

GRADUATE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

PATRICK HADLEY, CHAIR

MEETING AGENDA for

Date/Time: **November 15, 2022 at 11:00 am Eastern Time via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting (Notice: Meeting will be recorded)

<https://westga-edu.zoom.us/j/85082781898>

Meeting ID: 850 8278 1898

Passcode: 940532

One tap mobile

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+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

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- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes from November 1st meeting (see attached document)
- III. Program and Course Proposals
 - A. College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry (CACSI)
 1. Department of English, Film, Language, and Performing Arts
 - a) [English, M.A.](#)

Request: Modify Program

Rationale: We are aligning our program tracks to the BOR recommendation that Masters programs require 30 credit hours for completion. At the same time, we are streamlining the end of

program work that students complete to provide consistency and clarity for students and to emphasize focused research-synthesis as a means of demonstrating masters level competence at the end of each student's program. This proposal eliminates our non-thesis track (previously 36 coursework hours), allowing students to choose between a thesis track and a capstone track. We are aligning these two tracks to recognize the relative research loads of each option: Plan I (Thesis) requires a substantial (minimum 65 page) research project and includes 24 hours of coursework and 6 hours of research/thesis hours, while Plan II (Capstone) requires a more tightly focused research project (approximately 25 pages) and includes 27 hours of coursework and 3 hours of research/thesis credit.

We are eliminating the previous requirement for a period-based oral exam for both tracks. Given that both of our current thesis and capstone tracks require an oral defense of the student's project, an additional oral exam is burdensome and places emphasis on canonicity rather than on what we consider to be the core strength of our program: training students as literary and pedagogical researchers and as critically-grounded creative writers. These changes will allow our program to increase its competitiveness and attract students while still providing rigorous graduate training that is relevant to the contemporary market.

b) [Master of Music with a Concentration in Music Education, M.M.](#)

Request: Modify Program

Rationale: This change addresses challenges a non-traditional student may face in procuring recommendations when several years from their undergraduate work. It also addresses the fact that recommenders have the opportunity to type their recommendation

into a field as opposed to writing, signing, and uploading a more traditional recommendation "letter." Finally, the proposed change responds to encouragement of the Graduate School Dean to reconsider how recommendations inform program admission decisions.

2. Department of Natural Sciences

a) [Biology, M.S.](#)

Request: Modify Program

Rationale: We are requesting the removal of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) from the requirements for admission because this is a financial barrier for many potential applicants and the exam scores are not an accurate predictor of success in our Master's program. This will increase our potential number of applications. This is in line with the M.S. in Integrative Biology degree program offered at Kennesaw State University, which does not require GRE scores for applications.

We are requesting to reduce the total number of credit hours needed to complete our program from 36 hours to 30 hours. This change will align with the new BOR policy allowing for Master's programs to be 30 hours. The credit hour reduction will assist in recruitment by allowing the program to be competitive with similar graduate programs in our region. Note that the reduction of hours is decreasing the number of credit hours required in BIOL 6984 Graduate Biology Seminar (4 credit hours to 2 credit hours both tracks), in BIOL 6999 Thesis or BIOL 6995 Comprehensive Exam (2 credit hours to 1 credit hour both tracks), and in Graduate Courses in Biology (30 credit hours to 27 credit hours non-thesis track; 21 credit hours to 15 credit hours thesis track). The number of credit hours required in BIOL 6983 is increasing for thesis track

(9 credit hours to 12 credit hours) to reflect the focus on research related to the thesis project and the time commitment necessary to complete the research. The reduction in credit hours will allow students on both tracks to have a more focused concentration of courses based on the career goals of the students.

B. Graduate School

1. [GRAD 7000 Prior Learning and Work Experience](#)

Request: Add New Course

Rationale: The Graduate School needs an administrative course at 0 credit hours to hold students seeking PLA credit. This course allows the Graduate School to assign students to a faculty member and Department to assess their work experience.

IV. New Business

A. Chair-Elect Selection (Chair for 2023 - 24 Academic Year)

B. Setting GPC Meeting Schedule for Spring Semester 2023

1. Will send Doodle poll to GPC members next week to identify best day and time for meetings (all meetings will be early in week of Faculty Senate's Friday agenda deadlines)
 - a) Meeting 1: Mon., Jan. 9 - Wed., Jan. 11
 - b) Meeting 2: Mon. Feb 6 - Wed., Feb. 8
 - c) Meeting 3: Mon., March 6 - Wed., March 8
 - d) Meeting 4: Mon., April 3 - Wed., April 5

C. Announcements

D. Adjourn