

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of January 22, 2009 meeting

Members Present Patricia Bishop, John C. Bricout, Jim Moharam, Saleh Naser, Paul Rompf, Michael Stern

Recorder Denise Chelmsford

Staff Members Tracy Jones

1. Dr. Moharam, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05. The minutes were approved by voice vote.
2. Transfer policy for graduate certificate credits. The committee clarified that transfer of these credits count toward the transfer limit of 9. Therefore, transfer of an additional 9 credits is not allowed. Implementation will be effective Fall 2010. For students in a certificate program prior to Fall 2009, 9 additional hours will be considered if approved by the program and the student was advised accordingly. The certificate transfer language should also be included in the transfer policies toward doctoral degrees.
3. The committee stressed that transfer credit limits do not compel programs to accept transfer credits if they do not approve them. The committee approved adding language to the policy to indicate that graduate programs may stipulate additional limits and constraints and transfer credit. These additional limits and constraints should be formalized in the program handbook so they can be clear to all students in the program.
4. Accelerated bachelor's/master's programs. Dr. Bishop stressed the need to formulate a policy on how to create these programs and clarified that Senior Scholars is a dual credit program. The committee decided to address this separately from the transfer policy they are currently discussing.
5. It was also noted that MFA programs need separate policies from Master's programs. The committee decided to address this at a later time.
6. Transfer of credits from a UCF doctoral degree to a UCF master's degree program. Dr. Bishop mentioned that this topic needs a separate paragraph of written policy. The committee agreed that doctoral credits from a different discipline would be governed by the existing policy limit of 9 SCH into a master's program. Since this conforms to the general policy, the language addressing this specific case would be removed from the policy. The committee also agreed that transfer of credits within the same discipline would not be limited to 9 hours and would be left to the discretion of the program.
7. The committee agreed that requirements for doctoral degrees for students entering with an earned master's degree relevant to the discipline be treated separately from the requirements for students without such an earned master's degree. These requirements will be separately and explicitly listed in standardized form in the Graduate Catalog. The College of Graduate Studies will provide a set of guidelines and workshops to help programs structure their portions of the Graduate Catalog. Dr. Bishop invited the Graduate Council to participate in formulating and promulgating these guidelines. The general language of graduate degree requirements will read: "All doctoral degrees will require a minimum of 72 SCH beyond the bachelor's degree or 42 SCH beyond the master's degree."
8. The committee approved making the deadline for doctoral transfer credit at the time of change to candidacy status.
9. Dr. Stern introduced an updated draft (v10) of the Graduate Faculty document. This document was approved by last year's committee, pending final discussion by this year's committee. Dr. Stern overviewed the salient points. Dr. Moharam suggested approving all the corrections in the document so the committee could proceed from that "clean" copy, to take out the word "minimum" from title "University-wide Minimum Qualifications," and to add a statement that explicitly states that programs may have additional requirements. The committee assented.
10. The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

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