WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

FACULTY MEMBER: 

TERM: 

COURSE TITLE: Senior Seminar in Behavioral Science

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 409

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Senior Seminar in Behavioral Science will focus on developing professional skills, exploring career options, and understanding how programs are evaluated. These skills include elements of professionalism such as interviewing skills, writing a resume, learning how to advocate, presentation skills, and understanding evaluation research. Students will use applied techniques such as writing a resume and practice interviewing skills by conducting an agency interview. Students will also explore evaluation studies, graduate programs, advocate for a social issue, and develop a career path trajectory.

II. COURSE RATIONALE: This course orients students to the professional knowledge and skills needed by those working in the helping professions. Input from advisory board members has stated that new hires need to be skilled in interviewing and advocating, and be knowledgeable about organizational hierarchy and how agencies/organizations measure their success. This course is a bridge between the academic knowledge and developing a career trajectory.

III. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: 
Orientation to professionalism and career trajectories.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
A-1: Write a professional resume.
A-2: Write a cover letter for a specific position.
A-3: Analyze graduate programs and calculate their costs vs potential earnings.
A-4: Envision career trajectories.
A-5: Conduct an agency/organization information interview.
A-6: Identify professional and social networks with one’s chosen field.

GOAL B: 
Describe how organizational hierarchy, influencers, and organizational politics can make or break organizational effectiveness.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
B-1: Create a hierarchy chart of an agency/organization.
B-2: Sketch a possible career ladder within a given organization or agency.
B-3: Examine types of organizational influence.
B-4: Analyze organizational politics of a specific agency.

GOAL C:
Analyze the effectiveness of a program.
Learning Outcomes: the student will:
C-1: Explain how organizations/agencies are funded.
C-2: Examine methods of program evaluation.
C-3: Formulate a program evaluation plan for a specific program/agency.
C-4: Apply the protections of human subjects review in evaluating the effectiveness of a program.

GOAL D:
Demonstrate advocacy skills.
Learning Outcomes: the student will:
D-1: Advocate for a cause, including determining desired outcomes.
D-2: Identify stakeholders in a given cause.
D-3: Identify polarizing issues of a given cause or social policy.

GOAL E:
Demonstrate competent, professional oral communication skills.
Learning Outcomes: the student will:
E-1: Conduct an information interview in a professional manner.
E-3: Reflect on one’s own communication strengths and weaknesses.

GOAL F:
Demonstrate professional written communication skills.
Learning Outcomes: the student will:
F-1: Write an executive summary, professional resume and cover letter, and memo.
F-2: Develop a professional program evaluation plan.
F-3: Deliver professional quality presentations using media.
F-4: Write papers in accordance with APA style requirements.