

Graduate and Professional Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday 6 April 2023

Nagle 113; Zoom Link

Meeting ID: XXX XXXX XXXX

Passcode: GPCXXXX

DISCUSSION ITEMS

In-Person

Charles Criscione, *Acting Chair*

Mark C. Gleason, *Administrative Assistant*

Trent Smith (Graduate and Professional School)

Online

Katherine Reed (Architecture), Adam Seipp (Arts and Sciences), Reginald Taylor (Dentistry), Beverly Irby (Education and Human Development), Hank Walker (Engineering), Maria Escobar-Lemmon (Government and Public Service), Charlotte Ku (Law), Matthew Sorenson (Nursing), Mansoor Khan (Pharmacy), Tamika Gilreath (Public Health), Courtney Starrett (Performance, Visualization, and Fine Arts), Bill Murphy (Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences), Luz Herrera (Faculty Senate)

Frank North (Pharmacy)

Angel Carrizales (Curricular Services), Alicia Dorsey (Provost), Graham Hicks (Registrar), Kimberly Luttman (Dentistry), Alex Mitchell (Libraries), Sandra Williams (Registrar)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Allowance of 691 Credits for Professional Masters Non-Thesis Option Degrees** (Graduate and Professional School) – *Attachments 1-3*
 - [Gleason] Introduction
 - Allowance of 691 course credit hours approved by GPC in March 2022
 - Approved policy applied to all Master of Arts and Master of Science Non-Thesis Option degrees
 - GPC discussion indicated that – for professional Master’s NTO degrees – programs could make individual requests for specific students or add the same language (from MA-/MS-NTO-applied policy) to their professional Master’s NTO program requirements through CARS
 - Discussion
 - [Walker] If allowed for MA-/MS-NTO, professional Master’s NTO programs should just use the same language if they want to follow the same policy
 - [Smith] current process for MA-/MS-NTO, students are able to submit up to 8 hours of 691+685

- If using 691 credits, but be reviewed by Graduate Records Processing to ensure compliance with policy
- Only a handful of requests have come through, thus far, for changes to professional Master's program
- [Williams] edits to all professional Master's programs could not be made until next year's Catalog editing process
- [Gilbreath] may need to be taken back to colleges/schools for further discussion
- [Escobar-Lemmon] would not be relevant to some departments as they may have a professional Master's program but not a doctoral program to "drop down" from
- Concluded with consensus that no policy change need be made, memorandum would leave decision to each department: can continue to make individual requests or add to their degree's program requirements through CARS; will not necessitate Graduate and Professional School making wholesale updates to all professional Master's program requirements
- **Approved**
- 2. **Graduate and Professional Council Standard Operating Procedures Review [Update]** (Graduate Policies and Standards Committee)
 - [Gleason] first meeting to review the GPC SOP scheduled for Monday 10 April
 - Further updates will be provided at the GPC's May 2023 meeting
 - Committee invited GPC members to provide any suggestions to the Administrative Assistant or members of the Policies and Standards Committees
- 3. **Curricular Review Procedures [Update]** (Master's and Doctoral, First Professional Doctoral Curricular Review Committees)
 - [Gleason] availability requested to arrange coordinating meeting between curricular review committees
 - Some issues have already been resolved during recent GPC meetings
 - Curricular review committees' meeting should be held sometime in the next two weeks

CONSENT AGENDA (Approved)

1. **Course Changes**
 - [MATH 615: Introduction to Classical Analysis](#)
 - [MATH 619: Applied Probability](#)
 - [VIBS 698: Gene, Cell, and Molecular Therapies](#)
2. **New Courses**
 - [VIBS 675: Single-Cell Data Analysis via Machine Learning](#)
3. **Program Changes**
 - [CERT-COTR: Conservation Training - Certificate](#)
4. **Combination Programs**
 - [BS/MPH-INEN/OCSH-PPH: Industrial Engineering - 5-Year Bachelor of Science/Master of Public Health in Occupational Safety and Health](#)

[BS/MPH-ITDE/OCSH-PPH: Interdisciplinary Engineering - 5-Year Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Health in Occupational Safety and Health](#)

[BS/JD-ITDE/JDLW-EJD: Interdisciplinary Engineering - 6-Year Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctor](#)

CURRICULAR ITEMS

1. Course Changes

[GEOL 642: Past Climates](#) (Tabled for further revisions)

2. Program Changes

[MS-GGEN: Master of Science in Genetics and Genomics](#) (Approved)

[MS-PETE: Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering](#) (Approved)

**Revision to university guideline related to allowing 691 credits for MS/MA NTO degrees
March 10, 2022**

Attachment 1

Justification: Occasionally a department or intercollegiate faculty and a PhD student or a master's thesis option student determine that the best option for that student is to change to a master's non thesis (NTO) option degree program and complete the degree within the current or following semester. The student has performed some research and has several credits of 691 (dissertation or thesis research) but has not or will not complete enough research for a thesis option master's degree. In those cases, it may be reasonable to allow the student to use some 691 credits toward a MS or MA non-thesis-option degree since up to 8 credits of 685 (directed studies) are allowed for these degrees.

Proposed changes in red font below:

MS degrees

- A student pursuing the non-thesis option is not allowed to enroll in 691 (research) for any reason and 691 may not be used for credit toward a non-thesis option Master of Science degree. A maximum of 4 credit hours of 684 (Professional Internship), 8 credit hours of 685 (Directed Studies), and up to 3 credit hours of 690 (Theory of Research) or 695 (Frontiers in Research) may be used toward the non-thesis option Master of Science degree. In addition, any combination of 684, 685, 690 and 695 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan. All requirements for the non-thesis option Master of Science degree other than those specified above are the same as for the thesis option degree.
- The department head or the chair of an intercollegiate faculty (if appropriate) for the program may approve an exception for a PhD student who changes to a non-thesis option MS degree program after at least one year of PhD studies to use 691 credits toward a non-thesis option Master of Science degree. The department head or chair of an intercollegiate faculty (if appropriate) for the program may approve an exception for a master's student who changes from a MS thesis option degree to a MS non-thesis option degree program to use 691 credits toward a non-thesis option Master of Science degree. In both cases, the student is allowed to use a maximum of 8 credit hours of 685 and 691 combined. Departments, Colleges, and Interdisciplinary Degree Programs may opt to establish higher standards. Further any combination of 684, 685, 690, 691 and 695 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan. All requirements for the non-thesis option Master of Science degree other than those specified above are the same as for the thesis option degree.

MA degrees

- A student pursuing the non-thesis option is not allowed to enroll in 691 (Research) for any reason and 691 may not be used for credit toward a non-thesis option Master of Arts degree.
- A maximum of 8 credit hours of 685 (Directed Studies), and up to 3 credit hours of 690 (Theory of Research) and up to 3 credit hours of 695 (Frontiers in Research) may be used toward the non-thesis option Master of Arts degree. In addition, any combination of 684, 685, 690 and 695 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan.
- All requirements for the non-thesis option Master of Arts degree other than those specified above are the same as for the thesis option degree.
- The department head or the chair of an intercollegiate faculty (if appropriate) for the program may approve an exception for a PhD student who changes to a non-thesis option MA degree

program after at least one year of PhD studies to use 691 credits toward a non-thesis option Master of Arts degree. The department head or chair of an intercollegiate faculty (if appropriate) for the program may approve an exception for a master's student who changes from a MA thesis option degree to a MA non-thesis option degree program to use 691 credits toward a non-thesis option Master of Arts degree. In both cases, the student is allowed to use a maximum of 8 credit hours of 685 and 691 combined. Departments, Colleges, and Interdisciplinary Degree Programs may opt to establish higher standards. Further any combination of 684, 685, 690, 691 and 695 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan. All requirements for the non-thesis option Master of Science degree other than those specified above are the same as for the thesis option degree.

*Attachment 2***Graduate and Professional Council Meeting Minutes**

March 10, 2022

<https://tamu.zoom.us/j/93848082735?pwd=ck45OW12M1UwZFpTclFpU1lvUlhKZz09>

Meeting ID: 938 4808 2735

Passcode: 995438

DISCUSSION ITEMS**Allowance of 691 Credits for MS/MA NTO Degrees (Revision) – Attachment 1 (Approved)**

- [Butler-Purry] Introduction
 - Initially discussed with the Graduate and Professional Council and Graduate Operations Committee during March 2022 meetings and forwarded to Graduate Instruction Committees for comment
 - Revision change from PhD to non-thesis option Master of Arts or Science degrees
 - Departments, colleges, and interdisciplinary degree programs may opt to establish higher standards – disallow 691 or permit less
 - New draft adds edit to include change from master’s thesis option degrees to master’s non-thesis option degrees to use 691 credits
 - **Would not automatically apply to “Master of Agriculture/Engineering/etc.” degrees and require individual requests for allowance of 691 credits**
- Discussion
 - [Butler-Purry/Walker] Graduate and Professional School will need to assess semester deadlines to facilitate approvals of degree plan changes for students making a change to their graduating semester
 - [Miranda/Butler-Purry] special circumstances leading to changes from PhD to NTO MS/MA result in difficulties regarding deadlines; 12th class day serves as the constraint on degree level changes for domestic and international students
 - **[Kinslow/Butler-Purry] for “Master of...” degrees, a memorandum would need to be submitted by department through GOC Dean requesting application of 691 credit guidelines or in CARS**
 - [Escobar-Lemmon/Butler-Purry] if approved, will be added to all MA/MS program requirements in 2022-2023 Catalog
- Approved with addition of “All requirements for the non-thesis option Master of Arts/Science degree other than those specified above are the same for the thesis option degree” to the end of new paragraph

PHAR 774: Spanish for Pharmacists II

- [Butler-Purry] Previously approved by the Graduate and Professional Council and returned due to objections by the Department of Hispanic Studies at the Faculty Senate
- [Gleason]College of Pharmacy received Letter of Support from Hispanic Studies

*Attachment 3*UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES RELATED TO ALLOWING 691 CREDITS
FOR MASTER'S NON-THESIS OPTION DEGREES

6 April 2023

Introduction

On 10 March 2022, the Graduate and Professional Council (GPC) approved a revision to the university guidelines to all Master's Thesis Option (THO) or PhD students (after at least one year of doctoral studies) who change to a Non-Thesis Option (NTO) Master of Arts or Master of Science degree to allow up to 8 semester credit hours of 691 (Research) courses towards their MA/MS-NTO degree.

The original justification for this revision was as follows: Occasionally, a department or intercollegiate faculty and a PhD student or a Master's THO student determine that the best option for that student is to change to a Master's NTO degree program and complete the degree within the current or following semester. The student has engaged in some research, and completed several credits of 691 (dissertation or thesis research), but has not or will not complete enough research for a THO Master's or Doctoral degree. In those cases, it would be reasonable to allow the student to use some 691 credits toward an MA or MS NTO degree since up to 8 credits of 685 (Directed Studies) are allowed for these degrees.

Approved Changes for Master of Arts and Master of Science Non-Thesis Option Degrees

In the original revision to the university guidelines, the following language (changes in red) was updated to all **Master of Arts** Non-Thesis Option degrees:

A student pursuing the non-thesis option is not allowed to enroll in 691 (Research) for any reason and 691 may not be used for credit toward a non-thesis option Master of Arts degree. A maximum of 4 credit hours of 684 (Professional Internship), 8 credit hours of 685 (Directed Studies), and up to 3 credit hours of 690 (Theory of Research) or 695 (Frontiers in Research) may be used toward the non-thesis option Master of Arts degree. In addition, any combination of 684, 685, 690, and 695 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan. All requirements for the non-thesis option Master of Arts degree other than those specified above are the same as for the thesis option degree.

The department head or the chair of an intercollegiate faculty (if appropriate) for the program may approve an exception for a PhD student who changes to a non-thesis option MA degree program after at least one year of PhD studies to use 691 credits toward a non-thesis option Master of Arts degree. The department head or chair of an intercollegiate faculty (if appropriate) for the program may approve an exception for a master's student who changes from a MA thesis option degree to a MA non-thesis option degree program to use 691 credits toward a non-thesis option Master of Arts degree. In both cases, the student is allowed to use a maximum of 8 credit hours of 685 and 691 combined. Departments, Colleges, and Interdisciplinary Degree Programs may opt to establish higher standards. Further any combination of 684, 685, 690, 691, and 695 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan. All requirements for the non-

thesis option Master of Arts degree other than those specified above are the same as for the thesis option degree.

In the original revision to the university guidelines, the following language (changes in red) was updated to all **Master of Science** Non-Thesis Option degrees:

A student pursuing the non-thesis option is not allowed to enroll in 691 (Research) for any reason and 691 may not be used for credit toward a non-thesis option Master of Science degree. A maximum of 8 credit hours of 685 (Directed Studies), and up to 3 credit hours of 690 (Theory of Research), and up to 3 credit hours of 695 (Frontiers in Research) may be used toward the nonthesis option Master of Science degree. In addition, any combination of 684, 685, 690, and 695 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan. All requirements for the non-thesis option Master of Science degree other than those specified above are the same as for the thesis option degree.

The department head or the chair of an intercollegiate faculty (if appropriate) for the program may approve an exception for a PhD student who changes to a non-thesis option MS degree program after at least one year of PhD studies to use 691 credits toward a non-thesis option Master of Arts degree. The department head or chair of an intercollegiate faculty (if appropriate) for the program may approve an exception for a master's student who changes from a MS thesis option degree to a MS non-thesis option degree program to use 691 credits toward a non-thesis option Master of Science degree. In both cases, the student is allowed to use a maximum of 8 credit hours of 685 and 691 combined. Departments, Colleges, and Interdisciplinary Degree Programs may opt to establish higher standards. Further any combination of 684, 685, 690, 691 and 695 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan. All requirements for the non-thesis option Master of Science degree other than those specified above are the same as for the thesis option degree.

Addition to the University Guidelines for Allowing 691 Credits for “Professional” Master’s Non-Thesis Option Degrees

The GPC has also provided that such an allowance *may* be extended to the “professional” Master’s NTO degrees (such as the Masters of Agriculture, Architecture, Engineering, Fine Arts, Legal Studies, Marine Resource Management, Public Health, etc.). These guidelines are not automatically be applied to any “professional” Master’s NTO degrees. Degree-granting units with a professional Master’s NTO degree may utilize one of the following options should that unit determine that a student or degree program be allowed to use up to 8 semester credit hours of 691 (in combination with 685):

- Should a department or intercollegiate faculty and an **individual** PhD student or Master’s THO student determine that the best option for that student is to change to a professional Master’s NTO degree program, and complete the degree within the current or following semester, allowance of up to 8 semester credit hours of 691 (Research) courses (in combination with 685)

may be allowed. In those cases, a memorandum must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School by the student's advisory committee chair, and the Department Head or Interdisciplinary Degree Program Chair, through the Graduate Operations Committee Dean for the appropriate college or school, requesting application of the 691 credit guidelines for the individual student.

- Should a degree-granting unit intend to extend this allowance to **all students** for their given professional Master's NTO degree program – that in cases where a department or intercollegiate faculty and a PhD student or Master's THO student determine that the best option for that student is to change to a professional Master's NTO degree program, and complete the degree within the current or following semester – allowance of up to 8 semester credit hours of 691 (Research) courses (in combination with 685) may be allowed. The degree-granting unit may add the following language to the Non-Thesis Option section of the Program Requirements:

The department head or the chair of an intercollegiate faculty (if appropriate) for the program may approve an exception for a PhD student who changes to a non-thesis option MXX degree program after at least one year of PhD studies to use 691 credits toward a non-thesis option Master of XXX degree. The department head or chair of an intercollegiate faculty (if appropriate) for the program may approve an exception for a master's student who changes from a MXX thesis option degree to a MXX non-thesis option degree program to use 691 credits toward a non-thesis option Master of XXX degree. In both cases, the student is allowed to use a maximum of 8 credit hours of 685 and 691 combined. Departments, Colleges/Schools, and Interdisciplinary Degree Programs may opt to establish higher standards. Further any combination of 684, 685, 690, 691, and 695 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan. All requirements for the non-thesis option Master of XXX degree other than those specified above are the same as for the thesis option degree.

The request for this addition to Program Requirements must be submitted as a Program Change Request through the Curricular Approval Request System (CARS) and receive the appropriate approvals through the necessary workflow.