

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

November 20, 2025

Members present: Kaplan, G. (Graduate Council Chair); Rocconi, L. (Graduate Council Co-Chair); Akerman, J., Boles, E., Castillo-Rodriguez, M., Coe, D., Crouch, C., Dhar, M., Dickerson, A., Donovan, P., Fathy, A., Finotti, L., Fussell-Ware, D., Garcia, J., Heck, H., Hembree, D., Higgins, P., Lang, M., Lucio, R., Montgomery, K., Okafor, C., Ownley, B., Pannu, H. (Graduate Student Senate President), Patrick, J., Penney, J., Reynolds, T., Shum, K., Skinner, C., Su, S., Tran, P. (proxy for Ahmed Bettaieb), Whiteside, E., Wilson, D., Xu, S., Zaretski, R.

Ex-Officio members present: Anderson, D., Angelle, P., Ambroziak, K., Cathey, A., Down, I., Fernandez, P. (proxy for Jennie Mezick, University Libraries), Lukosi, E., McConville, B., Odoi, A., Scheb, J., Stier, J., Tran, L., Vllasi, E.

Other attendees present: Graduate School: Bruner, M., Van Puymbroeck, M., Cheatham, M. Favier, G., Cox, C. (Graduate Council Liaison); Gramling, J. (Digital Learning), Noble, C. (Faculty Senate President), Browning, A. (SACSCOC).

College/Unit attendees: College of Arts and Sciences: Mitchell, L., Cox, C.; College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences: Slaton, L.

1. Call to Order and Welcome (Greg Kaplan, Graduate Council Chair)

The Graduate Council Zoom meeting was called to order by Graduate Council Chair, Greg Kaplan, on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

2. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

Kaplan reported the October 30, 2025, Graduate Council Minutes were approved electronically on November 7, 2025.

3. Committee Reports:

Academic Policy Committee (Stefanie Ohnesorg, Chair) - November 13 meeting cancelled – no report.

The APC is gathering information to bring to APC for the January 29 meeting.

Appeals Committee (Louis Rocconi, Chair) – No appeals to bring forward.

Curriculum Committee (Erin Whiteside, Chair), Report of 11-6-25 meeting, [Attachment 1](#)

- The November 6 curriculum committee meeting was for the Cycle 3 curriculum proposals. The Cycle 3 proposals to review today are from: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, Haslam College of Business, and Howard Baker School.
- For the Cycle 3 Curriculum Proposals we reviewed proposals from:
 - College of Arts and Sciences: 5 course Adds and 2 proposals for new subject codes.
 - College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences: 1 new subject code, 10 course Adds, 8 course drops, 32 course revisions, 4 program revisions, 1 program drop.
 - Haslam College of Business: 3 course Adds, 1 course Drop, 21 course revisions, 1 Program revision.
 - Howard Baker School of Public Policy & Public Affairs: 2 course revisions.

After review and any discussion of the above proposals, a vote was taken, and the proposals were approved as presented. The Graduate Curriculum Report moves forward to Graduate Council for approval.

Approval of Graduate Curriculum Report. A poll was launched, and Graduate Council unanimously approved the report of the November 6 Graduate Curriculum Committee meeting.

Graduate Student Research Awards (Marieke Van Puymbroeck, Chair)

- There were 95 applications submitted. The SFRA committee members are in the process of reviewing those applications. They each have about 18 to 19 applications to read.
- Awards expected to be announced shortly after Thanksgiving
- We extend our appreciation to the committee members for their time in reviewing the applications.

4. Administrative Reports and Announcements:

Dean's Update

Graduate Enrollment Overview

- Total graduate enrollment: 8,380 students.
 - Residential: 5,487.
 - Online: 2,893.
- Represents an approximate two percent (2%) increase compared to the previous year.

Application Trends and Enrollment Funnel

- Applications are down approximately twenty percent overall compared to the same time last year.
- College-level applications are down approximately twenty-one percent.
- Intercollegiate program applications are down approximately fourteen percent.
- International applications were down approximately forty-four percent.

Dean Van Puymbroeck discussed the need for increased attention to graduate recruitment, marketing, applicant communication, and enrollment management strategies across the funnel.

Any questions?

Council discussion:

Council members engaged in an extensive discussion regarding graduate enrollment challenges and opportunities.

Key themes included:

- Financial barriers such as tuition, stipends, and reduced research funding.
- Program marketing and visibility, including online and off-campus programs.
- Safety, inclusivity, and institutional climate considerations.
- Accreditation and compliance implications for online and hybrid programs.
- Faculty workload, R1 mission considerations, and program capacity.
- Opportunities related to 4+1 programs, certificates, and online master's degrees.

Dean Van Puymbroeck acknowledged the concerns raised and emphasized the Graduate School's commitment to partnering with colleges and departments to address these challenges.

New Graduate Student Awards

Dean Van Puymbroeck announced the creation of new Chancellor-level graduate student awards:

- Beacon Award – Master's students
- Trailblazer Award - Doctoral students

Graduate Student Senate (Harkeet Pannu, Graduate Student Senate President)

- Efforts to expand graduate housing options.
- Exploration of a graduate legal clinic in collaboration with the Law School.
- Development of a Graduate Student Bill of Rights (draft anticipated February 2026).
- Planning for a graduate climate survey (anticipated launch mid-2026).
- Food drive collaboration raising nearly \$7,000 for Second Harvest.
- Travel awards distribution:
 - Eighty-nine (89) recipients
 - Approximately \$55,000 awarded during Travel Period 1.
- Professional Development Seminar scheduled for April 16, 2026.

Any questions: No questions came forward.

Graduate Council Chair (Greg Kaplan, Graduate Council Chair)

The next Graduate Council meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2026.

Are there any other items to bring forward for discussion? With none coming forward, the meeting was adjourned.

The Council meeting adjourned at 4:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cox
Graduate Council Liaison

Attachment 1**GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT
Thursday, November 6, 2025
Zoom Meeting**

Committee Members present: Chair, Erin Whiteside; Jennifer Akerman, Luis Finotti, Aaron Garvey, Chasidy Harris (GSS), Patricia Higgins, Katherine Montgomery, Jeremy Mills (proxy for Jennifer Patrick), Xuhong Su, and Dan Wilson.

Colleges/Units attending: College of Architecture and Design, Katherine Ambroziak; College of Arts and Sciences, Liam Tran, Lori Mitchell, Cat Cox; Haslam College of Business, Amy Cathey; College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, Pam Angelle, Lisa Slaten; Tickle College of Engineering, Michael Danquah; College of Law, Michael Higdon; College of Social Work, Javonda Williams Moss; College of Emerging and Collaborative Studies, Elis Villasi; Howard Baker School, John Scheb; Comparative and Experimental Medicine, Agricola Odoi.

Also in attendance: Graduate Council Chair-elect, Louis Rocconi; Graduate School: Marieke Van Puymbroeck, Marla Bruner, Carl Collins, Catherine Cox, and Grace Favier; Accreditation/SACSCOC, Ashley Browning; Online Programs, Jennifer Gramling, Josh Steele; and Siris Laursen, Past Chair, Graduate Council.

Chair, Erin Whiteside, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

- For today's meeting, we will review the Cycle 3 curriculum proposals.
- The Cycle 3 proposals to review today are from: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, Haslam College of Business, and Howard Baker School.
- We will use the spreadsheet sent with the agenda to review the proposals.

Cycle 3 Curriculum Proposals submitted for review:**College of Arts and Sciences (7 proposals)**

- 5 Add courses: GEOG 426, INPG 501, THEA 560, WLC 529 and WLC 530.
- 2 new Subject Codes: Computational Statistics & Data Science (CSDS) and Interdisciplinary Programs (INPG)

After review and any discussions, a poll was launched, and the proposals were approved as presented.

College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (56 proposals)

Note: The Department of Public Health and the Department of Nutrition are merging to become the Department of Nutrition and Public Health Sciences. Dr. Zomchick sent support letter on 9-8-25.

- Add new Subject Code: from TPTE: Computing, AI, and Data in Educational Systems (CADE)
- 10 Add courses: ESM 555, ESM, 630, ESM 685, HEAM 585, HEAM 592, PUBH 533, CADE 550, CADE 695, LDT 645, LDT 652.
- 8 Drop courses: EDAM 585, ESM 651, RSM 521, RSM 595, RSM 596, KNS 543, SPST 543, PUBH 500.
- 32 Revise courses: HEAM 524, HEAM 570, HEAM 658, ACED 502, KNS 544, PUBH 502, PUBH 536, EDDE 515, EDDE 516, ENED 559, ETEC 589, IEC 512, IEC 530, IEC 551, IEC 569, IEC 591, LDT 620, LDT 640, MEDU 530, EDDE 529, CADE 680, CADE 685, LDT 521, LDT 525, LDT 532, LDT 566, LDT 570, LDT 573, LDT 574, LDT 577, LDT 578, LDT 594.
- 4 Revise programs: 2 from ELPS, 1 from KRSS, 1 from PUBH (revise to new department name)
- 1 Drop program: Elementary Education Certificate.

After review and any discussions, a poll was launched, and the proposals were approved as presented.

Haslam College of Business (26 proposals)

- 3 Add courses: BZAN 551, BZAN 532, BZAN 559.
- 1 Drop course: BZAN 530

- 21 Revise courses: BZAN 533, BZAN 535, BZAN 542, BZAN 544, BZAN 545, BZAN 546, BZAN 548, BZAN 552, BZAN 553, BZAN 554, BZAN 557, BZAN 558, STAT 538, STAT 563, STAT 573, STAT 575, STAT 577, STAT 579, SCM 547, SCM 571, SCM 573.
- 1 Revise program: Business Administration Major, PhD: revise to drop Statistics concentration.

After review and any discussions, a poll was launched, and the proposals were approved as presented.

Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs (2 proposals)

- 2 Revise courses: HBS 513, HBS 514

After review and any discussions, a poll was launched, and the proposals were approved as presented.

Each college's proposals were reviewed and asked if there were questions, concerns, or discussion. After any discussion or clarification, a poll was launched to vote to approve, not approve, or abstain.

After reviewing all curricular submissions, the curriculum proposals were approved as presented.

The Graduate Curriculum report moves forward and is recommended to Graduate Council for approval.

Thursday November 6, 2025 3:30 P.M.	Graduate Curriculum Committee Meeting	Zoom Meeting https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/95584504507 Password: 822203
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AGENDA

I. Cycle 3 Curriculum submissions (<https://utk.curriculog.com/agenda:415/form>) 91 proposals

- **College of Arts and Sciences (7 proposals)**
 - 5 course adds
 - 2 new subject codes (INPG: Interdisciplinary Programs) and (CSDS: Computational Statistics & Data Science)
- **College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (56 proposals)**
 - 10 course adds, 8 course drops, 18 course revisions, 14 revise course (dynamic form)
 - 1 program end (Drop Elementary Education Certificate)
 - 2 revise program forms; 2 revise program (dynamic) forms
 - 1 new subject code (CADE: Computing, AI, and Data in Educational Systems)
- **Haslam College of Business (26 proposals)**
 - 3 course adds, 1 course drop, 21 course revisions
 - 1 revise program (dynamic) form
- **Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs (2 proposals)**
 - 2 course revisions

Steps for reviewing proposals:

- 1) Log in to Curriculog/Curriculum / [Office of the University Registrar](#)
- 2) Be sure to log in before you begin to review the proposals
 - Go to: [2026-2027 GR Cycle 3 Curriculum Agenda](#)
 - Scroll to bottom of page to see GR Cycle 3 Curriculum Agenda, look to right and click on "View Proposal" icon
 - Look to right and click on paperclip
 - See "Attached Files" and click on GR Curriculum Agenda Cycle 3 to bring up Excel Workbook where proposals can be reviewed.
 - In the Excel, embedded links direct users back to individual proposals in MCC.
 - Enable editing and hover over cells in the "Action column" to see a brief version of rationale.
- 3) [Save a copy](#) of the spreadsheet and add a column for your questions or concerns.
- 4) Note: Do not change the sorting as that is the order of how the proposals will be reviewed.
- 5) Note: tabs at bottom of spreadsheet
 - First tab is main tab showing all curriculum items
 - Other tabs are the colleges/units tabs

**Cycle 3 Graduate Curriculum proposals – Summary Agenda
Graduate Curriculum Zoom Meeting
October 16, 2025**

Cycle 3 Curriculum Proposals submitted for review:**College of Arts and Sciences (7 proposals)**

- 5 Add courses: GEOG 426, INPG 501, THEA 560, WLC 529 and WLC 530.
- 2 new Subject Codes: Computational Statistics & Data Science (CSDS) and Interdisciplinary Programs (INPG)

After review and any discussions, a poll was launched, and the proposals were approved as presented.

College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (56 proposals)

Note: The Department of Public Health and the Department of Nutrition are merging to become the Department of Nutrition and Public Health Sciences. Dr. Zomchick sent support letter on 9-8-25.

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- 1 Drop program: Elementary Education Certificate.

After review and any discussions, a poll was launched, and the proposals were approved as presented.

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- 1 Revise program: Business Administration Major, PhD: revise to drop Statistics concentration.

After review and any discussions, a poll was launched, and the proposals were approved as presented.

Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs (2 proposals)

- 2 Revise courses: HBS 513, HBS 514

After review and any discussions, a poll was launched, and the proposals were approved as presented.

All items were approved as reported above and are recommended to the Graduate Council for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cox
Graduate Curriculum Coordinator / Graduate Council Liaison