

Development of an Undergraduate Communication & Leadership Skills Minor at Rutgers-Newark

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Abstract:

According to the National Association of College and Employers (NACE), communication, strategy, and leadership skills are among the top career readiness competencies that provide better career opportunities for students after college. Currently, the undergraduate curricula of several programs at the School of Arts & Sciences –Newark (SASN) are geared toward the fulfillment of the Major requirements, which tend to be “hard” and technical. That focus can leave a gap in our students’ soft skills that are required in today’s job market, such as verbal and written communication, critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, conflict and time management, and leadership skills. Several minors already exist at Rutgers-New Brunswick and College of Arts & Sciences at Camden that address some of these gaps, but not at Rutgers - Newark. We have an opportunity to develop an Undergraduate Minor in Communication and Leadership Skills (CLS Minor) at Rutgers-Newark that closes this gap and serves our community in a very specific manner.

Primary Stakeholders:

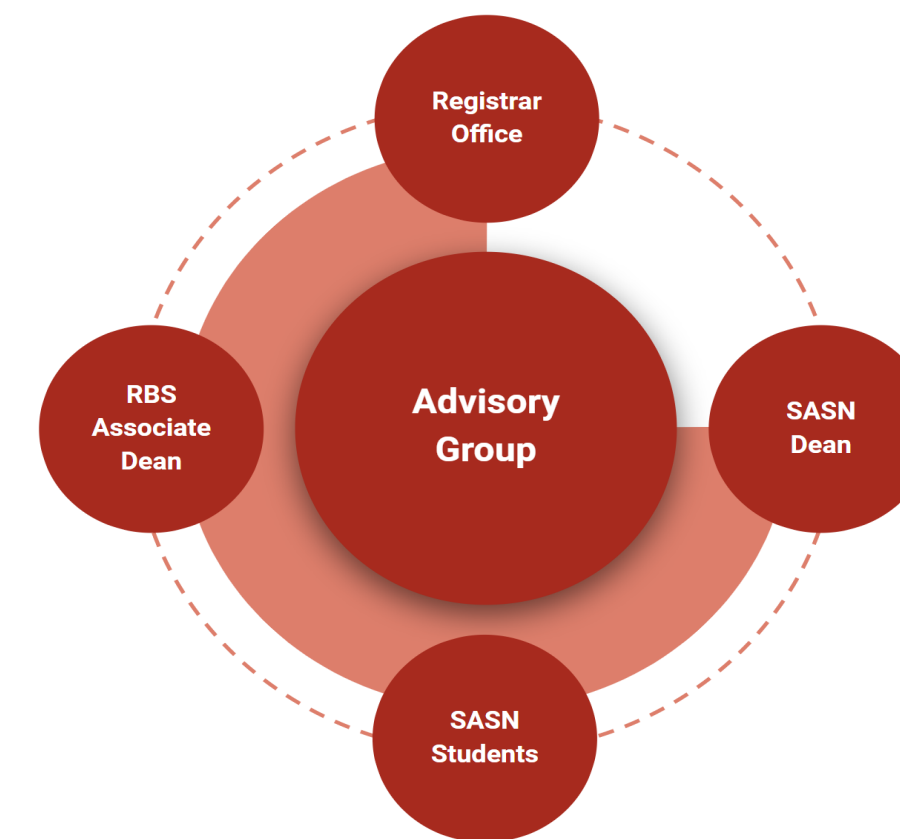
- Students and parents
- SASN & RBS Deans
- Faculty
- Academic programs
- Registrar Office
- Career Development Center
- Community partners & potential employers

Key Steps/Activities:

- Benchmark study
- Data collection and analysis
- Design of the CLS Minor
- Formation of an Advisory Group
- Pre-approval of the CLS Minor by SASN and RBS Deans

Communication/Engagement:

We will continue to engage RBS and SASN Deans, students, and the Registrar Office to make sure that the proposal will be implemented and the outcomes of its implementation is communicated to stakeholders. We will also advertise the CLS Minor to students at RU-N.



Effectiveness Measures:

- Conducting students’ surveys or exit interviews for feedback and improvement
- Tracking the number of enrolled students in the CLS Minor
- Tracking the career path of students who graduate with a CLS Minor post-college by the Career Development Center

Current Status/Future Directions:

The project is in the state of pre-approval by SASN and RBS Deans. We envision the implementation of the CLS Minor at RU-N by Fall 2023 as this requires coordination between RBS, SASN and the Registrar’s Office on the enrollment logistics, courses’ capacity, and funding.

Proposed Timeline:

