Case 2

Problem:

The satellite campus of a major university considered a specific minor a key part of its catalog, but Student and faculty perceptions of the minor were poor, and the minor shrank. Students and faculty both felt that the poor design of the curriculum cut it off from other disciplines and it failed to teach marketable skills.

Solution:

I designed a survey that was sent to students and faculty across campus, reviewed the expected outcomes of employers and graduate schools, and completed a literature review of which skills translated to success in the workplace. This information culminated in several recommendations and visuals presented to the board. The recommendations included a list of hard and soft skills that were expected of graduates and desired outcomes for students. Class requirements and several new classes were recommended to fill gaps in the university's curriculum.

Impact:

The university implemented and marketed the new curriculum structure, and within three semesters enrollments increased by roughly 60% and students re-established a society for the minor. A similar major saw a large enough loss in enrollment to the new curriculum that it was decided it should be changed to a minor within a year. What was once one of the smallest minors on campus is now competitive in size and activity.