

Minutes
The Graduate Council
November 19, 2024
Zoom

Attendees: Krista Chronister, Jered Nagel, Maile Hutterer, Jesus A. Ramos-Kittrell, Jason Brown, Kate Mills, Denita Strietelmeier, Laura Wellman, Bonnie G., Beth Harn, Gabriela Martinez, Sandra Boone, Leigh Johnson, Dean, John Beckerman

The meeting was called to order at 1:03pm. Prior minutes will be approved in the next meeting.

East Asian Language and Literature (EALL) Chinese/Korean MA Program

Introduced by Roy Chan, Director of Grad Studies for East Asian Language and Literature. Overarching goal is to enable students to complete the MA and thesis within two years. Current requirements are ambiguous on that point due to requiring 12 courses plus a thesis. The second issue is that specific required courses can be problematic due to small class size causing cancellations. The solution presented is to offer “baskets” of courses based on methodology for students to choose from. A hope is that this plan would provide a template for reforming the Chinese and Korean MA programs. EALL has four tracks – Japanese Culture (MA), Chinese Culture (MA), Korean Culture (MA), and Linguistics (PhD). Under current requirements, the Linguistics track is divided into sub-tracks based on language specialty. The proposal would remove the linguistics sub-tracks.

Kaori Idemaru addressed the Linguistics portion of the proposal

- Would like to reduce the credit requirements for the MA program from 48 to 38 credits.
- Would also like to merge the three tracks (Chinese, Japanese, and Korean) into one Linguistics focus due to the similarity between the three tracks and the small cohort of students (5-6 per track).
- This merge would still allow students to have a specific language focus.
- Would also like to change proficiency proof from coursework-only to either testing or coursework.

Glynne Walley presented the request for MA in Japanese Studies (culture).

- Would reduce required credits from 12 to 9.
- Would add the thesis as a requirement, clarifying requirements.
- Would remove courses that are required but no longer offered
- Would add 9 credits for thesis

- Would introduce distribution requirements in other areas to fill in the requirements.

Questions and comments from the Graduate Council included:

Which courses are being removed from the requirements?

- Core courses remain, but elective courses were removed.
- Students are currently encouraged to take elective courses in Linguistics since the EALL department does not currently offer enough of those, and it can cause issues for students trying to find applicable courses.
- This change will also allow thesis work to receive more focus and full credit.
- This will also remove requirements for high-level language courses that the school no longer has enough enrollment to fill.

Is the language proficiency exam an entry exam or is it taken during the degree to prove proficiency?

- Non-native speaking students are currently required to show fourth-year level proficiency in the language related to their specialization.
- Changing proficiency requirements to either coursework or testing will allow native speakers to prove proficiency more easily. This can happen at any time during their studies.

How many students typically participate in the MA program each year/what is the size of the incoming cohort? Also, can courses be 400/500 level to bring in undergraduate students in order to keep class sizes high enough to prevent cancellation?

- Most students in the cohorts are PhD students, not MA students, and cohorts may contain 1-3 students, but some years have no incoming new students.
- Some courses are offered as 400/500 level, but undergraduate students rarely have the language proficiency to work in the original language, and graduate students need to work on texts in the original language as part of their training.

Will streamlining the tracks impact the students' external marketability?

- EALL marketability is more affected by their cover letter and CV, rather than their degree, since the degree will not specifically mention their track.

Are the removed courses are seminar-based or lecture-based?

- All of EALL's 500 and 600 level courses are seminar-based discussion courses, not lecture courses.

- Since the reduction is proposed for elective courses, the three elective courses that would be removed could be any format.

What is the scope/time commitment of the thesis and how does that impact the time required to obtain the degree?

- The thesis is 9 credits, and can be done in one term, but is typically done over two terms with planning in Fall term and work on the thesis in Winter and Spring terms.

No follow-up questions were asked. Maile Hutterer motioned to approve, and was seconded by Jason Brown. 11 votes to approve

Accelerated MA Program in Art History and Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies

Barbara Muraca asked for clarification on which term this would go into effect – Fall 2024 or 2025? Answer: Petition was originally submitted for 2024, but changes needed to be made, and this is the second submission.

Maile Hutterer presented

Goals:

- Improved equity by serving high-achieving majors with a lower-cost option for grad study
- Improve career readiness/academic excellence by providing training for multiple tracks: museum work and continued grad study (PhD), recognizing that students may not know at the time of entry

Benefits:

- Improved ability to satisfy instructional need
- Increased size of MA cohort, which has decreased in recent years

Questions and comments from the Graduate Council included:

Is the reduction in credits reflective of an internship to replace a dissertation?

- The program already offers internship opportunities in a variety of museum types as well as terminal projects and coursework to gain practical experience.
- A terminal project is already an option in place of a dissertation/thesis.

Is the MA less funded or are there less resources right now?

- There has always been a PhD program on the books, but the priority was to preference MA students in the past.

- This changed within the last ten years, when a shift to preference doctoral students was made.

What happens with students in a split-level course?

- 400 and 500 level courses have different CRNs, but if a student is pursuing both bachelor's and master's degrees requiring the same course, they take the 500 level course to fulfill both requirements

Is there any way to do the accelerated MA without the museum studies certification?

- No. They're integrated in order to maximize the value of the degree and increase the marketability of the students in the job market.

Motion to vote by Jesus Ramos-Kittrell, seconded by Gabriela Martinez, 9 votes in favor

Discussion re minimum class size in graduate-level courses – varies by school.

Discussion re international students post-election.

Motion to adjourn from Jason, seconded by Maile. Adjourned at 2:49pm