

Graduate Committee Meeting

Agenda

AY 2023-2024

Meeting Time 10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Graduate Committee Meeting October 13th, 2023

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	Present
Katrina Roush	Fine Arts	Present
Lisa Salinas	Health Professions	Present
Rebecca Hernandez	School of Nursing	Present
Kimberly Selber	Liberal Arts, Chair	Present
Wei Lin	College of Science	Absent
Candace Robledo	School of Medicine	Present
Denise Longoria	School of Social Work	Present
VACANT	University Library	
Can (John) Saygin	Graduate College, Ex Officio	Present
Laura Saenz	Curriculum & Institutional Assessment Office, Ex Officio	Present

3) Old Business: Review of Minutes from September 8th, 2023, 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

a. School of Optometry

1. New Program – Christine Shupala

Name	Type	Comment	Effective Year
Optometry (OD)	New Program	There is an Optometry (OD) program that is under development. The THECB proposal is not yet complete, but this is to notify the committee of the development. Upon hiring optometry faculty, the curriculum will be further developed and will be presented to the committee for final approval.	TBD

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Motion to approve change: Dumitru Caruntu

Second: Denise Longoria

Motion Passes

Notes: We have gotten the planning authority for this program, and now the THECB proposal is under development. The document shows the tentative admission and curriculum for the program. The program is seeking approval to move forward. Is this a PhD program? No, this is a professional medical program. From a curriculum standpoint, once the faculty is hired will they be reviewing the curriculum and eventually come back to present the program? Yes, this program is similar in process to the Podiatry program due to the length of time that it takes to get the program approved. If the program doesn't start now, they won't be able to begin to recruit. This program is not set to start admitting students until fall 2026. How many OD programs are there across the state? There are two in the state, and 23 across the nation. The two in Texas are University of Houston and the other is in UTSA. The program does include an option to take a couple of semesters in Spanish, so they are able to provide services to the Valley population. What is the size the program projected? The cohort is 40 per year and will only admit once a year. Is that in line with other programs? No, there are programs that admit more than 40 and others as small as 27. Is this program like the MD program in terms of residency? The last two years are the residency, but it is not required for OD programs. Students can take on one more year if they would like to take a residency. The VA has many placement options for students. The program is similar to the MD program in its set up. Is there a search for faculty? There is a search for the Dean and the Associate Dean, since we need them 6 months before the self-study. There is an outreach and letters of support from many Optometrist in the Valley for the development.

b. College of Liberal Arts

i. Department of History

1. New Course, Change Program – **Jamie Starling**

Name	Type	Comment	Effective Year
HIST 6330 Research Seminar in Latin America	New Course	This proposal is a reactivation of an untaught course for the History (MA), the Interdisciplinary Studies with a Concentration in History (MAIS), and Mexican American Certificate. HIST 6330 was removed from the inventory in AY 21 – 22. This course is active in Banner already. An MDA will be submitted for the 22 – 23 and 23 - 24 catalogs.	Spring 2024
History (MA)	Change Program	Proposal to add the reactivated course HIST 6330. No other changes are applied.	Fall 2024
Interdisciplinary Studies with a Concentration in History (MAIS)	Change Program	Proposal to add the reactivated course HIST 6330. No other changes are applied.	Fall 2024

Motion to approve change: Dumitru Caruntu

Second: Michelle Abrego

Motion Passes

Notes: Is the course a required course or an elective? Its an elective.

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The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley

1. **Announcements or Other Informational Items**

2. **Adjournment**
 - i. **Motion: Michelle Abrego**
 - ii. **Second: Rebecca Hernandez**
 - iii. **10:20 am**