grade of “C-” or better. __X__ Yes _____ No

Please attach a course syllabus to this form.

Please indicate how this course meets each of the GWAR criteria:
(Note: You may respond either in the blanks below or on a separate sheet attached to this form.)

Criterion #1 - Class Size: Courses satisfying the GWAR should have an enrollment of 25 students or fewer.

Course size will be limited to 25 students.

Criterion #2 - Number of Pages/Words: The overall assignments for the course will include a minimum of 15 pages, meaning the equivalent of 4000 words, of formal writing that demonstrates upper-division written English proficiency within the given discipline.

Students will write executive summaries and technical or non-technical reports for three case studies. Each summary/report is between 1 and 3 pages. The final project will include a project proposal (1 page) and status report (2 pages), and a non-
technical final project report (10 pages). Assignments will be a combination of individual and group work.

**Criterion #3 - How Writing Will Affect the Final Grade:** At least 60% of the grade in GWAR courses must be based on written assignments and take-home essay exams (e.g., exams designed to allow for revision), which are evaluated for both content and quality of writing.

60% of the course grade will be based on writing: 3 case studies (10% each), final project proposal (5%), final project status report (10%), and final project report (15%). The remaining 40% will consist of presentations, peer evaluations, and class participation.

**Criterion #4 - Revision of Assignments:** GWAR courses must include substantive revision of major, graded, written assignments in response to feedback.

The project proposal, status report, and final reports will include peer reviews of first drafts (using provided rubrics), with instructor review and feedback on a second draft. The instructor will review and provide feedback for revision, where applicable, for the case study reports.

**Criterion #5 - Types of Assignments:** GWAR courses should include a variety of writing assignments that are distributed throughout the semester, rather than concentrated at the end.

The case studies will be assigned approximately every 3 weeks. The final project deliverables will occur throughout the second half of the semester, beginning with the final project proposal around the 5th week of classes.

**Criterion #6 - In-class Attention to Writing:** GWAR course syllabi should reflect significant class time devoted to instruction in writing conventions within the given discipline.

The second week of classes will be devoted exclusively to writing within the discipline. As the semester progresses and students submit assignments, more class time will be devoted to discussion of writing conventions. Peer writing evaluations for final project deliverables will take place during class.
Criterion # 7, Number of Units: GWAR courses should be at least 3 units.

The course is worth 3 units.

Department/Program Chair/Directors

______________________________________________________________
Print Name

______________________________________________________________
Signature