

Minutes Approved Electronically – December 2017

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

636th Meeting

November 6, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bammidi, Bond, Gallaher, Gowen, Hoerchler, Howell, James, Kortegast, La France, Mantzke, Nordli, Olson, Polansky, Radasanu, Shelton, Van Wienen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barnes, Beyer, Clarke Arado, Herrmann, Hwang, Jones, Mukhopadhyay, Osorio, Sciammarella, Shah, Smith, Wilkins

OTHERS PRESENT: Hughes (Secretary)

Bond called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The agenda was approved.

Committee Reports

***Graduate Colloquium Committee:*** Bond reported on the November 2, 2017 meeting. There were approximately 60 proposals for colloquium speakers in Spring 2018, all of which were funded. Bond stated that Debbie Williams indicated the meeting was well attended with fifteen participants. Maria Ponomareva of Economics volunteered to chair the Executive Committee. The two student representatives this year, Dylan Rambow and Ricky Rivard, also served on the committee last year. The Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing late or “Window of Opportunity” proposals.

***Graduate Faculty Membership Committee:*** Bond reported on the electronic meeting. The committee reviewed proposed graduate faculty membership criteria for the Ph.D. in Health Sciences program in the College of Health and Human Sciences. The committee unanimously approved the criteria.

***Graduate School Faculty Awards Committee:*** Bond reported on the September 26, 2017 meeting. The committee reviewed fifteen nominations for the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award that recognizes graduate faculty for excellence in graduate mentoring and outstanding scholarly achievement. The committee selected two recipients: Michael Barnes of the School of Art and Design and Victor Ryzhov of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. They will each receive \$2,000 and be recognized at the graduate commencement ceremony on December 16, at 2:00 p.m. There will be an article in the *NIU Today* about these two impressive graduate faculty members. Bond acknowledged Andrea Radasanu as the only Graduate Council member to serve on this committee.

***Graduate School Student Awards Committee:*** Bond reported on the October meetings of the two subcommittees charged with reviewing nominations and selecting winners for the thesis and dissertation competitions. The Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education Subcommittee and the Health Sciences and STEM Subcommittee each

selected a thesis and dissertation prize winner. The Outstanding Dissertation Awards, which come with a \$750 cash prize, were awarded to Mathieu Billings from the Department of History and Michael Lesslie from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The Outstanding Thesis Awards, which come with a \$500 cash prize, were awarded to Ann Kolker from the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders and Melissa Wright from the Department of English. The recipients will be recognized at the annual reception for outstanding graduate students. Bond acknowledged Holly Jones and Mark Van Wienen as the Graduate Council members who served on these committees. Van Wienen expressed his gratitude for the fact that theses and dissertations are now broken down into two separate categories making it much easier for faculty to evaluate.

***Graduate Council Curriculum Committee:*** Howell reviewed the minutes of the October 9, 2017 meeting. He noted the approval of a new master's program in Financial Engineering in the Department of Economics. Bond pointed out the many course changes in Computer Science, as well as the move of Rehabilitation Counseling from the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders to the new School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions. Olson noted a minor correction to the school name on one page. Mantzke moved approval of the minutes; Polansky seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Curriculum Committee minutes and catalog changes are available at: [http://www.niu.edu/u\\_council/committees/minutes/gccc/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/u_council/committees/minutes/gccc/index.shtml).)

***Graduate Council Standards Committee:*** Bond reported on the October 16, 2017 meeting. He reviewed proposed revisions to the front matter of the *Graduate Catalog*. The first change was in the "Examinations Required for Admission" section adding public health to the list of programs that are exempt from the GRE requirement. The second change was in the "Requirements for the Degrees - Doctor of Education/Doctor of Philosophy" section changing the institutional minimum credit hour requirement for the Ed.D. from 90 to 72 as was done for the Ph.D. a few years ago. Howell moved approval of the revisions; Kortegast seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (See attached.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

## Examinations Required for Admission

[^ TOP](#)

An applicant should plan to take the required tests early enough so that scores can reach the [Graduate School](#) before the final application deadline for a given term. Up to eight weeks may be required for the Graduate School to receive scores after the administration of the tests.

### Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)

In order to be considered for admission to the [Graduate School](#), all applicants, other than those applying to programs listed below, must provide official scores on all sections of the General Test of the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) to the Graduate School.

Applicants to the following programs are exempt from the GRE:

- Master of Business Administration (see Graduate Management Admission Test below);
- Master of Accounting Science (see Graduate Management Admission Test below);
- Master of Science in Taxation (see Graduate Management Admission Test below);
- Master of Science in Financial Risk Management (see Graduate Management Admission Test below);
- Master of Science in Management Information Systems (see Graduate Management Admission Test below);
- Master of Science in Education in Adult and Higher Education (exempt);
- Master of Science in Education in Special Education (exempt);
- Master of Science in Education in Counseling (exempt);
- Master of Science in Kinesiology and Physical Education (exempt);
- Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling
- transitional-Doctoral of Physical Therapy (exempt);
- Master of Science in Nursing (exempt);
- Master of Public Administration (exempt);
- Master of Science in Art and Design Education (exempt);
- Master of Arts, Specialization in Studio Art (exempt);
- Master of Fine Arts in School of Art and Design (exempt);
- Master of Music (exempt);
- Performer's Certificate (exempt);
- Master of Fine Arts in School of Theatre and Dance (exempt);
- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Ph.D in Health Science (applicants who have earned a graduate degree with a 3.50 or higher GPA from an accredited institution are exempt)
- Master of Public Health (exempt).

**Justification:** MPH plans no longer to require the GRE. For the program, it's a competitive issue.

# Requirements for the Degrees

## Doctor of Education

## Doctor of Philosophy

The research doctorate is the highest degree granted by the university and is conferred only for work of distinction in which the student displays powers of original scholarship and the ability to conduct independent research.

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degrees are offered in adult and higher education, curriculum and instruction and educational administration through various departments in the College of Education. Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees are offered in art education, biological sciences, chemistry, counselor education and supervision, economics, educational psychology, English, geography, geology, history, instructional technology, mathematical sciences, physics, political science, and psychology, through the corresponding departments.

### Admission . . .

### ~~Credit Requirements for the Doctor of Education~~

~~Graduate students working for a doctor of education degree must complete at least 90 semester hours of graduate work beyond the baccalaureate degree. Departments may waive 30 semester hours for students holding a master's or similar degree in the same field or a related one, allowing the doctoral degree to be completed with 60 semester hours. The hour requirement for a doctoral degree includes formal course work, independent study, research, and the dissertation. Some doctoral programs require more than 90 semester hours.~~

~~The minimum GPA requirement of 3.00 applies to all graduate courses taken at NIU and applicable to the degree. Some programs require a higher GPA. Consult the departmental sections of this catalog for other requirements.~~

### Credit Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Education

Graduate students working for a doctor of philosophy or a doctor of education doctoral degree must complete at least 72 semester hours of graduate work beyond the baccalaureate degree, including a minimum of 12 semester hours of dissertation credit. Departments may waive 30 semester hours for students holding a master's or educational specialist degree in the same field or a related one, allowing the doctoral degree to be completed with 42 semester hours. The hour requirement for a doctoral student with a master's degree includes a minimum of 12 semester hours of dissertation credit. Some doctoral programs require more than 72 semester hours. A description of program-level requirements for satisfying credit requirements can be found in the relevant departmental section of this catalog or in the graduate student handbook for each program.

The minimum GPA requirement of 3.00 applies to all graduate courses taken at NIU and applicable to the degree. Some programs require a higher GPA. Consult the departmental sections of this catalog for other requirements.

**Justification:** *Five years ago, the Graduate Council approved reducing the minimum hours required to complete the Ph.D. Recently, an Ed.D.-granting program has begun looking at ways to help individuals who completed their Ed.S degrees at other institutions complete their doctoral degree without requiring them to take so many hours. Lowering the minimum hour requirement to earn an Ed.D. and aligning the hour requirement with that of the Ph.D. will help. Degree-granting programs will need to address the required hours in their portions of the catalog.*