



## GRADUATE COUNCIL AGENDA

May 8th, 2023

To: Graduate Council

Dr. Stephen Shapiro, Chair; Drs. Demetrius Abshire, Hassan Anderson, Subra Bulusu, Jean Ellis, Jing Fang, Edie Goldsmith, Shana Harrington, Kathy Kim, William Matchin, Terrance McAdoo, Srihari Nelakuditi, David Reisman, Sheryl Wiskur, Neal Woods, Christina Yao, Rajat Das Gupta, GSA; Murray Mitchell (Secretary), Dale Moore (Graduate School: ex officio member).

CC: President Michael Amiridis, Provost Donna Arnett, Trena Houp, Deans, Department Chairs, Graduate Directors, and Graduate Program Administrators

From: Dr. Cheryl Addy, Interim Dean of the Graduate School

The Graduate Council will meet virtually using Microsoft Teams on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 2:00P.M.

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** (Stephen Shapiro, Chair)
2. **Approval of the Minutes from April 24, 2023.** Approved actions by Graduate Council become effective 30 days after posting. A copy is available on the Graduate School website at: <https://bit.ly/3SvPO0E>.
3. **Report of the Chair** (Stephen Shapiro)
4. **Report of the Interim Dean of the Graduate School** (Cheryl Addy)
5. **Report of the Secretary of the Graduate Council** (Murray Mitchell)
6. **Report of the Interim Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Associate Director, Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program** (Toby Jenkins)
7. **Report on Professional Development** (Wright Culpepper)
8. **Report of the Graduate Student Association** (Rajat Das Gupta)
9. **Report of the Academic Policy and Practices Committee** (Jean Ellis)
10. **Report of the 500/600 Level Courses** (Murray Mitchell)

This report is presented to Council for informational purposes only; no action is necessary.

**500/600 Courses for May 2023 Grad Council**

(CCP = Course Change Proposal; NCP=New Course Proposal)

**MUSC 580** (3) Music & Arts Entrepreneurship (CCP: Summer 2023)

**STAT 517** (3) Advanced Statistical Models (CCP: Fall 2024)

**STAT 542** (3) Computing for Data Science (NCP: Fall 2023)

**11. Associate Graduate Faculty Nominations (Murray Mitchell)**

Name: **Nikki Smith** (DNP)  
Program: College of Nursing  
Term: Spring 2023 – Spring 2029

Name: **Troy Herter** (PhD)  
Program: Exercise Science  
Term: Summer 2023 – Spring 2029

**12. Fellowships and Scholarships Committee (Srihari Nelakuditi)**

**13. Report of Science, Math, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Jing Fang)**

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 1

- **NURS 830** (3) Chronobiology in Clinical and Public Health Practice (NCP: Summer 2023)

**14. Report of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs Committee (Wendy Regoeczi)**

Below is a list of proposals reviewed by the Committee. Total: 2

- **Media Arts, M.A.** (PCP: Fall 2024)
- **Economics, M.A.** (PCP: Fall 2024)

**15. Report of the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee (Shana Harrington)**

**16. Other Committee Reports**

**17. Old Business**

- Update on Incomplete Grade Policy (Murray Mitchell)
- Update on Transfer Policy (see attached)

**18. New Business**

- Consideration of Dissertation Defense Policy Language (see attached)

**19. Good of the Order**

**20. Adjournment**

## Proposed language in Graduate Bulletin Within **Transfer of Course Credit**

(<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/graduate/policies-regulations/graduate-academic-regulations/>) for academic graduate credit for military educational experience

### Proposed changes:

1. Title of section in the Graduate Bulletin.
2. Clarification of the use of courses on multiple programs of study.
3. Addition of attention to Military educational experience.
4. Explicit statement of how prior USC graduate course work can be applied.

### **Transfer of Course Credit and Use of Prior USC Graduate Credit**

~~Course work not part of a completed certificate program or graduate degree from USC or another institution may be transferred for credit toward a Certificate of Graduate Study, a master's or doctoral degree. Course work~~ **not part of a completed certificate or graduate degree may be** transferred from another institution ~~must be~~ **if relevant, with** to the program and have course content and a level of instruction equivalent to that offered by the University's own graduate programs. **Academic credit may be accepted as transfer of graduate credit for educational experiences in the military in accordance with recommendations published by the American Council on Education.** ~~Approval for acceptance of transfer credit to a student's program of study~~ **Transfer credit** must be approved and justified by the student's academic program and submitted to the dean of the Graduate School for final approval on the Request for Transfer of Academic Credit (**G-RTC**) form.

**No more than 6 hours of credit may be transferred into graduate certificate programs of 12 to 17 hours; no more than 9 hours of credit may be transferred into graduate certificate programs of 18 or more hours. No more than 12 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 30-36 hours; no more than 15 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 37-45 hours; and no more than 18 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 46 or more semester hours. A limited amount of course work may be transferred toward a doctoral degree. The exact number of hours varies by program, but may not constitute more than 50 percent of the hours listed on a program of study, not including dissertation preparation (899) or the equivalent.**

Only credits with grades of B or better (equivalent to a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale) may be transferred from another institution into any graduate degree program. Course work transferred for credit toward a **doctoral degree**, master's degree, Graduate Certificate or Specialist Program must be from an accredited institution **or recommended as graduate level by American Council on Education faculty evaluators. No course accepted for transfer may be** ~~and must be~~ no more than six years old at the time of graduation **for master's degrees, Graduate Certificates, or Specialist programs. and** ~~No coursework accepted for transfer transferred~~ into a doctoral degree program **may** ~~must be~~ no more than ten years old at the time of graduation.

Course work completed in graduate non-degree status is limited to a maximum of six credit hours applied to a degree program of study. Course work for a USC Certificate of Graduate Study can be applied to a graduate degree if in date and applicable to the program of study. No course can be included on more than two programs of study (e.g., one certificate and one master's). The combined total of any transfer credit and prior USC credit is subject to the maximum numbers reflected in the above paragraph.

A clean version:

### **Transfer of Course Credit and Use of Prior USC Graduate Credit**

Course work not part of a completed certificate or graduate degree may be transferred from another institution if relevant, with course content and a level of instruction equivalent to that offered by the University's own graduate programs. Academic credit may be accepted as transfer of graduate credit for educational experiences in the military in accordance with recommendations published by the American Council on Education. Transfer credit must be approved and justified by the student's academic program and submitted the Graduate School for final approval on the Request for Transfer of Academic Credit (**G-RTC**) form.

No more than 6 hours of credit may be transferred into graduate certificate programs of 12 to 17 hours; no more than 9 hours of credit may be transferred into graduate certificate programs of 18 or more hours. No more than 12 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 30-36 hours; no more than 15 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 37-45 hours; and no more than 18 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 46 or more semester hours. A limited amount of course work may be transferred toward a doctoral degree. The exact number of hours varies by program, but may not constitute more than 50 percent of the hours listed on a program of study, not including dissertation preparation (899) or the equivalent.

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## Defense of Dissertation

Issues:

Three issues require attention in the formal policy statements that guide the oral defense portion of dissertations.

1. The oral defense of the dissertation is the second of a two-part, formal examination of the dissertation. Hence, all committee members should participate in both the review of the written submission and of the oral defense of the dissertation.
2. The oral defense should be adapted to the reality of 21<sup>st</sup> century opportunities for contributions from experts around the world who may not be able to be physically present for an oral defense. As a result, clarity in regard to regulations to govern a virtual defense warrant consideration.
3. The delivery of Dissertation Signature and Approval ([G-DSF](#)) form, and the Survey of Earned Doctorates ([SED](#)) should be delivered electronically to facilitate accurate tracking of the time of receipt.

Current language, here: <https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/graduate/degree-requirements/doctoral-degree-requirements/#text>

## Dissertation Defense

A dissertation must be successfully defended before the Dissertation Committee. The dissertation defense should be no fewer than 30 days before the date of graduation.

Please consult the graduate director of the academic program for departmental, school, or college specific defense requirements, including scheduling procedures. The Graduate School requires that the dissertation defense be publicly announced.

When the defense has been approved by the Dissertation Committee, the signatures of the committee members must be obtained on the Dissertation Signature and Approval ([G-DSF](#)) form. The electronic submission of the dissertation will not have title page signatures; this is to prevent theft and unauthorized use of signatures that otherwise might occur. The graduate director of the academic program will also be asked to sign the G-DSF form to affirm that the dissertation follows the style manual endorsed by the program.

In addition, the student must complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates ([SED](#)) available on the website of the Graduate School. The G-DSF with signatures and the SED must be delivered to the Graduate School, in person, by campus mail, or electronically to [GRADAPP@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:GRADAPP@mailbox.sc.edu).

**Note:** The G-DSF and SED must be received by the final submission deadline in order for the student to be cleared for graduation.

Proposed revisions:

## Dissertation Defense

A dissertation must be successfully defended before the **entire** Dissertation Committee. The dissertation defense should be no fewer than 30 days before the date of graduation. **The dissertation defense is normally in-person but synchronous participation in virtual format is allowed.**

Please consult the graduate director of the academic program for departmental, school, or college specific defense requirements, including scheduling procedures. The Graduate School requires that the dissertation defense be **publicly announced, with the initial presentation open to the academic community. If virtual, a link must be provided for those who wish to participate in the initial presentation. A second portion of the defense may be held in a closed session with the committee and the student.**

When the defense has been approved by the Dissertation Committee, the signatures of the committee members must be obtained on the Dissertation Signature and Approval ([G-DSF](#)) form. The electronic submission of the dissertation will not have title page signatures; this is to prevent theft and unauthorized use of signatures that otherwise might occur. The graduate director of the academic program will also be asked to sign the G-DSF form to affirm that the dissertation follows the style manual endorsed by the program.

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**Note:** The G-DSF and SED must be received by the final submission deadline in order for the student to be cleared for graduation.