

**UMSL Graduate School
Graduate Council
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2025**

Dr. Teresa Thiel is substituting for Senior Director Amber Reinhart, who is absent. The meeting began at 1:00 PM.

Note Taker: Nykea Watts-Edwards

Members in attendance:

- By Zoom: Eike Bauer, Wendy Olivas, Ho Kim, Jill Delston, Joe Pickard, Lon Chubiz, Don Kridel, Amy Banken
- Dr. Thiel will inform Amber that meeting minutes from November and January must be approved at the February meeting.

Agenda

- 1. Reviewing C&I proposals**
- 2. Additional concerns/agenda items for the spring 2025 semester**

Discussion:

1. Reviewing C&I proposals

Two proposals presented minor problems, Ph.D. education in Psychology and Ph.D. counseling.

Counseling is changing its requirements required by accreditation, increasing the number of credits of the dissertation from 6 to 9, which will increase the total number of credits in their program from 90 to 93.

Ho Kim raised a question about whether increasing the number of dissertation hours would impact the total required credit hours and if this would result in too many credit hours overall. Dr. Thiel reached out to So Rin Kim to discuss the proposed increase, and So Rin explained that most students entering the program already hold a master's degree. Historically, the program has allowed 30 credits from the master's degree to count towards the doctoral program, requiring only 60 credits for the Ph.D. Now, students will be able to count 33 credits from their master's degree while still needing to complete a total of 60 hours for the Ph.D. Nationally, the typical range for Ph.D. programs is between 60 and 120 credit hours.

There was also an oversight in the course leaf proposal that created a discrepancy concerning the list of credits and the associated text. Amber will make the necessary changes to ensure that the wording aligns with the listed credits.

Additionally, Amy identified a discrepancy in the Educational Psychology proposal, which included an irrelevant sentence about incorrect credit and dissertation hours related to the counseling program. Dr. Thiel contacted Dr. Waalkes to address this issue, but Dr. Waalkes was unsure why that text was included. Dr. Thiel plans to ask Betsy if the Graduate Council has the authority to correct the Educational Psychology wording without requiring it to go through the course leaf process, as it seems to be a simple error. Dr. Thiel will consult with Betsy and Amber regarding this matter.

2. Additional concerns/agenda items for the spring 2025 semester

Dr. Chubiz questioned whether the Graduate Council could take on a role beyond simply approving courses to support Amber. In response, Dr. Thiel proposed that some council members assume the responsibility of thoroughly reviewing the course leaf proposals. This would involve sending questions to the respective programs and resolving conflicts to ensure a smooth process.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.