

Report of the Graduate Committee to the Faculty Senate

Person Submitting the Report: Kimberly Selber

Date of Report: April 24, 2024

Committee Name: Graduate Committee

Committee Purpose: The purpose of the Graduate Committee is to review and make recommendations on matters of importance to graduate education.

Committee Chair and Members (with departments/colleges)

College / School	Representative	Term Date
Business and Entrepreneurship	Wanrong Hou	8/31/2024
Engineering and Computer Science	Dumitru Caruntu	8/31/2025
Education and P-16 Integration	Michelle Abrego	8/31/2025
Fine Arts	Katrina Roush	8/31/2026
Health Professions	Lisa Salinas	8/31/2025
School of Nursing	Rebecca Hernandez	8/31/2025
Liberal Arts	Kimberly Selber, Chair	8/31/2024
Science	Wei Lin	8/31/2024
School of Medicine	Candace Robledo	8/31/2024
School of Social Work	Denise Longoria	8/31/2025
University Library	Vacant	Vacant
Graduate College (Ex-Officio)	Can (John) Saygin	Term Does Not End
VP for Curriculum and Institutional Assessment (Ex-Officio)	Laura Saenz	Term Does Not End

List of meeting dates

As of the date of this report, eight meetings of the Graduate Committee have been held. All meetings are held via Teams and recorded.

Graduate Meeting Dates
September 8 th
October 13 th
November 10 th
December 8 th

January 19 th
February 16 th
March 22 nd
April 19 th

List of issues committee addressed related to its purpose

Through its April 19th meeting, the Graduate Committee has considered 565 proposals. The following table includes a summary of the proposals by college and proposal type.

College	Proposal Type	Number of Proposals
Business and Entrepreneurship	Change Course	3
	Change Program	6
	Delete Course	10
	Delete Program	6
	New Course	7
	New Program	1
Education	Change Course	7
	Change Program	15
	Delete Course	32
	Delete Program	2
	New Course	20
	New Program	5
Engineering and Computer Science	Change Course	1
	Change Program	15
	Delete Course	48
	New Course	38
Fine Arts	Change Course	2
	Change Program	6
	Delete Course	1
	New Course	4
Health Professions	Change Course	1
	Change Program	4
	Delete Course	8
	Delete Program	1
	New Course	44
	New Program	1
Liberal Arts	Change Course	52
	Change Program	22
	Delete Course	17
	Delete Program	2
	New Course	12
	New Program	1

Medicine	Change Course	1
	Change Program	1
	New Course	3
Nursing	Change Course	1
	Change Program	2
	Delete Course	3
	Delete Program	2
Social Work	Change Program	7
	Delete Course	1
Sciences	Change Course	65
	Change Program	11
	Delete Course	50
	New Course	24

In addition to the proposals above the following programs were endorsed to remove the GRE/GMAT from program admission requirements. During the curriculum cycle, UT System approved the removal of the exams for College of Science and College of Liberal Arts programs.

The programs impacted include:

Admissions Changes - College of Science
MS Applied Statistics and Data Science
MS Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
MS Biology
MS Chemistry
MS Mathematics
MS Ocean, Coastal, and Earth Sciences
MS Physics
MSIS
MS Agriculture, Environmental, and Sustainability Science
PhD Mathematics and Statistics with Interdisciplinary Applications

Admissions Changes - College of Liberal Arts
PhD Clinical Psychology
MA Clinical Psychology
MA Communication
MA Disaster Studies
MA English
MA ESL
MA Experimental Psychology
MA History
MA Political Science

MA Sociology
MA Spanish
MA Spanish Translation and Interpreting

The College of Business and Entrepreneurship and College of Engineering and Computer Science also submitted proposals to remove the GRE/GMAT requirement; however, approval from UTS is pending.

The programs impacted include:

Admissions Changes - College of Business
MS Business Analytics
MBA Business Administration
MACC Accounting

Admissions Changes - College of Engineering and Computer Science
MS Computer Science
MS Civil Engineering
MSE Electrical Engineering
MS Engineering Management
MSE Manufacturing Engineering
MSE Mechanical Engineering

Summary of discussions on each topic

All proposals were discussed through a lens of student success with a focus on ensuring that proposed changes would remove barriers to graduation.

Changes to courses include: (a) changes to course title, (b) changes to course descriptions, (c) changes to course pre- or co-requisites, (d) change to schedule type, (e), changes to contact hours, (f) changes to course repeatability, (f) changes to CIP code, and other changes.

Changes to programs range from substantive to non-substantive. An example of a substantive change is the revision to the MS in Biology, the revision to the MS in Chemistry, and the revision of the MA in Clinical Psychology. Non-substantive changes typically include adding or removing prescribed electives or removing untaught courses.

Deleted programs at the graduate level are sometimes the result of a program name change rather than a true discontinued program. When this occurs, a “deleted” program is replaced with a “new” program. This mirrors the external approval process. For example, the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst Certificate was renamed to the Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate.

Deleted programs at the graduate level also include programs being discontinued. Examples of programs being discontinued include the UXUI Certificate, the MSN Nursing Education, and the MSN Nursing

Administration. These programs are being deleted due to low enrollment and/or changes in future direction of the discipline.

New programs were introduced in the College of P-16 Integration (CEP) and College of Business and Entrepreneurship (COBE). The programs approved for the CEP provide a path to initial teacher certification at the graduate level or post-master's certification as an educational diagnostician. COBE introduced the MS in Marketing. These programs will need external approval.

In addition to the changes described above, the following policies were revised and approved by the Graduate Committee. The changes are non-substantive.

September 8, 2024, Graduate Committee Meeting

Name	Type	Comment	Year
Accelerated Online Programs	New Policy	A new section was added to the Graduate Catalog. This mirrors institutional practices already in place for AOP programs.	

February 16, 2024, Meeting

Name	Type	Comment	Year
Graduate Student Standing and Probation	Policy Update	Language is being added to clarify that students must be in good academic standing to hold assistantships at the master's and doctorate levels. Language is being added to the academic suspension portion for both master's and doctorate students to include AOP terms, and information about what happens after a student has been suspended.	AY 24 - 25
Graduate Registration and Enrollment	Policy Update	The Leave of Absence policy is being updated to clarify process and other information related to a master or doctorate student when applying to get a leave of absence.	AY 24 - 25

March 22, 2024, Graduate Committee Meeting

Name	Type	Comment	Effective Year
Vaquero Pathway Program for Graduate Admission	Change in Admission	The program criteria for admission will be updated to have: 1. The student must be a currently enrolled UTRGV degree-seeking student. 2. The student must be enrolled in the last semester of undergraduate coursework for their degree. 3. The student must have a cumulative institutional GPA of 3.30 and be in good academic standing. UTRGV's website can be found here: https://www.utrgv.edu/graduate-information/vaqueropathway/index.htm	Fall 2024

Summary of motions or recommendations approved, with vote totals (if available)

After review by the Graduate Committee, all proposals were approved during each meeting. Those not approved were tabled and brought back to the committee for further discussion and approval. All voting occurs during the meeting using Microsoft office polls. Please see [minutes](#) on the Office of Curriculum and Institutional Assessment website for a count of motions and committee votes.

External Approvals

After approval by the Graduate Committee and approval by the Office of the Provost, changes may need external approval. The table below includes all changes submitted for approval and implemented or in progress at the time of this report for AY 22-23 and AY 23-24.

Program Name	Type of Change	Entity(ies) Approving	Status
New Programs			
MS Human Resource Management (AOP)	New program	UTS, THECB	Approved
PhD Computer Science with Interdisciplinary Applications	New program	UTS, THECB, SACSCOC	Approved
MAT - Teaching (multiple concentrations)	New program	UTS, THECB, SACSCOC	In process
MS Marketing (AOP)	New program	UTS, THECB, SACSCOC	In process
Doctor of Optometry	New program	UTS, THECB, SACSCOC	In process
PhD Materials Science and Engineering	New program	UTS, THECB, SACSCOC	Approved
Name Change			
MS Global Commerce (AOP)	Name change (delete)	THECB	Approved
MS Global Trade Management (AOP)	Name change	THECB	Approved
Change in Credit Hours			
MSIS Interdisciplinary Studies (w/ conc in Physics)	Change in SCH - reduction from 36 to 30 SCH	THECB	Approved
MA Clinical Psychology	Change in SCH - reduction from 60 to 48 SCH	UTS, THECB, SACSCOC	In process
EDD Ed Leadership	Change in SCH - reduction from 69 to 60 SCH	THECB	Approved

MS Biology	Change in SCH - reduction from 36 to 30 SCH	THECB	In process, following April 2024 meeting
Department Actions			
Department of Spanish	New department	THECB	Approved
School of Integrative Biological and Chemical Sciences (merge Dept of Biology & Dept of Chemistry)	New department	THECB	Approved
Department of Primary and Community Care (SOM)	New department	THECB	Approved
Department of Neuro and Behavioral Health (SOM)	New department	THECB	Approved
Public Affairs Department	Close department and move programs	THECB	Approved
Department of Philosophy - Move MS Bioethics	Move program from SOM to Philosophy Department	THECB	Approved
Admissions Changes - College of Science			
MS Applied Statistics and Data Science	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MS Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MS Biology	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MS Chemistry	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MS Mathematics	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved

MS Ocean, Coastal, and Earth Sciences	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MS Physics	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MSIS	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MS Agriculture, Environmental, and Sustainability Science	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
PhD Mathematics and Statistics with Interdisciplinary Applications	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
Admissions Changes - College of Liberal Arts			
PhD Clinical Psychology	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MA Clinical Psychology	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MA Communication	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MA Disaster Studies	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MA English	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MA ESL	Admissions Change -	UTS	Approved

	Remove GMAT/GRE		
MA Experimental Psychology	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MA History	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MA Political Science	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MA Sociology	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MA Spanish	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
MA Spanish Translation and Interpreting	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	Approved
Admissions Changes - College of Business			
MS Business Analytics	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	In process, following April 2024 meeting
MBA Business Administration	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	In process, following April 2024 meeting
MACC Accounting	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	In process, following April 2024 meeting

Admissions Changes - College of Engineering and Computer Science			
MS Computer Science	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	In process, following April 2024 meeting
MS Civil Engineering	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	In process, following April 2024 meeting
MSE Electrical Engineering	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	In process, following April 2024 meeting
MS Engineering Management	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	In process, following April 2024 meeting
MSE Manufacturing Engineering	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	In process, following April 2024 meeting
MSE Mechanical Engineering	Admissions Change - Remove GMAT/GRE	UTS	In process, following April 2024 meeting