

**From:** [Smith, Randy](#)  
**To:** [Miriti, Maria](#)  
**Cc:** [Leite, Fabio](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Orr, James](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Stromberger, Mary](#); [Gilliam, Melissa](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to Discontinue the One of a Kind Master's Program  
**Date:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 12:08:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Maria:

The proposal from the Graduate School to discontinue the One of a Kind Masters Program was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on September 6, 2023. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

No additional level of internal approval is necessary. This action will be included in the Council's next Annual Activities Report to the University Senate (July 2024).

The Office of the University Registrar will work you with any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Fábio Leite (.11), or me.

Randy



**W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.**

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

**Office of Academic Affairs**

University Square South, 15 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

614-292-5881 Office

[smith.70@osu.edu](mailto:smith.70@osu.edu)

**Assisted by:**

**Katie Reed**

Executive Assistant

(614) 292-5672

[reed.901@osu.edu](mailto:reed.901@osu.edu)

**From:** [Carpenter, TJ](#)  
**To:** [Reed, Katie](#)  
**Cc:** [Page, Matt](#); [Miriti, Maria](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to discontinue One of a Kind Masters Program  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2023 11:26:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Grad. School - Proposal to Discontinue Program \(002\).pdf](#)

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Katie,

Please find a proposal to discontinue One of a Kind Masters Program in the Graduate School. It has been reviewed and approved by Graduate Council.

Please let me know if you need additional information to add this proposal to the agenda of the upcoming CAA meeting.



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

**TJ Carpenter, MS**

Administrative Coordinator

**The Ohio State University**

Graduate School

250H University Hall, 230 North Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210

614-688-0230 Office

[carpenter.1112@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter.1112@osu.edu) / [www.gradsch.osu.edu](http://www.gradsch.osu.edu)

Pronouns: He/Him/His

TO: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs

FROM: Graduate School Curriculum Services

DATE: May 15, 2023

RE: Proposal to discontinue One of a Kind Masters Program in the Graduate School

Proposal to discontinue One of a Kind Masters Program in the Graduate School

The proposal was received by the Graduate School on March 29, 2023. The combined GS/CAA subcommittee first reviewed the proposal on April 10, 2023, and recommended it for approval by the Graduate Council. The proposal was approved by the Graduate Council on May 9, 2023.



March 29, 2023

Vice Provost W. Randy Smith  
Council on Academic Affairs  
Office of Academic Affairs  
203 Bricker Hall  
190 North Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Vice Provost Smith:

The Graduate School respectfully requests that CAA/OAA consider this petition for the discontinuation of the Graduate School's One-of-a-Kind PhD program.

The One-of-a-Kind PhD program was originally designed to accommodate doctoral students whose research interests were not met by a formal graduate program. Students enrolled in the One-of-a-Kind PhD program worked with Graduate School leadership and faculty members from across the University to develop a unique research topic. This served to fill a gap when there were few, if any, opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary research on our campus.

However, the establishment of Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs (IGP) has allowed students who wish to engage in research that encompasses different departments to work collaboratively in a formal setting. Students interested in interdisciplinary research are now able to follow a proscribed pathway in an IGP. They may also work with a faculty advisor in a graduate program to identify faculty in other programs who may bring specialized knowledge to the project, including through their service on the students' examination committees. There is enough flexibility in the curriculum now to accommodate various research interests (especially since there are many more programs now than when the One-of-a-Kind PhD program was originally developed), and students are no longer forced to explain to prospective employers what it means to have an interdisciplinary PhD degree.

The One-of-a-Kind PhD program has remained dormant for many years and does not have any currently enrolled students. The Graduate School does not intend to accept any requests for new One-of-a-Kind PhDs and, should an interested party contact the Graduate School to inquire about the One-of-a-Kind PhD program, we would work with the student and any prospective graduate program(s) to identify possible interdisciplinary research opportunities. This proposed action is not meant to limit a student's research opportunities. Instead, it more accurately reflects the shifting nature of graduate education and a greater emphasis on the importance of formalized interdisciplinary research.

This proposal has the full support of Dr. Mary Stromberger, Vice Provost and Dean for Graduate Education, and the Graduate School's Graduate Council. Dean Stromberger's letter of support is included in this petition for your review. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions and/or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Matthew B. Page, PhD  
Senior Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Experiences, Graduate School  
[page.324@osu.edu](mailto:page.324@osu.edu)



March 29, 2023

Rebecca Andridge, Chair  
W. Randy Smith, Vice Chair  
Council of Academic Affairs  
Office of Academic Affairs

Dear Chair Andridge and Vice Chair Smith,

I write in support of the proposal to discontinue the Graduate School's One-of-a-Kind PhD program. The One-of-a-Kind PhD was originally established to provide graduate students with an opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary research. Prior to its inception, students relied on their faculty advisors to find informal ways to develop interdisciplinary research projects while simultaneously operating within the constraints of their home programs. The One-of-a-Kind PhD program was developed to address this gap, allowing the Graduate School leadership Dean to serve as the committee advisor and enable the student to complete their research in an academic unit (i.e., the Graduate School) that touched all graduate programs at the University.

The benefits associated with the One-of-a-Kind PhD program began to wane with the University's establishment of Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs (IGP). Students no longer need to rely on the Graduate School to offer a formal pathway to complete their studies. Additionally, the creation of new graduate programs, and a push for cross-program collaboration, has enabled graduate students to engage in interdisciplinary research at the local level. The Graduate School believes that the original intent of the One-of-a-Kind PhD has been addressed in other ways and, as such, there is no need to continue it at this time. As the One-of-a-Kind PhD program has remained dormant for many years, with no students participating in the program, no graduate students or faculty members will be impacted by its discontinuation.

Furthermore, elimination of the One-of-a-Kind PhD program will eliminate three potential impacts that could be detrimental to a student participating in this program. First, a student may not be well served under the mentorship of the Graduate School Dean if the dean lacks disciplinary expertise and professional experience in the student's area of interest. Second, the student would not be integrated into an academic unit with other students and faculty, and thus would be at risk of being isolated from other peers and colleagues who are critical for networking, community-building, and the cultivation of a sense of belonging. Third, the student may be harmed by not having a degree name on their transcript that is recognizable and understood by potential employers.

This proposal has the support of Graduate School leadership and the Graduate Council. I hope that this proposal is supported by CAA as well.

Sincerely,

**Mary Stromberger, PhD**  
Vice Provost for Graduate Education  
Dean of the Graduate School