



September 28, 2023

To: Randy Smith, PhD
Vice Provost for Academic Programs
The Ohio State University
Office of Academic Affairs

Dear Vice Provost Smith,

I serve as the chair of the graduate program in vision science housed within the College of Optometry. We are requesting approval for some minor updates to our curriculum for the MS and PhD in Vision Science. Associate Dean Miriti has advised me that these changes do not meet the threshold to require GS/CAA review, and thus I am submitting this letter to request that the proposed changes be added as an informational item to the upcoming CAA meeting agenda.

The requested changes are:

- **Change VS 7980 from 3 credit hours to 2 credit hours.** VS 7980 'Statistics in Clinical Research' is a required course in our curriculum for both MS & PhD students. The course was previously 3 credit hours, but we are reducing it to 2 credit hours.
- **Include VS 7101 (1 credit hour) as a required course.** VS 7101 'Basics of Graduate Work' is a 1 credit hour course that is currently an elective in our programs. We are proposing that it become a required course for both MS and PhD students. We feel this course is critical for the development of our students and by adding it, we will maintain the same number of required credit hours after dropping VS 7980 from 3 to 2 credit hours.
- **Convert VS 5500 to on-line.** VS 5500 'Global Issues in Eye Care' is an elective course that is designed for both undergraduate and graduate students. We typically have enrollees from other departments and utilize guest speakers for this course. To facilitate broader participation, we are changing this course to on-line (with synchronous and asynchronous components). Although our MS and PhD programs are 'in-person', this course is only an elective offered by our college, and thus its switch to on-line will not change our degree program being in-person.

Please let me know if you need any further information or clarifications.

Sincerely,

Heather A. Anderson, OD PhD
Chair, Research and Graduate Studies