Call to Order: Dr. Lara Dodds, Chair

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of minutes: October 28, 2016

Report from the University Committee on Courses and Curricula: Dr. Dana Franz
   1. Modification of MA in Foreign Language

Report from the Graduate School: Dr. Lori Bruce

Report from the Graduate Student Association: Billy Wilemon

Old Business
   1. Non-credit course for thesis/dissertation completion and submission: Dr. Bruce
   2. Update from subcommittee on graduate faculty status: Dr. Russell Carr

New Business
   1. Accelerated Program in Chemical Engineering: Dr. Elmore
   2. Graduate Enrollment Advisory Committee (GEAC): Dr. Bruce

Adjourn
October 28, 2016

PRESENT: Jim Adams, Amy Adkerson, Kenneth Anthony, Henk Arnoldus, Lori Bruce, Russell Carr, Tim Chamblee, Bob Wolverton (for Francis Coleman), Lara Dodds, Deborah Eakin, Steve Elder, Dana Franz, Richard Harkess, Pricilla Hill, Rebecca Long, Beth Miller, Scott Roberts, Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Peter Ryan, Billy Wilemon

ABSENT: Judy Bonner, Joel Collier, Julia Hodges, Ashli Brown-Johnson, T.J. Jankun-Kelly, Rick Nader, Dan Reynolds, Susan Seal, David Shaw

GUESTS AND REGULAR ATTENDERS: Danielle Molina, Kathy Griffin, Chris Rousseau, Pam Sullivan

I. The October 28, 2016, meeting of the Graduate Council of Mississippi State University was called to order by Chair Lara Dodds at 1:34 PM in Room 611 of Allen Hall.

II. Dodds asked for approval of the minutes from the September 30, 2016, meeting. Richard Harkess moved to approve and Jim Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Report from University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC): Dana Franz, Chair

- Modification of M.S. in Agriculture with a concentration in Animal Science –
  Franz stated that this proposal includes making the GRE a requirement for admission and modifying course requirements, stating that the department is adding more rigor to the program. The modification increases the Statistics requirement to 8 credit hours (suggesting ST 8114 and ST 8214), adds 3 credit hours of biochemistry (ADS 8333, BCH 6013, BCH 6603, or BCH 6613 are suggested), and adds 2 credit hours of Seminar. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that no Seminar course numbers were listed in the curriculum outline. Another member commented that the Academic Performance language does not align with the current Graduate School policy. It was pointed out that admissions requirements, including the GRE, do not require UCCC and Graduate Council approval.

  Dr. Bruce commented on the GRE requirement, saying that it can have unintended negative consequences for departments. She encourages departments not to include the GRE in their admissions requirements but instead to state that applicants are highly encouraged to take the GRE in order to be competitive for assistantships. She pointed out that requiring the GRE but giving no minimal scores is not a good practice, nor is telling an applicant to take the GRE but the score does not matter. This practice can artificially deflate department’s GRE scores and cause a lower ranking for the department. Dr. Ryan recognized Dr. Bruce for bringing this subject forward and stated her point is very valid. The institution as a whole is very focused on moving forward in the top 100 public school rankings, and evaluating each of the programs is part of that process. He stated Dr. Bruce is sharing with Council members that these issues all factor in to the computation by the organizations that evaluate institutions across the country.

  Dodds asked Council for a motion to approve the modification contingent on adding the course numbers for the Seminar requirement and updating the Academic Performance criteria to align with current policy. She stated that all modifications must include policy changes approved by Graduate Council and the Provost. Discussion followed about the various ways the Graduate School communicates policy changes but that they often are not incorporated into
modifications and departmental edits submitted for the Graduate Catalog. This causes later repercussions for graduate students. Richard Harkess moved to approve the modification contingent on correcting the Academic Performance language and adding Seminar course number to the curriculum outline. Henk Arnoldus seconded, and the motion passed.

- **Modification of Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences with concentration in Animal and Dairy Science** – Franz stated the Ph.D. modification is similar to the M.S. modification just considered; the department is adding the GRE to admissions requirements and 3 credit hours of Seminar to the course requirements. The modification incorporates the language of the new University requirements for the Ph.D. Dodds stated that the proposal has the same issues raised in the previous modification in terms of the Seminar course numbers and the Academic Performance section, and that any action taken must parallel the master’s program approval. Dodds asked Council for a motion to accept the modification contingent on adding the Seminar course number and modifying the Academic Performance criteria to align it with current Graduate School policy. Motion was made by Russell Carr, seconded by Deborah Eakin. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Modification of MS in Workforce Education Leadership (Distance)** – Franz stated that the department proposes to replace a course is not in their department with a course that is in their department and is more appropriate for their students. AIS 8523 will be deleted from the curriculum and replaced with CCL 8173 (Community College Teaching and Learning). Dodds asked Council for a motion to accept the modification. Motion was made by Jim Adams, seconded by Russell Carr. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Name change to M.S. in School Administration** – Franz stated the proposed modification changes the name of the M.S. in School Administration to the M.S. in Educational Leadership. The change reflects the new department name, is in response to NCATE accreditation, and aligns the degree program more closely with the current field and with this particular type of degree program. Dodds asked Council for a motion to accept the name change. Motion was made by Deborah Eakin, seconded by Kenneth Anthony. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Modification of M.S. in Educational Leadership** – Dodds introduced Dr. Danielle Molina from the Department of Educational Leadership who spoke to the changes in this program. A Student Affairs concentration in the Master of Counselor Education in the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology has been moved to the Department Educational Leadership. The licensing and accreditation standards in Counselor Education require 60 credit hour programs and a very counseling-centered philosophy. Making slight modifications will bring this program in line with the professional standards to be competitive in the field of Educational Leadership. Consensus points to the strengthened focus on educational leadership across the P-20 education pipeline (creating seamless educational experiences across the continuum of preschool through college and graduation and workforce development). Faculty believe the proposed changes reflecting the Department’s new identity are both necessary and relevant for consistent and effective program delivery. Molina spoke to the three aspects of the modification proposed to align the degrees program offered by the Department of Educational Leadership through common nomenclature and curricular goals for the field of study and show the capacity for clear progression from the master’s to the doctoral programs of the same name. The modification proposes the following.
1. Modify the current program name to M.S. in Educational Leadership with a concentration in School Administration.
2. Relocate the Student Affairs master’s program, currently housed under the M.S. in Counselor Education, to a second concentration under Educational Leadership.
3. Modify the Student Affairs name to Student Affairs & Higher Education.

Dodds asked Council for a motion to accept the modification. Motion was made by Deborah Eakin, seconded by Pricilla Hill. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Modification of Ph.D. in Elementary, Middle and Secondary Education** – Molina stated the name change to Educational Leadership at the doctoral level has already been approved. Under this major the department proposes creation of two concentrations: (1) P-12 School Leadership and (2) Higher Education Leadership. The proposal also modifies and adds a number of courses which were approved by UCCC. Dodds asked Council for a motion to accept the modification. Motion was made by Deborah Eakin, seconded by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Modification of Master of Engineering (M.ENG.) (Distance)** – Franz stated the Master of Engineering proposal will reduce hours from 33 to 30, add a thesis option, and add two required Industrial and Systems Engineering courses. In discussion it was noted that on page 2 of the table the phrase “two-three science engineering courses” is confusing and needs clarification. Dr. Bruce noted reference to the MSU Bulletin of the Graduate School, stating that Graduate Catalog is correct, and that broken links exist in the text. It was also noted that the Academic Performance language must be aligned with current Graduate Policy. Dr. Bruce questioned adding a thesis option to a program designed for working engineers while also adding the requirement of two engineering management courses. No reason was given for the course requirements. Discussion followed. Dodds asked Council for a motion to approve the modification contingent on the noted corrections being made. Motion was made by Russell Carr, seconded by Steve Elder. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Addition of M.S. in Cyber Security and Operations** with concentrations in Cyber Security and Cyber Operations– Franz stated the Department of Computer Science and Engineering proposes to add a new degree program, the M.S. in Cyber Security and Operations with concentrations in (1) Cyber Defense and (2) Cyber Operations. MSU is highly ranked in the field of cyber security and this proposal is designed to satisfy the requirements of the Department of Defense for the Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Operations program awarded to MSU. The proposal adds three new courses which have been approved by UCCC. Dodds asked Council for a motion to accept. Motion was made by Jim Adams, seconded by Steve Elder. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Report from the Graduate School: Dr. Lori Bruce

The Graduate School Dean’s Report was distributed. Dr. Bruce reported that for the past five years the number of graduate assistantships has been on the decline, dropping from a high of 1174 in 2011 to 1119 (a cumulative decrease of 6%). This fall the number of graduate assistantships increased for the first time in five years. A ten-year comparison shows that graduate research assistantships have decreased by 10%, teaching assistantships have increased by 38%, and service assistantships have increased by 5%.
Dr. Bruce reported the Graduate School has recently updated the list of countries from which TOEFL/ELTS scores are not required for a graduate admission application. This now brings our graduate admissions processes more in line with our peer universities.

The table on page 7 shows the Graduate Enhancement Funding awarded by the Graduate School. This past year approximately $40,000 was awarded to graduate students via TAGGS for travel to national and international conferences to give a presentation. In addition, the OGS awarded Graduate Recruitment Grants and Fellowships to 16 departments to assist them in recruiting high caliber graduate students. Departments who are awarded recruitment grants are eligible for fellowship funding. Each fellowship is a $2500 supplement to increase an assistantship stipend, making it more competitive. This fall a total of $275,000 in Recruitment Grants and Fellowships was awarded.

Dr. Bruce announced the hiring of a new Graduate Enrollment Coordinator, George Dunn who currently works in the Honors College. He will begin work on November 16.

A Council member asked about progress of fully funding graduate assistants. Dr. Bruce reported that the process was progressing very well until the budget cuts occurred and consequently has been put on hold. However, she fully expects the funding to be approved when possible.

V. Report from the Graduate Student Association (GSA): Billy Wilemon, Executive Board Representative
Wilemon announced that Mercedes S. Gaither has been selected as the new GSA President. He stated the GSA is increasing its presence on campus, with three members currently serving as Student Association senators. The group is actively supporting the 3MT Thesis Competition to be held November 15-17th.

VI. Old Business:
1. Update from subcommittee on thesis and dissertation guidelines: Dr. Dana Franz
Franz stated that currently there are only five members on the subcommittee and she wants to ensure there is adequate representation across the colleges. Richard Harkess (Plant & Soil Sciences), Dan Reynolds (Plant & Soil Sciences), Pricilla Hill (Chemical Engineering), Dana Franz (Curriculum, Instruction, & Special Education) and James Nail (Library) are on the subcommittee. Franz suggested others should serve for increased representation. Deborah Eakin (Psychology) said she will participate. Dodds stated it was decided that the guidelines need updating but that the scope of the committee’s investigation has broadened since the subcommittee was formed.

2. Update from subcommittee on graduate faculty status: Dr. Russell Carr
Carr is currently gathering information and will compile information for peer review.

VII. New Business:
1. Limits on number of U grades a graduate students can earn: Dr. Rebecca Long
Long deferred to Dr. Peter Ryan, Associate Provost, who stated that Council needs to look at and define a clear policy for awarding U grades. He recommended forming a subcommittee to determine how U grades are used and if there can there be a University-wide policy regarding when they should be used, how many a student can earn before dismissal, and other issues that might emerge. Ryan stated he and others held the perception that a student is dismissed after receiving two grade of U but current Graduate Policy states only that a student cannot graduate
with a U in the final semester. He said there are instances of students having a very large number of research hours with no U grades but also no progress toward completion of a thesis or dissertation. He asked why would this occur and why was a student not reined in when this situation exists. He also mentioned the ethical aspect of letting a student think he is making academic progress when he is not and is suddenly dismissed. Legally this is a very bad situation. The Associate Deans Council feels the issue of U grades and the impact to the student, department, and University must be investigated. Discussion followed regarding how the grading decision is made and how it is often subjective. Using a form to set research goals for the semester and awarding grades based on the student’s meeting those goals was suggested. Steve Elder and Scott Roberts were asked to serve on the committee, and both agreed. Franz will contact Kari Babski-Reeves about serving as the third member since she brought the issue to Associate Deans Council.

VIII. Dodd stated that the next meeting is December 2, 2016.

IX. There being no further business, Dodds moved to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM.
Mississippi State University

Approval Form for

Accelerated Programs
(Bachelor's/Master's Combined Degree)

Proposal for adding an Accelerated Program, i.e. Bachelor's/Master's combined degree program. This proposal should be completed in its entirety and support letters attached before submitting to the Office of the Graduate School, Mail Stop 9703, 617 Allen Hall, Phone: 662-325-7400.

College: Bagley College of Engineering
Department: Swalm School of Chemical Engineering
Major: Chemical Engineering
Concentration: Practice, Biomolecular, and Research & Development
Contact Person: Bill B. Elmore
E-mail: elmore@che.msstate.edu
Mail Stop: 9595
Date Initiated: 10/27/16
Effective Date: 1/1/17

Proposed Accelerated Degree Description

1. Department Information:
   Department Head: Bill B. Elmore, Ph.D., P.E.
   Graduate Coordinator: W. Todd French, Ph.D.
   Department contact information: elmore@che.msstate.edu, 5-2480 (main office)

2. Graduate Catalog Accelerated Degree Description:

   e.g. Highly qualified undergraduates in the Department of XXX are encouraged to consider applying to the Accelerated Program. This program permits students to earn up to X hours of graduate level coursework during their final year of undergraduate studies. Student take graduate level courses and earn both
undergraduate credit and graduate credit simultaneously. Students need to consult with a potential graduate advisor to ensure graduate credit could be applied to a Program of Study for the graduate degree. Application to this program may be made as early as the end of the junior year (i.e., after completion of 90 or more hours of graded undergraduate courses). Student interested in applying to the Accelerated Program should contact the Department's Graduate Coordinator, Dr. XXX for more details.

Highly qualified chemical engineering undergraduates (minimum grade point average of 3.5 or higher) in the Swalm School of Chemical Engineering are encouraged to apply to the Accelerated Graduate Program. This program permits student to earn up to 9 semester credit hours of graduate level coursework during their final year of undergraduate studies (or, in exceptional cases, in the junior year, where the student has an exemplary academic record and meets all course prerequisites—e.g. in split level 4000/6000 graduate courses). When completed successfully, the student will earn both undergraduate and graduate credit simultaneously. Students must meet with a potential graduate advisor to ensure graduate credit will be applied to a Program of Study for the graduate degree.

Application to this program may be made as early as the middle of the junior year (i.e. after completion of 90 or more hours of graded undergraduate coursework).

Students interested in applying to the Accelerated Chemical Engineering Graduate Program should contact either the School Director, Dr. Bill B. Elmore, or the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. W. Todd French for more details.
3. **Departmental requirements for entrance to the accelerated program:**

*This section should state Departmental Requirements (if any) that are above and beyond the University minimum requirements which are*

- a GPA of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 system for all undergraduate work, and
- a minimum of 60 hours toward a Bachelor's degree.

*Example Departmental Requirements*

- completion of course XXX
- a statement of professional interests and goals from the applicant

If the department has no additional requirements beyond the University minimum, simply state "no requirements beyond University requirements" in this section.

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**Entrance requirements are as follows:**

- a cumulative grade point average of 3.50/4.00 or higher for all undergraduate work

- a minimum of 90 hours toward the completion of the chemical engineering degree

- completion of the core junior level chemical engineering courses (i.e. CHE 3213 Heat Transfer Operations, CHE 3123 Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics II, CHE 3223 Separations)

- in exceptional cases, where the above criteria are met mid-way through the junior year, the student may take split level (i.e. 4000/6000) courses in the second semester of the junior year. 8000 level courses are reserved for students in the senior year after completing the equivalent undergraduate course (e.g. CHE 4134 Chemical Reactor Design taken in a fall semester followed by CHE 8123 Chemical Kinetics and Dynamics taken in the last semester of the senior year).
4. **Standard guidelines from the Graduate Council to be included in the catalog (not to be altered by the proposing department):**

For students enrolled in an Accelerated Program (i.e. Bachelor's/Master's combined degree program), the MSU Graduate Council has established these guidelines in cooperation with the Registrar's office:

Once the student is accepted into the accelerated program, the student and the advisor may select up to nine hours that will satisfy both undergraduate and graduate requirements. These courses may be split level (i.e. split 4000-6000 level) or 8000 level classes. The student should take the courses for graduate credit (i.e. 6000-level or higher). The combination of undergraduate and graduate credit hours may not exceed 13 hours within a semester.

The student should use the *Undergraduate Enrollment in Accelerated Degree Program* form to (i) receive from the Office of the Graduate School a level override that enables the student’s enrollment in the graduate course(s) and (ii) activate a process with the Registrar’s office to obtain both undergraduate and graduate credit for the course. After successfully completing the graduate-level class(s), the Registrar will grant credit for the undergraduate course and give the same grade as received for the graduate course. For the case of a split-level class, the transcript will show credit for both 4000-and 6000-level on the transcript. In the case of an 8000 level class, a special topics undergraduate course of the same title will be entered on the transcript to allow dual credit.

Students are permitted to opt out of the accelerated program at any time, at which point they would complete only the undergraduate portion of the program. No additional dual counting of courses would occur after the student opted out of the accelerated degree program.

Students are expected to apply to the graduate degree program during the last semester in which they are enrolled in the Bachelor's program. Application to the graduate degree program would be made through the standard application process via the Office of the Graduate School. Students will receive the Bachelor's degree once the requirements for the Bachelor's degree are met. Students will be required to complete all of the requirements for both the Bachelor's and graduate degrees in order to receive both degrees and those requirements will be identical to the requirements for students enrolled in traditional Bachelor's and graduate degree programs. Students will be classified as undergraduates until they fulfill all the requirements for the undergraduate degree. At that time, upon admission to graduate school, they will be classified as graduate students and will be subject to all the guidelines pertaining to the graduate degree.
5. Support letters required (Please attach)
   a. Department curriculum committee
   b. Department head/chair

Approved:
Bill B. Elmore
Department Head
Kari Babski-Reeves
Dean of College or School

Date:
10/27/16
10/27/2016

Chair, Graduate Council
Dean of the Graduate School
Provost
DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted, along with all required copies, to UCCC, Garner Hall, Room 279, Mail Stop 9702.

College: Arts and Sciences
Contact Person: Dr. Lynn Holt
Nature of Change:

Degree to be offered at: Starkville (Campus 1)

Current Degree Program Name: Master of Arts in Foreign Language

Major: Foreign Language
Concentration:

New Degree Program Name:
Major:
Concentration:

Summary of Proposed Changes: The requirements for the MA degree will be made more flexible. In addition to foreign language classes, students will be able to use other courses, including FL 6023 (Introduction to Literary Criticism), FL 8693 (Advanced Foreign Language Pedagogy) and FL 8113 (Capstone Seminar). The number of required hours for the thesis and non-thesis options otherwise remain unchanged.

Approved:

Date:

Department Head

28 Oct 2016

Chair, College of School Curriculum Committee

11-1-16

Dean of College of School

Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula

Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)

Chair, Deans Council

☐ IHL Action Required

☐ SACS Letter Sent
March 10, 2016

To: The Arts and Sciences Committee on Courses and Curricula

From: Mark Edward Clark and Robert Harland, Co-chairs
       Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures Curriculum Committee

We are writing in support of a proposal modifying the M.A. degree in this department. The proposal clarifies the options available for a graduate degree and stipulates that a comprehensive written exam now will be required in addition to the oral exam. The new requirement will strengthen students’ proficiency in the target language(s).

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Edward Clark, Associate Professor of Classics

Edward Potter, Associate Professor of German

Karim Simpore, Assistant Professor of French

Robert Harland, Associate Professor of Spanish

Salvador Bartera, Assistant Professor of Classics

Brian Davisson, Assistant Professor of Spanish
April 12, 2016

Dr. Stephen Brain, Chair
Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee

Dear Dr. Brain,

I fully support of the proposed changes to the M.A. degree. The committee notes it will bring clarity and strength to the program.

Yours

Lynn Holt, Interim Head
1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
No changes are being made to the existing catalog description.

2. CURRICULUM OUTLINE

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<tr>
<td>Degree: Master of Arts</td>
<td>Degree: Master of Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: Foreign Languages</td>
<td>Major: Foreign Languages</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thesis and non-thesis options are available. A minimum of 21 semester hours in one language must be taken for the M.A.; this allows a student to work in a minor field, such as History, Education, the Teaching of English as a Second Language, and Foreign Language Methodology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis and non-thesis options are available. A minimum of 21 graduate-level semester hours taught in one target language must be taken for the thesis or non-thesis M.A. options. Students may pursue study in two languages by taking a minimum of 18 hours in each language. For the thesis option, a minimum of 12 hours must be at the 7000-8000-level; for the non-thesis option, a minimum of 15 hours must be at the 7000-8000-level. No more than 6 hours of Directed Individual Study credits (FL 7000) may be counted toward the M.A. degree. Also required for the degree is a comprehensive written and oral examination based upon all coursework taken and a departmental graduate reading list. Thesis students will also defend their thesis during the comprehensive oral examination.</td>
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### Master of Arts in Foreign Language - Thesis

| FL XXXX | Graduate language courses in chosen area of study | 21 |
|         | Additional graduate-level coursework | 3 |
|         | Research/thesis | 6 |
|         | **Total Hours** | **30** |

This allows a student to work in a minor field, such as History, Education, the Teaching of English as a Second Language, and Foreign Language Methodology.

Required an oral defense of the thesis. Also required for the degree is a comprehensive oral examination based upon all coursework taken, a Departmental Graduate Reading List and an oral defense of the thesis. Knowledge of the Departmental Graduate Reading List is required of all master's candidates and will be tested in the comprehensive oral examination, which is a formal requirement for the degree. At least 12 hours of coursework must be 8000-level.

### Master of Arts - Non-Thesis

The non-thesis option requires satisfactory completion of 33 semester hours in one language or 36 semester hours in two languages for students wishing a double major (18 semester hours in each language). Also required for the degree is a comprehensive oral examination based upon all coursework taken and a Departmental Graduate Reading List. Knowledge of the Departmental Graduate Reading List is required of all master's candidates and will be tested in the comprehensive oral examination, which is a formal requirement for the degree. At least 15 hours of coursework must be 8000-level.

| FL XXXX | Graduate-level courses in chosen area of study | 21 |
| FL XXXX | Additional graduate-level coursework | 12 |
|         | **Total Hours** | **33** |

1 Students are encouraged to take FL 8113 Capstone Seminar, FL 6023 Introduction to Literary Criticism, and/or FL 8693 Advanced Foreign Language Pedagogy.

2 Requires an oral defense of the thesis, given during the comprehensive oral examination.

**Note:** If the student pursues study in two languages, they are required to have a minimum of 18 hours at the graduate level in each language, for a total of 36 hours.

### Master of Arts - Non-Thesis

| FL XXXX | Graduate-level courses in chosen area of study | 21 |
| FL XXXX or additional graduate-level coursework | 12 |
|         | **Total Hours** | **33** |

1 Students are encouraged to continue taking coursework in their area of study. Students are encouraged to take FL 8113 Capstone Seminar, FL 6023 Introduction to Literary Criticism and/or FL 8693 Advanced Foreign Language Pedagogy. Students are also encouraged to work in a minor field such as (but not limited to) History, Education, the Teaching of English as a Second Language, and Foreign Language Teaching Methodology.

**Note:** If the student pursues study in two languages, they are required to have a minimum of 18 hours at the graduate level in each language, for a total of 36 hours.
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<th>CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE</th>
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<th>PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE</th>
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3. JUSTIFICATION AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
This is a minor modification, with no changes to required coursework. The modification of the catalog description is intended to display the degree options in a clearer manner, breaking down the credit hour requirement for each already-existing option (thesis and non-thesis). The description of the program of study for both degree options has been moved to the beginning of the program description to reduce redundancy. Wording has been added that recommends, though does not require, that students take any of three already-existing courses in the curriculum (FL 8113, FL 6023, FL 8692) for the thesis and non-thesis options. Additionally, the description of options for pursuing a minor has been moved from the thesis option to the non-thesis option, as students working on a thesis will likely not have time to complete a minor, based upon the credit hour requirement, while students pursing the non-thesis option could have time to pursue a minor.

The degree modification also adds the requirement of a written examination to accompany the oral examination. This requirement is the same for both degree options. The written examination is being added to further ensure students’ proficiency in their chosen field of study, and to confirm their ability to write proficiently in the target language. It will have the additional benefit of allowing students to express their understanding of their field of study in writing prior to the oral examination, allowing committee members the opportunity to follow-up on their ideas, and to permit further time for questions regarding the departmental reading list and students’ coursework.

Student learning outcomes for the degree modification include:

- Students will strengthen their ability to speak in multi-paragraph discourse in the target language on theoretical topics, consistent with the superior level of speech in the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) guidelines
- Students will strengthen their ability to write in multi-paragraph discourse in the target language on theoretical topics, consistent with the superior level of written communication in the ACTFL guidelines
- Students will become well-versed in major and minor works in the literary traditions connected to their chosen field of study
- Students will demonstrate an ability to speak and write on the literary works of their chosen field sufficiently to enable them to enter and successfully continue instruction in a doctoral program in their chosen field
- Students choosing to pursue studies in a minor field will hold a working knowledge of that field, and its applicability to their major field of study, and to pursue further education within that minor field
- All students will be capable of composing substantial critical writing on the texts within their chosen field, including proper sourcing, understanding of and ability to integrate and enter into discourse with secondary literature, proper citation, and the demonstration of concerted knowledge of major and minor works within that field
- Students choosing the thesis option will be capable of composing a substantial written work on a subject within their chosen field, understanding the works within that subject and the significant secondary literature on that subject, and will be able to communicate those ideas to an academic public; students will furthermore have the ability to defend their writing on that subject through their oral examination to the members of their thesis committee

4. LETTER OF SUPPORT
A letter of support from the departmental curriculum committee has been attached to this proposal, signed by Dr. Lynn Holt, interim head of CMLL, and the members of the CMLL curriculum committee.

5. PROPOSED FOUR-LETTER ABBREVIATION
The abbreviation for the program will remain FL.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE
The effective date of this degree modification will be Spring 2017.
Dr. Holt,

I just read the program modification submitted to UCCC and have two suggestions.

1. In the first paragraph I would repeat the language used in the thesis section addressing the defense for thesis students. ("... reading list. Thesis students will also defend their thesis during the comprehensive oral examination" or something to that effect.) This keeps the wording the same in both places.

2. Check the provisional admission and Academic Performance in the current catalog to ensure the language matches the most current policies. They are found at http://catalog.msstate.edu/graduate/academic-policies/academic-requirements/ and http://catalog.msstate.edu/graduate/academic-policies/academic-requirements/#provisionaladmissiontext. A modification was recently passed contingent by Graduate Council because this wording had not been updated.

Let me know if you have a question or concern.

Thank you.

Pam

Pam Sullivan
Manager, Graduate Programs
Office of the Graduate School
Mississippi State University

Phone: 662.325.7394
Email: pps9@msstate.edu
URL: http://www.grad.msstate.edu/

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