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Academic Policy Committee Report - October 25, 2018

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MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 25, 2018

3:30 – 5:00 p.m., 111 Student Services Building

Committee members present: Maria Stehle (Chair); Chad Black, Eric Boder, Julie Bonom, Lars Dzikus, Freida Herron, Mohammed Mohsin, and Cara Sulyok (GSS President)

Committee members attending by telephone: Reza Abedi

Other attendees: Dixie Thompson, Mary Albrecht, Sara Bradberry, Catherine Cox (Graduate School Liaison)

Maria Stehle called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Dr. Dixie Thompson presented to the committee the following proposals for catalog edits:

Agenda Items:

Proposals submitted by: Dr. Dixie Thompson, Dean of the Graduate School.

1. *Cleaning up understanding of concurrent master's and how to interpret.*
2. *Clarify the number of hours from a masters (or other graduate degree) earned at another institution can be counted toward the doctoral degree – do we even need to do this, or do we stick with what is currently stated?*

Issue 1 – Concurrent master's

Concurrent master's – rationale here is to award a master's 'along the way' when a student earns it.

Dean Thompson's philosophy – we don't want to penalize people who earn the concurrent master's and require them to take more hours than people just getting a PhD. BUT – the language in the doctoral degree requirements throws a wrinkle into this. Current interpretation of 24 hours beyond the master's applies to those degrees that come from outside and are completed separate from the PhD.

Possible solution – modify the language related to the concurrent master's and the degree requirements. See below – new language in red.

Conversation ensued and the following modifications were agreed upon unanimously:

- Clarifying that all credit hours for a concurrent master's must be earned at UT.
- Clarifying language in degree requirements about those who already have a graduate degree when they begin a doctoral degree.
- Adding language about the additional credit hours needed for those who earn a concurrent master's plus the doctoral degree.
- Modified language related to the percentage of hours that must be graded A-F.

Current Graduate Catalog language shown below. Revisions to catalog text are as follows:

- Additional / new language is in red font.
- Deletion of catalog text has strikethrough.

Concurrent Master's Degree Program

Currently enrolled UT doctoral students who plan to complete the master's degree while maintaining enrollment in the doctoral program must submit a [Request for Concurrent Master's Degree form](https://gradschool.utk.edu/forms-central/) (<https://gradschool.utk.edu/forms-central/>) to the Graduate School two weeks prior to the deadline for submission of the graduation application for the master's degree. No fee will be assessed for submission of this form. **To earn the concurrent master's degree all requirements must be met at the University of Tennessee.**

Doctoral Degree Requirements

Regardless of the type of doctoral program, the following are the minimum requirements expected of all doctorates. Departments and programs may impose stricter requirements.

- A candidate must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on all graduate coursework taken at UT to receive the doctoral degree.
- A candidate for a doctoral degree **who earned a graduate (typically a master's) degree prior to beginning the doctoral degree** must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of graduate courses at UT (exclusive of course 600 Dissertation). ~~beyond the master's degree, which is a prerequisite for entry into most doctoral programs.~~
 - Additional credit hours will be determined by the nature of the doctoral degree to meet the required minimum of 30 credit hours master's and doctoral degrees set by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The SACSCOC minimum 30 credit hours may include dissertation, capstone, practicum or similar credit hours, as determined by the nature of the doctoral degree.
- If the doctoral program does not require a master's degree, the candidate must complete a minimum of 48 credit hours of graduate coursework beyond the baccalaureate degree.
- **For students earning a concurrent master's, a minimum of 18 additional credit hours of coursework beyond the master's degree must be earned at UT plus completion of at least 24 credit hours of 600 Dissertation. (Note: for programs requiring 36 rather than 48 credit hours of coursework for the doctoral degree, students must earn at least an additional 6 credit hours beyond the concurrent master's, plus 36 credit hours of dissertation.) Credit hours earned in 500 Thesis may not be counted toward the doctoral degree.**
- A minimum of **50% of required credit hours taken at UT (excluding dissertation hours)** ~~12 of the 24 credit hours, or 30 of the 48 credit hours,~~ must be graded A-F.
- A minimum of 6 credit hours must be taken in UT courses at the 600-level, exclusive of course 600 Dissertation.

In addition to the above, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) require

- 24 credit hours of course 600 Doctoral Dissertation (see Continuous Enrollment under Enrollment and Registration).

All professional doctorates include a minimum of 48 credit hours of coursework beyond the baccalaureate or 24 credit hours of coursework beyond the master's, and must meet their programmatic accreditation standards and the needs of professional certification. These hours may include capstone, project, or similar experience.

Issue #2 – Number of hours that can count from a graduate degree at another institution.

The question sometimes comes up regarding the maximum hours that can be applied toward a doctoral program. One option is to list a maximum number of hours they can transfer in – but the other solution is to re-emphasize our 24 credit hour rule – see Doctoral Degree Requirements section.

Conversation ensued and the committee unanimously agreed to maintain the standard that at least 24 credit hours (exclusive of dissertation hours) must be earned at the doctoral level when a previous graduate degree has been awarded. The committee agreed to add language to the Doctoral Degree information in the section on Credits Earned through Transfer, Correspondence, and Audits.

- Doctoral Degree: Coursework taken prior to admission to a doctoral program may be used toward the degree, as determined by the student's doctoral committee. Although the courses are used as part of the requirements toward the degree and are listed on the admission to candidacy, they are not officially transfer courses and are not placed on the student's UT transcript. **As indicated in the Doctoral Degree Requirements: A candidate for a doctoral degree who earned a graduate (typically a master's) degree prior to beginning the doctoral degree must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of graduate courses at UT (exclusive of course 600 Dissertation).**

After discussion and some minor editing, APC voted and unanimously approved the revisions to the above catalog text.

Dr. Stehle communicated the catalog revisions will go before the next Graduate Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted.

Catherine Cox
Graduate Council Liaison