

Graduate Council

Annual Report 2023-2024

Overview:

The activities of the Graduate Council (GC) fall into three basic categories of review and approval of graduate courses, review and approval of graduate programs, and review, creation, and updating of overall graduate policies. In general, our purview spans courses and programs associate with 500/600-level courses, and we also provide limited review of professional courses/programs (700-level).

The GC meets weekly for 60-90 minutes with one meeting per term conducted in-person and the remainder conducted virtually. Voting membership is comprised of 11 Graduate Faculty and average attendance during AY24 was 9 members and the GC had quorum at 100% of meetings. Also in attendance is typically one or more *ex officio* members of the Graduate School.

Minutes, agenda-setting, and attendance are generally kept by the GC Chair. To expedite agenda-setting and minutes, the GC maintains a continuous agenda through a Box folder and Excel document. The voting agenda for the following week is distributed at the beginning of each meeting. In general, course and program proposals that arrive in the GC CIM queue prior to a given week's meeting are added to the agenda for voting during the following week; the GC thus targets a turn-around of approximately 7-13 days between receipt of a proposal and voting. Occasionally, the GC will expedite a review when needed.

During AY24, the GC reviewed and ultimately approved 138 courses and 41 program proposals. There were no pending approvals at the end of the Academic Year.

The GC updated the following Graduate School policies during the Academic Year:

1. Updated list of countries considered to use English as their primary language of instruction.
2. Updated language associated with Graduate Faculty Mentorship required training.
3. Identified a potential issue in the Graduate Option Policy and the current Entomology program that was resolved without policy change.
4. Review potential changes to the "P-credit" policy related to inclusion on multiple Program of Study (POS). Resolved without need to update policy.
5. Updated/clarified policy on use of blanket credits for graduate certificates to a maximum of 4 credits in an 18-credit certificate.
6. Updated language in the Leave of Absence (LOA) policy to eliminate the need for the student to be "in good standing".

The following policy issues were raised but not resolved during AY24.

1. Policy associated with reconstitution of an entire graduate committee, especially associated with failure of prelims or final defense.
2. Policy governing acceptance of "Bachelor of Applied Science" as an approved undergraduate degree for admission into graduate programs.
3. Relation between existing "Advisorless Student" and "LOA" policies for students not in "good standing".
4. Alternative Summative Assessments, coursework-only graduate degrees, and the distinction between "M-Other" and Master of Science/Master of Arts degrees.

Membership:

Chong Fang, Chair '26	College of Science
Naomi Aguiar '24	Ecampus
Ivan Arismendi '24	College of Agricultural Sciences
Jeff Barden '24	College of Business
Dolly Nguyen '24	College of Education
Merrick Haller '25	College of Engineering
Chris Sanchez '25	College of Liberal Arts
Xiaolei Tu '25	College of Earth, Ocean, & Atmospheric Sciences
Jeff Bethel '26	College of Health
Lia Danelishvili '26	College of Veterinary Medicine
Sarah Vojnovich '26	College of Pharmacy
Chris Wolsko '26	OSU-Cascades
TBA '26	
TBA '26	

Ex-Officio Members:

Division of Research and Innovation – Anthony Koppers
Immediate Past Research Council Chair – Siva Kolluri

Executive Committee Liaison – Kathy Becker-Blease