



Graduate School

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John Walters, DDS
Graduate Studies Chair, Master's program
College of Dentistry

RE: non-thesis option; MS

John,

The Graduate School Curriculum Committee (GSCC) recently met and reviewed the request to add a non-thesis option to the existing Master of Science program in the College of Dentistry. No concerns were expressed about the request which was unanimously approved. The next step in the approval process lies with the Graduate Council. The request will become an agenda item on its next meeting, April 30th.

The Graduate School will contact you when the option has been formally approved.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or clarifications.

Many thanks,

Scott Herness
Associate Dean
The Graduate School

M. S. Program Curriculum

The program for the Master's of Science in Dentistry degree is offered under the auspices of the Graduate School of The Ohio State University and the Dean of the Graduate School. It is administered by the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) of the College of Dentistry. The program operates according to the policies and rules of the Council on Research and Graduate Studies of the Ohio State University. University policies can be found in the Graduate School Handbook, which provides detailed information on many topics relevant to graduate education.

The objectives of the Master's Degree Program are to train graduate students in both the theoretical and practical aspects of the scientific method, to prepare clinical specialists to critically evaluate the scientific literature so that changes in the scientific basis of health care may be incorporated into clinical practice, and to advance knowledge in the areas of craniofacial biology and clinical sciences. The program may be completed as either Plan A (thesis option) or Plan B (without a thesis). Students may pursue either plan, subject to the rules of the GSC.

The Graduate School requires students in both plans to complete a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours to earn a master's degree. Eighty percent of those required credit hours must be completed at The Ohio State University over a period of at least two semesters. Students must be registered for at least three graduate credit hours during the semester in which graduation is expected, and they must achieve a cumulative point-hour ratio of at least 3.0. The Application to Graduate form must be submitted to the Graduate School not later than the third Friday of the semester in which graduation is expected. Students must successfully complete the master's examination and submit the Master's Examination Report form to the Graduate School by the published deadline for the semester of graduation.

In addition to the Graduate School requirements, the program requires all students to successfully complete two core courses in Dentistry: Statistics and Research Design (Dent 8003) and Research Ethics (Dent 8004). Students with exceptional backgrounds in these areas may petition the GSC for an exemption from these courses.

Immediately after matriculation, the student's clinical program director will serve as an advisor to assist the student in selecting courses and in pursuing possible areas of research interest. However, the student should select a formal research Advisor before the end of the second semester in the program. The Advisor must be a member of the program's graduate faculty. If there is a subsequent change of Advisor, this must be approved by the GSC and the student's clinical program director. In consultation with the Advisor, the student will select an appropriate group of graduate faculty members to serve on their Master's Examination Committee. The composition of every Master's Examination Committee must be approved by the GSC.

Plan A option

Students in this option are required to complete an original research project under graduate faculty supervision. A thesis based on the research project must be written and successfully defended. The master's examination for students pursuing the Plan A option must include an oral portion, and need not be confined to the thesis topic. The thesis must be approved by the Advisor and the Master's Examination Committee. Students must submit the Thesis Approval form to the Graduate School and submit the approved thesis to OhioLink by the published deadline for the semester of graduation.

Students are strongly encouraged to prepare and submit at least one publication-ready manuscript based on their thesis research. Individual advanced clinical training programs may require their students to prepare one or more publishable manuscripts as a requirement for obtaining the M. S. degree or specialty certificate.

Plan B option

Students in this option are expected to complete an original research project of scope and standard similar to those carried out under Plan A, but are not required to present their findings in a thesis format. Instead, they must successfully complete a written examination that is administered and graded by the student's Master's Examination Committee. During the terminal year of their program, the student (in consultation with the Advisor and Master's Examination Committee) will develop a list of essential literature pertaining to the student's area of research. A 4-hour comprehensive written examination will test the student's mastery of this body of literature, and need not be confined to the research topic. Individual advanced clinical training programs retain the option to include an oral component in the Master's Examination.

Students are required to prepare at least one publication-ready manuscript based on their research findings. The Master's Examination Committee acts as a special reading committee for the research component of the program and must approve the resulting manuscript(s).

**Graduate Council
April 30, 2012
226 University Hall
Meeting Minutes**

Graduate Council Members Present:

Lynley Anderman, Enrico Bonello, Elizabeth Davis, Lisa Florman, Vijay Gadepally, Sneha Gupta, Thomas Hammer, Margaret Newell (chair), Jeff Parvin, Robert Perry, Roberto Rojas, Mike Vasey

Graduate School Staff Present: Angela Brintlinger, Scott Herness, Patrick Osmer, Ann Salimbene, Kathleen Wallace, Susan Reeser (recorder)

A. Approval of Minutes

- Professor Newell called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the minutes from the February 20, 2012, Graduate Council meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

B. Announcements – Dean Pat Osmer

Dean Osmer gave an overview of his presentation at a legislative forum in Washington, D.C. where the *Pathways through Graduate School and into Careers* report was released. He shared with council the talking points prepared for the pathways report including its purpose, major findings, and recommendations. Recommendations in the report included increasing the number of graduate programs that track the placements of their graduates throughout their careers, strengthening career services available to graduate students, and providing professional skills education and internship opportunities to graduate students. Dean Osmer said that legislators appreciate the importance of students pursuing advance degrees but that universities need to make the case for how graduate students research benefits society. Dean Osmer is planning a state-wide discussion about graduate student career pathways during fall semester to spark support from policymakers and employers.

- Full report: http://pathwaysreport.org/rsc/pdf/19089_PathwaysRept_Links.pdf
- Executive summary: http://pathwaysreport.org/rsc/pdf/ex_summary.pdf
- Other information is available at: www.pathwaysreport.org

C. Business

1. Vijay Gadepally, president, Council of Graduate Students (CGS), summarized the latest draft of the graduate advising best practices report. CGS asked that the report be included in the Graduate School Handbook as an appendix, although the style will be somewhat revised to fit the handbook format. CGS will release a resolution about the report at its next meeting and will commit resources going forward to keeping the document up to date. Council members felt the report struck just the right tone. Council agreed that multiple communication plans should be developed to promote the report to each of the constituencies, e.g., at student and faculty orientations and to graduate programs at the quarterly meetings. Professor Davis encouraged CGS to get the report out to programs soon because many were updating their graduate handbooks to coincide with the start of semesters.

2. Associate Dean Scott Herness said that a complete accounting of the outcome of the 2012 fellowship competition will be sent out in the next week. He will be conducting several lunch meetings with department chairs, graduate studies committee chairs, and faculty to discuss ways to improve the fellowship and award process for the next competition.

Professor Newell said that she has received anecdotal information about the Enrichment Fellowship criteria and decision-making process whereby only candidates who met racial/identity criteria receive fellowships, i.e., African Americans doing an African American field, etc. She said that others report that larger categories of nominees in the diversity (Appalachia, first generation to attend college, disabled, and other categories) are not receiving fellowships. Professor Newell asked if a policy can be developed to address this disparity.

Associate Dean Herness expressed frustration about the persistence of this perception and said that there is data to indicate this isn't the case. He said that the upcoming fellowship workshops will address this issue and should help the Graduate School find a way to move past these innuendos and myths.

3. Associate Dean Herness reported that the Graduate School is conducting a review of the Master's programs to determine how the non-thesis option is being used. Dean Herness suggested the Professor Newell, as chair of the Graduate Council, convene a small group of council members to review the data and to develop guidelines to standardize the process.

Professor Rojas said that he has concerns that more hours are being required for some professional master's degree than for the Ph.D. He asked if the Graduate School will treat the professional master's programs differently than a regular master's program. Dean Osmer said that the professional master's programs will be handled on a systematic basis with purposeful minimum standards based on good practices in the field. This approach will allow programs to add additional requirements for the specific program.

4. Dean Osmer reported that the Graduate School will hold its quarterly meeting for department chairs, graduate studies committee chairs (GSCC), and graduate program coordinators on Tuesday, May 9, 3:30-5 p.m. in the Blackwell Ballrooms B&C. The quarterly meeting will include a discussion on the pathways report and semester conversion issues. Council members are welcome to attend.

5. Update on strategic activities

Angela Brintlinger, professor, Department of Slavic and East European Cultures, gave a review of her assignment to obtain information from graduate programs on the career placement of their students, to find out what information is being provided to students, and to compare that with what students need to know to succeed in their careers.

D. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions

— Enrico Bonello, Liaison

1. Proposal to add a non-thesis option to the MS degree in the College of Dentistry

- Associate Dean Scott Herness explained that the dentistry non-thesis option came about from a recommendation of the program review self-study report. He said that the

non-thesis exam will be 4 hours in length and will be of equal rigor as the thesis option. The non-thesis option proposal was approved by Graduate Council. The proposal will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

E. Other

- Council is asked to send agenda meeting items for the next meeting to Dean Osmer.
- Professor Davis recommended that Deans Osmer or Herness meet with graduate programs to discuss how programs can develop their own professional master's degree programs.

Professor Newell adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.