

2014-2015 Annual Report

1. Reviewed Proposals for New Degree Programs

PhD in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/89374>

MA/MS in Communications

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/82032>

PhD, MS in Psychology

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/92189>

MA in Environmental Arts and Humanities

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/85127>

Masters in Athletic Training

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/92612>

Graduate Certificate in Forest and Climate Change

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/92838>

New Department/School Proposal Nuclear Science and Engineering

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/93925>

New Graduate Option: Adapted Physical Activity

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/93146>

Graduate Options for the Mechanical Engineering degree: Renewable Energy and Advanced Manufacturing.

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/89844>

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/93150>

2. Change Degree Programs

Environmental Sciences - MA, MS, PhD, PSM

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/92383>

Renaming the B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs in Exercise & Sport Science, changing the name to *Kinesiology*

<https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/92482>

3. Ten-Year Graduate Program Reviews

Biochemistry and Biophysics: Maintain.

Crop Science: Restructure

Soil Science: Maintain, but expand after appropriate planning.

Wood Science Engineering: Maintain

Water Resources Graduate Program: Maintain

4. Action Plans Approved

Applied Ethics

MAIS

CSSA

5. Policy Changes

The general issue with policy changes is that it is not clear where the authority lies to make policy changes. Below are a number of recommended policy changes approved by the Graduate Council, in coordination with the Graduate school. Do all policy changes to the catalog have to go to a full faculty senate for a vote? The Graduate Council needs guidance on next steps.

a) Program of Study. Provided input to the Graduate School regarding the policy on when a graduate program of study must be completed. All agreed that we should return to policy where the program of study for research-based degree programs be submitted before completing 18 credits (master) or 5 terms (PhD). Since this is a Graduate School policy, the Council provided input but did not need to formally approve the policy change.

b) Doctoral time to degree: For a Masters degree, all work must be completed within seven years (<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=39#Section2268>). For doctoral degrees, there is no limit on the time to degree. The only restriction is that the candidate must repeat the preliminary oral exam every five years (<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=39#Section2268>).

Recommendation: The Council recommends that the time to degree for doctoral degrees be set to nine years. Under extenuating circumstances, the Graduate School has the authority to grant additional time for completion of the degree.

c) Minimum Registration/Continuous Enrollment Policy: (<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=38#Section1804>)

Recommendation: Council recommends that the current policy be changed:

- 1) Presuming we set a time limit on doctoral degrees, we would use the time to degree as limiting factor on LOAs. The number of LOAs would not be restricted (as they are in the current policy). However, the maximum length of a LOA will be 3 terms (not including summer). A student must renew the LOA before it expires to continue in the LOA status. If the LOA does lapse, then it will be considered an unauthorized break in registration.
- 2) In the event of an unauthorized break in registration, the student must apply for re-admission to the program. The readmission will reset the catalog year of admission, and the student must comply with all degree requirements in place at the time of readmission. Readmission is not guaranteed. When readmitted, there will not be the requirement to register for three credits for each term of unauthorized break.
- 3) We recommend removal of paragraph II C – Limits in the policy section referenced above.

d) Transfer credits: (<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=38#Section1802>)

Courses to be transferred **must be graduate level** with letter grades of B (3.00) or better. **Courses delivered off-campus or by electronic means must satisfy the OSU guidelines for the electronic delivery of courses.** It is the responsibility of the student wishing to transfer the course to provide the necessary documentation to satisfy the OSU guidelines. **Traditional extension and correspondence courses with no live or real-time interaction with the instructor are not transferable.**

Issue: Our Ecampus courses are asynchronous. Thus, the last sentence of this policy would prohibit the use of OSU distance courses as transfer credit.

Recommendation: The council recommends deleting the last sentence. In addition, a link should be added to a page that contains the "OSU guidelines for electronic delivery of courses."

- e) Accepting three-year degrees:
(<http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/admissions/academic-requirements>)

We currently accept three-year undergraduate degrees from Bologna-compliant universities. The Bologna accords were implemented by a consortium of universities and colleges in Europe – and thus only apply to universities and colleges in Europe.

Other countries that have educational systems similar to Europe, especially India and Australia, also offer three-year degrees. However, by definition, these schools are not Bologna compliant.

We are in the last year of a pilot program to accept three-year degrees from India. There have been very few applicants during this three-year period – thus one would not be able to draw any conclusions from the pilot program (to my knowledge, all were successful). The opposition to accepting three-year degrees is generally centered on lack of general education requirements within the degree programs.

Recommendation:

Programs should have the option of validating that professional and/or three-year degrees appropriately prepare students for their graduate program of study.

Programs may develop a list of schools and degree programs that are acceptable.

Programs may use a petition process for individual student situations.

Both the list and petitions will be reviewed by the Graduate School. If reservations, then Graduate School will send to Graduate Admissions Council for review and approval.

- f) Graduate Minor.

"A graduate minor is an academic area that clearly supports the major. Master's program minors must include a minimum of 15 quarter credits of graduate course work; doctoral minors require a minimum of 18 credits. On a master's or doctoral program, a minor may be:

1. an academic area available only as a minor,
2. a different major,
3. the same major with a different area of concentration,
4. **an approved major at another institution in the Oregon University System**, or
5. an integrated minor. "

Note that students can transfer 15 credits towards a Masters degree – can those 15 credits satisfy the requirements for a minor? (Would student still need to have a faculty from the minor discipline on the committee, if the minor was from another institution?).

Also note that OUS no longer exists.

Recommendation: Remove item 4. Transfer coursework toward a minor

g) Language requirements

"The foreign language requirement for the MA degree must be completed before the student takes the final oral examination for the degree."

Complication. Students may be enrolled in a second-year language course in the same term they are ready to complete degree requirements. However, they must delay their final exam for an additional term to meet this requirement.

Recommendation: change the policy to: "A student must be enrolled to complete their foreign language requirement before they take the final oral examination for the degree".

h) 24-hour rule

(<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=36#Section1792>)

"A postbaccalaureate, nondegree-seeking graduate, or graduate certificate student may be considered for status as a regular degree-seeking graduate student under one of the following provisions, depending upon prior academic records:"

"If the student, prior to entering as a postbaccalaureate, nondegree-seeking graduate, or graduate certificate student, had been denied graduate admission or would have been ineligible for graduate admission, as determined *a posteriori* by the University Graduate Admissions Committee, the postbaccalaureate, nondegree-seeking graduate, or graduate certificate student must complete option A or option B below and reapply or reactivate an application for admission to graduate-level study:

- a. complete 24 credits of courses each with a grade of B (3.00) or better, or
- b. complete sufficient credits to bring the cumulative grade-point average (that for the last 90 credits of undergraduate work plus that for courses taken as part of the 24-credit rule) to 3.00 or better before being eligible to apply for graduate admission."

Issue: Reference item a: At Masters level, can only transfer 15 credits, yet require 24 credits to demonstrate capable of doing graduate level work and by-pass petition to GAC. Should 15 credits be sufficient at Masters level?

In some programs, students need foundational knowledge which could be used as all or part of the 24 credits. If, however, the student has met all of the foundation knowledge requirements for the degree, then it should be sufficient if they complete 15 graduate credits involving lecture and textbook instruction (rather than demonstration and laboratory study that involves blanket-numbered courses – see course numbering guidelines at:

<http://oregonstate.edu/admin/aa/apaa/academic-programs/curriculum/curricular-policies-and-procedures#77>).

Recommendation: Change item a: complete 24 credits of *upper-division or graduate-level* courses each with a grade of B (3.00) or better,

Renumber existing item b to c.

Add item b: complete 15 credits of graduate coursework involving lecture and textbook instruction each with a grade of B (3.00) or better.

i) Capstone Requirements

Current policy: All master's degree programs require a minimum of 45 graduate credits including thesis (6 to 12 credits) or research-in-lieu-of-thesis (3 to 6 credits).

(<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=39#Section2264>)

However, we really have four types of “capstone” requirements:

- Two that are research-based
 - Thesis
 - Research-in-lieu-of-Thesis (some projects)
- Two that are non-research-based
 - Integrative Experience (internship, field work, etc.)
 - No capstone -- coursework only (MEng, EdM)

Recommendation:

Change Graduate Learning Outcome (a) to “Conduct research, produce some other form of creative work, or participate in an integrative capstone experience.”

Other Recommendations

Moving forward (meaning does not apply to existing programs), the Graduate Council recommends that:

- All **new** MS/MA degrees must do thesis or research-in-lieu-of-thesis
- Non MS/MA degrees may use any of the capstone alternatives (including coursework only)
 - Programs should submit what was formerly known as a Cat II to justify a change in the capstone requirement
 - Programs must specifically address how they will achieve “creative work” requirement
 - For the coursework-only option, programs must show course-embedded direct measures of graduate learning outcomes.

Degree	Name	Credits	Capstone Requirement	Final Oral Exam
MAG	Master of Agriculture	45 - 24 outside of major	Research Paper	Required
MAIS	Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies	49 - min of 9 in each area	Research Paper	Required
MAT	Master of Arts in Teaching	48	Not Specified	Required
MBA	Master of Business Administration	45	Project	Required
MBAA	Master of Business Administration and Accountancy	45	Project	Required
EdM	Master of Education	45	Coursework?	Written Exam
MEng	Master of Engineering	45	No Thesis or Project	Required
MFA	Master of Fine Arts	60	no - all required to complete thesis	Required
MFor	Master of Forestry	45	Technical report	Required

MHP	Master of Health Physics	45	Not Specified, but non-research focus	Required
MMP	Master of Medical Physics	45	Not Specified	Required
MNR	Master of Natural Resources	45	Non-thesis only, capstone project	Required
MPH	Master of Public Health	60	Project	Required
MPP	Master of Public Policy	62	Essay	Required
PSM	Professional Science Master	50 - 57	Internship	Required

j) Exam Requirements

(<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=39#Section2270>)

Current Policy: Successful completion of a final oral examination is required for all master's degrees with the exception of students who complete the non-thesis option under the EdM degree. In those cases, non-thesis EdM students must take a final written examination. Some departments also require the student to pass a written exam prior to the oral exam.

Recommendation:

Split requirements between research-based and non-research-based programs

- Research-based programs would require a final oral exam (this would include the defense of the thesis or research-in-lieu-of-thesis – MS/MA degrees)
- Non-research (integrative experience or coursework only) can use oral or written exam. The written exam must measure achievement of Graduate Learning Outcome b: demonstrate mastery of subject matter.

2014-2015 Membership

Jim Coakley, Chair '16, Business

Theresa Filtz '14, Pharmacy

Mike Lerner '14, Chemistry

Nancy Kerkvliet (v. Plantinga)'14, Environmental & Molecular Toxicology

Darrell Ross '14, Forest Ecosystems & Society

Jay Casbon '15, OSU Cascades/Education

Don Jump '15, School of Biological & Population Health Sciences

Janet Lee '15, Women Studies

Greg Herman '15, School of Chemical, Biological & Environmental Engineering

Stacy Semevolos '16, Veterinary Medicine

Andreas Schmittner '16, Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences