Graduate Committee Meeting
Agenda
AY 2022-2023
Meeting Time 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley

Graduate Committee Meeting
January 13, 2022

1) **Chairs Call to Order**
2) **Roll Call**

Members:	College:	Present/Absent
Wanrong Hou	Business and Entrepreneurship	**Present**
Dumitru Caruntu	Engineering and Computer Science	**Present**
Michelle Abrego	Education and P-16 Integration	**Absent**
George Amorin	Fine Arts	**Absent**
Lisa Salinas	Health Professions	**Present**
Rebecca Hernandez	School of Nursing	**Present**
Kimberly Selber	Liberal Arts, Vice Chair	**Present**
Wei Lin	College of Science	**Present**
Candace Robledo	School of Medicine	**Present**
Denise Longoria	School of Social Work	**Present**
Charles Rousch	University Library, Chair	**Present**
Can (John) Saygin	Graduate College, Ex Officio	**Absent**
Laura Saenz	Curriculum & Institutional Assessment Office, Ex Officio	**Present**

3) **Old Business: Review of Minutes from December 2nd, 2022, meeting (Please respond via Teams regarding any revisions needed to the minutes. If no revisions are requested, then the minutes will be accepted through consent.)**
4) **New Business: Review of Submissions**

- **Note for committee:** Many of the proposals include modifications to degree audits made to the current and previous catalog years. The proposals with MDAs below are to ensure that the revisions continue to be reflected in the 2023-2024 catalog and to provide a record of approvals. Below is a definition of MDAs.

- **Modification to the Degree Audit (MDA's) definition –** Through the course substitution process, patterns of courses in any part of the degree plan are processed through the MDA to establish a "blanket substitution" for all or some catalog years. Other examples of MDAs at the graduate level include changes to degree requirements that have been in place for some time (e.g., a portfolio instead of a comprehensive exam) but never appropriately reflected in the catalog. Given the implementation of DegreeWorks, it is

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critical that the catalog be accurate. Consequently, to ensure the academic integrity of all programs, we are updating all programs that have approved MDA's. MDA's are approved by the Chair of the Department and the Dean (or Dean Designee) of the College. The MDA's below and on the Consent Agenda have been approved by the Chair and Dean/Designee and are reflected in the current degree audits.

a. **College of Education and P-16 Integration**
   i. **Department of Teaching and Learning**
      1. **Change Program, Delete Program – James Jupp**

Name	Type	Comment	Effective Year
Curriculum and Instruction with a Specialization in Bilingual Studies (Ed.D.)	Change Program	BILC 8342 has been removed from the specialization courses and replaced with BILC 8345. An MDA will be submitted to allow students in previous catalogs to use BILC 8345 in their audit. **EDRE 8307 is an untaught course that is being removed.**	AY 23 - 24
Curriculum and Instruction with a Specialization in Higher Education Teaching (Ed.D.)	Delete Program	Due to no enrollment and the concentration and courses being untaught for more than 4 years, the **concentration is being discontinued**.	AY 23 - 24
Curriculum and Instruction with a Specialization in Early Childhood (Ed.D.)	Delete Program	Due to no enrollment, the **concentration is being discontinued.**	AY 23 - 24

Motion to approve Change: Dumitru Caruntu
Second: Lisa Salinas
Motion Passes
Notes: What happens to a student who has graduated from these programs? The program itself isn't going away, just the concentrations. The programs being deleted haven't had enrollment since 2017, so it won't impact anyone in them. Those who have already graduated will have it reflected in the transcript.

b. **College of Health Professions**
   i. **School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling**
      1) **New Course, Delete Course, Change Program – Kim Finn & Jeong Kim**

Name	Type	Comment	Effective Year
EXAR 7321 Expressive Arts Therapy Modalities	New Course	The department wants to combine content from EXAR 7320 and EXAR 7325. This new course will merge the content and prevent issues with student records.	AY 23 - 24

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EXAR 7331 Expressive Arts Therapy with Special Populations	New Course	The department wants to combine content from EXAR 7330 and EXAR 7335. This new course will merge the content and prevent issues with student records.	AY 23 - 24
EXAR 7320 Expressive Arts Therapy Modalities - Visual Arts	Delete Course	The department wants to combine content from EXAR 7320 and EXAR 7325. Since the content will be merged, the course can be removed.	AY 23 – 24
EXAR 7325 Expressive Arts Therapy Modalities - Movement	Delete Course	The department wants to combine content from EXAR 7320 and EXAR 7325. Since the content will be merged, the course can be removed.	AY 23 – 24
EXAR 7330 Expressive Arts Therapy with Special Populations	Delete Course	The department wants to combine content from EXAR 7330 and EXAR 7335. Since the content will be merged, the course can be removed.	AY 23 – 24
EXAR 7335 Expressive Arts Therapy with Children and Adolescents	Delete Course	The department wants to combine content from EXAR 7330 and EXAR 7335. Since the content will be merged, the course can be removed.	AY 23 – 24
Expressive Arts Therapy Certificate - Online Program	Change Program	There is a reduction of hours from 15 to 9, removing EXAR 7320, EXAR 7325, EXAR 7330 and EXAR 7335. EXAR 7321 and EXAR 7331 will be added to the degree plan. **The reduction in credit hours will not require external approval.**	AY 23 - 24
Rehabilitation Counseling (PhD)	Change Program	This is to include the updates to the catalog that were approved through MDAs. The approved MDA changes are adding EDRE 8302, EDRE 8304, and EDRE 8306 as alternatives in the required course section. These courses are being added as alternatives to REHS research courses in the required section.	AY 23 - 24

Expressive Arts:
Motion to approve Change: Dumitru Caruntu
Second: Rebecca Hernandez

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Motion Passes
Rehab PhD:
Motion to approve Change: Wanrong Hou
Second: Kimberly Selber
Motion Passes
Notes: Expressive Art - Is there any president with programs like these certificates in other schools to reduce hours? This program is unique to other schools. The other school have more intensive programs, but this program is intended for the professional. The certificate is still intensive but it is doable for professionals. Is there an intention to make this a program? We have one at the undergraduate level, but there isn't intention to make a Masters. What courses have been taught for the current students? We have only taught EXAR 7310 and EXAR 7320. We will need to move students to the AY 23 – 24 catalog, and substitute EXAR 7320 for EXAR 7321. Why is the program being reduced to 9 instead of 12? Since there are two sets of courses that could be merged, it came down to 9 hours. Rehab PhD – No notes.

c. College of Liberal Arts

i. Department of Literature and Cultural Studies

1) Change Course, Change Program – Javier Martinez

Name	Type	Comment	Effective Year
ENGL 7300 Thesis I	Change Course	This is to correct the short course title. DASS let OCIA know the short course title is only "Thesis" in Banner. To correct it we are adding "I" to the short course title.	AY 23 – 24
ENGL 7301 Thesis II	Change Course	This is to correct the short course title. DASS let OCIA know the short course title is only "Thesis" in Banner. To correct it we are adding "II" to the short course title.	AY 23 – 24
English with a Concentration in English Studies (MA)	Change Program	There was an MDA submitted to update the capstone requirement for Non-thesis students to replace the written comprehensive exam with a portfolio. **ENGL 6309 is an untaught course for 4+ years.**	AY 23 – 24
English with a Concentration in Literature and Cultural Studies (MA)	Change Program	There was an MDA submitted to update the capstone requirement for Non-thesis students to replace the written comprehensive exam with a portfolio. **ENGL 6309 is an untaught course for 4+ years.**	AY 23 - 24

Motion to approve Change: Dumitru Caruntu
Second: Denise Longoria
Motion Passes
Notes: how long ago did the written comprehensive go away? It was replaced with a portfolio before UTRGV was merged. Is ENGL 6309 on both programs? Yes.

ii. Department of Political Science

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1) Change Course, Change Program – Sylvia Gonzalez-Gorman

Name	Type	Comment	Effective Year
POLS 6392 Special Topics in World and Borderland Politics	Change Course	There is an update to the course description and the Repeat Code from RP to MC.	AY 23 - 24
Political Science with a Concentration in World and Borderland Politics (MA)	Change Program	The proposal includes removal of language for the Non-thesis Option stating that a petition needs to be submitted to the GPC to pursue the non-thesis route. There is an administrative clean-up to include the exit requirement of a written comprehensive exam for the Non-thesis option. The written comprehensive was included in the initial proposal submitted to the THECB but was omitted from the initial catalog page.	AY 23 - 24
Political Science with a Concentration in Governance and Policy Process (MA)	Change Program	The proposal includes removal of language for the Non-thesis Option stating that a petition needs to be submitted to the GPC to pursue the non-thesis route. There is an administrative clean-up to include the exit requirement of a written comprehensive exam for the Non-thesis option. The written comprehensive was included in the initial proposal submitted to the THECB but was omitted from the initial catalog page.	AY 23 - 24

Motion to approve Change: Wanrong Hou
Second: Kimberly Selber
Motion Passes
Notes:

d. College of Sciences
i. School of Mathematics and Statistical Sciences
1) New Course, Change Course, Change Program – Sergey Grigorian

Name	Type	Comment	Effective Year
MATH 6340 Computing for Mathematical and Data Sciences	New Course	This is a new course for the MS in Math and all its concentrations, as well as the MS in Applied Stats and Data Science. **An MDA will be submitted to allow all previous catalog years for these programs to take the course.**	AY 23 - 24

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MATH 5390 Survey of Topics in Mathematics	Change Course	There is a change in prerequisites from MATH 2415 and MATH 2318 to Graduate Standing.	AY 23 - 24
MATH 6331 Algebra I	Change Course	There is an update to the prerequisites to include "Grade of B or better in MATH 5390."	AY 23 - 24
MATH 6352 Analysis I	Change Course	There is an update to the prerequisites to include "Grade of B or better in MATH 5390."	AY 23 - 24
Mathematics with a Concentration in Applied Mathematics (MS)	Change Program	This is to include the updates to the catalog that were approved through MDAs. The approved MDA changes are removing "approved by the concentration and or thesis advisor" from Free Electives Section. Update the language to state "Any 6000-level course in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences not fulfilling other program requirements. **Department initiated changes** are to include "or have an overall undergraduate GPA higher than 3.0" to the admission requirements, removing the Early Admissions language, and adding MATH 6340 to the Prescribed Electives.	AY 23 - 24
Mathematics with a Concentration in Mathematics (MS)	Change Program	This is to include the updates to the catalog that were approved through MDAs. The approved MDA changes are removing "approved by the concentration and or thesis advisor" from Free Electives Section. Update the language to state "Any 6000-level course in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences not fulfilling other program requirements. **Department initiated changes** are to include "or have an overall undergraduate GPA higher than 3.0" to the admission requirements, removing the Early Admissions language, and adding MATH 6340 to the Prescribed Electives.	AY 23 - 24
Mathematics with a Concentrations in Mathematics Teaching (MS)	Change Program	This is to include the updates to the catalog that were approved through MDAs. The approved MDA changes are removing "approved by the concentration and or thesis advisor" from Free Electives Section. Update the language to state "Any 6000-level course in the School of Mathematical and Statistical	AY 23 - 24

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		Sciences not fulfilling other program requirements. **Department initiated changes** are to include "or have an overall undergraduate GPA higher than 3.0" to the admission requirements, removing the Early Admissions language, and adding MATH 6340 to the Prescribed Electives.	
Mathematics with a Concentration in Statistics (MS)	Change Program	This is to include the updates to the catalog that were approved through MDAs. The approved MDA changes are removing "approved by the concentration and or thesis advisor" from Free Electives Section. Update the language to state "Any 6000-level course in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences not fulfilling other program requirements. **Department initiated changes** are to include "or have an overall undergraduate GPA higher than 3.0" to the admission requirements, removing the Early Admissions language, and adding MATH 6340 to the Prescribed Electives.	AY 23 - 24
Mathematics with a Concentration in Applied Mathematics (MS) - Online Program	Change Program	This is to include the updates to the catalog that were approved through MDAs. The approved MDA changes are removing "approved by the concentration and or thesis advisor" from Free Electives Section. Update the language to state "Any 6000-level course in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences not fulfilling other program requirements. **Department initiated changes** are to include "or have an overall undergraduate GPA higher than 3.0" to the admission requirements, removing the Early Admissions language, and adding MATH 6340 to the Prescribed Electives.	AY 23 - 24
Mathematics with a Concentration in Mathematics (MS) - Online Program	Change Program	This is to include the updates to the catalog that were approved through MDAs. The approved MDA changes are removing "approved by the concentration and or thesis advisor" from Free Electives Section. Update the language to state "Any 6000-level course in the School of Mathematical and Statistical	AY 23 - 24

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		Sciences not fulfilling other program requirements. **Department initiated changes** are to include "or have an overall undergraduate GPA higher than 3.0" to the admission requirements, removing the Early Admissions language, and adding MATH 6340 to the Prescribed Electives.	
Mathematics with a Concentrations in Mathematics Teaching (MS) - Online Program	Change Program	This is to include the updates to the catalog that were approved through MDAs. The approved MDA changes are removing "approved by the concentration and or thesis advisor" from Free Electives Section. Update the language to state "Any 6000-level course in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences not fulfilling other program requirements. **Department initiated changes** are to include "or have an overall undergraduate GPA higher than 3.0" to the admission requirements, removing the Early Admissions language, and adding MATH 6340 to the Prescribed Electives.	AY 23 - 24
Mathematics with a Concentration in Statistics (MS) - Online Program	Change Program	This is to include the updates to the catalog that were approved through MDAs. The approved MDA changes are removing "approved by the concentration and or thesis advisor" from Free Electives Section. Update the language to state "Any 6000-level course in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences not fulfilling other program requirements. **Department initiated changes** are to include "or have an overall undergraduate GPA higher than 3.0" to the admission requirements, removing the Early Admissions language, and adding MATH 6340 to the Prescribed Electives.	AY 23 - 24

Motion to approve Change: Dumitru Caruntu
Second: Kimberly Selber
Motion Passes
Notes: Is MATH 5390 a remedial course? Yes. How is the course different from a CSCI course? The emphasis is more on the programming side to solve math problems. Are we going to run into problems with UT System regarding the waiver to the GRE? The GPA requirement needs to be 3.25. OCIA will update the GPA on these forms to include the update. In order to remove the GRE, data has to be submitted to Dr. Shupala's office to show there is not a difference between taking the GRE and not

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taking it. Graduate College will accept waivers for the GRE, but if they want to have a waiver, the GPA must be higher or at 3.25. Graduate College is recommending that the program work with Dr. Shupala to remove the GRE. Graduate College has developed strategies to help students get through admissions. It is being recommended to reach out to the Graduate College to assist students struggling to get through admissions. Since the GRE is being waived, what requirements is the program looking at for students? The program looks at the course work taken and how well they have done in those courses. The GRE looks at high school math, so it doesn't give a clear indication about a student's ability to do well. Students are also required to have a bachelors in math or something related, so students are evaluated based on the undergraduate courses. If a student comes in with a degree not related to Math, they must do leveling coursework. The institution overall has waivers for the GRE through various means. The Vaquro program is only for our UTRGV students or recent alumni, and there are other requirements that qualify the student. Any student who is not our students do not qualify for the program. A waiver is different than a removal of the GRE. The waiver is on a case-by-case basis but is still required. If a program wants to completely remove the GRE, it requires UT System approval.

e. **College of Business and Entrepreneurship**
    i. **Department of Management**
        1) **Delete Program – Akinloye Akindayomi & Salvador Contreras**

Name	Type	Comment	Effective Year
Business Administration with a Specialization in Accounting (MBA)	Delete Program	Due to low enrollment in the specialization, the department would like to remove this specialization from the inventory.	AY 23 - 24
Business Administration with a Specialization in Marketing (MBA)	Delete Program	Due to low enrollment in the specialization, the department would like to remove this specialization from the inventory.	AY 23 - 24
Business Administration with a Specialization in Business Analytics (MBA)	Delete Program	Due to low enrollment in the specialization, the department would like to remove this specialization from the inventory.	AY 23 - 24
Business Administration with a Specialization in Entrepreneurship (MBA)	Delete Program	Due to low enrollment in the specialization, the department would like to remove this specialization from the inventory.	AY 23 - 24

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Business Administration with a Specialization in Financial Planning (MBA)	Delete Program	Due to low enrollment in the specialization, the department would like to remove this specialization from the inventory.	AY 23 - 24
Business Administration with a Specialization in Health Care Administration (MBA)	Delete Program	Due to low enrollment in the specialization, the department would like to remove this specialization from the inventory.	AY 23 - 24
Business Administration with a Specialization in Human Resource Management (MBA)	Delete Program	Due to low enrollment in the specialization, the department would like to remove this specialization from the inventory.	AY 23 - 24
Business Administration with a Specialization in International Trade (MBA)	Delete Program	Due to low enrollment in the specialization, the department would like to remove this specialization from the inventory.	AY 23 - 24

Motion to approve Change: Wanrong Hou
Second: Lisa Salinas
Motion Passes
Notes:

f. College of Engineering and Computer Science
ii. Department of Computer Science
1) New Course, New Program – Emmett Tomai

Name	Type	Comment	Effective Year
CSCI 8101 Doctoral Seminar	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	TBD
CSCI 8190 Dissertation Research	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	TBD

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CSCI 8301 Doctoral Studies in Computing	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8321 Advanced Games and Computation	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8322 Molecular Computation	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8323 Cryptography	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8324 Computational Geometry	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8350 Deep Learning	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8351 Reinforcement Learning	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8360 Advanced Data Mining	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8361 Pattern Recognition in Time-Series Data	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8370 Topics in Computer Science	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8371 Swarm Robotics	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8386 Systems Biology	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8390 Dissertation Research	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 8690 Dissertation Research	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**

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CSCI 8990 Dissertation Research	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
CSCI 9300 Doctoral Dissertation	New Course	This is a new course for the Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.).	**TBD**
Computer Science with Interdisciplinary Applications (Ph.D.)	New Program	This is a new program for the Department of Computer Science. **This program requires external approval from UTS, THECB, and SACSCOC.**	**TBD**

Motion to approve Change: Dumitru Caruntu
Second: Kimberly Selber
Motion Passes
Notes: When will the program start if it gets approved on time? Fall 2024. Is the program using current courses? Yes. What is the job outlook for the program? Generally, it tends to be excellent since there is a high demand for trained individuals at the PhD level, there is also a high demand for faculty, and for AI/Computational expertise in research. There is also low diversity in the field, so having a program here at UTRGV will bring better representation in the field. As an example, the need for PhD's in Texas is more than the graduates produced nationally. How are you going to support the PhD students? We are utilizing other PhD programs that are already in place. The interdisciplinary side of the program will benefit the students as well. There are also many grants that can be utilized. There is a recommendation to add a dissertation (post-defense) continuation courses to be in compliance with College practice. In the future, the program should think about adding courses about teaching. So far CSCI 8101 is intended to start the soft skills in teaching. Once the program is more developed, other courses will be developed for those soft skills.

1) **Announcements or Other Informational Items**
   i) Next meeting – February 3rd
      (1) This is the last meeting for approving department-initiated changes to existing programs.
      (2) The History submissions have been moved to the February meeting.

2) **Adjournment**
   a. **Motion: Wanrong Hou**
   b. **Second: Candance Robledo**
   c. **11:20 am**