

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

APPROVED

683rd Meeting

April 1st, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clark, Chen, Falkoff, Floyd, Garver, Gordon, Hill, Hunt, Klis, Neal, Notebaert, Ricklefs, Rohl, Scherer, Swingley, Torkinejad-Ziarati, Van Dijk, A. Wu, K. Wu, Xia

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bedeau, Contreras, Finley, Gaillard, Lundstrum

OTHERS PRESENT: Creed, Gonzalez, Gawron, Doane, Laudick, Matuszewich, Reyman, Wilks

Called to Order

- Dean Wilks calls the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the March 4th, 2024, meeting, by Rohl, second Garver the minutes are approved unanimously. Minutes from the March Meeting are approved.

Announcements

- Dean Wilks gives update on behalf of the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee. The committee would like to see further defined department criteria for the purposes of the 8- year review of Graduate Faculty Membership. A proposal outlining the request will be brought to a future council meeting for discussion.
- Associate Dean Reyman reminds the council of Graduate Student Appreciation Week April 1st-5th. Highlights the collaborative efforts across campus to make these events possible.
- Associate Dean Reyman announces Graduate Student Awards Ceremony and reception on April 16th at 3pm in Altgeld Auditorium.

Committee Reports

- Executive Director Laudick reviews the Criminal Disclosure report. Two Cases and both were approved to move forward in the admissions process.
- Associate Dean Reyman reviews the Dissertation Completion Fellowship report. Four full-time Awards (Stipend and Tuition Waiver) and 4 part-time awards (tuition waiver) were awarded. Student recipients have been notified.
- Graduate Faculty Review Committee: Dean Wilks provides brief update on the committee decisions. The committee report will be provided at a later date.

New Business

- Curriculum Agenda led by Graduate Council Executive Committee Chair Garver.
- Garver Summarizes Curriculum changes proposed by each college, all motions were passed unanimously.
 - Scherer asks for department name change in Section A to Earth Atmosphere and Environment. Gawron will correct the department name.
- Graduate Council Bylaws (Faculty Representation): Faculty Senate President Creed and Dean Wilks.
 - Dean Wilks provides Graduate Council faculty representation on council overview.
 - Faculty Senate President Creed and Dean Wilks lead the discussion on potential bylaw revisions pertaining to elections and the representation on council. The need for diversifying those elected by colleges and students was expressed by the council

members. Conversations will continue to occur, and Dean Wilks appreciates the committee's feedback and dialogue.

- Dean Wilks discusses Graduate Faculty Membership categories and creating a new category for those with industry experience. Permission to teach category and policy changes also are being looked at for clarity and change to procedure. Discussion amongst the council followed.
- Ad-Hoc Committee for this work will be created for Graduate Council in 2024-2025
- Date for Final Council Meeting of the academic year & Minute approval process.
 - Motion to add a meeting on May 10th at 9 am for voting to approve the May minutes. The meeting will be held in Hybrid format. Motioned by Scherer and Seconded by Floyd. Motion Passed with 2 abstentions.

Old Business

- Slate Implementation update from Executive Director Laudick
 - Building a user role outside the admission function is in process.
 - Fall 2025 admission cycle on Slate will open in August.
- Graduate Assistantship Policy Update from Dean Wilks
 - Removed the pro-rated tuition waiver language.
 - The policy added flexibility for students in terms of their assistantships and included a Board of trustee regulation that was missing in the prior policy.

As may arise

- N/A

Adjournment

- Adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for May 6th, 2024, 10:00 am.

Minutes

- Minutes respectfully submitted: Kayla Doane, The Graduate School



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

The Graduate School

March 18th, 2024

To: Graduate Council Members

From: Criminal Disclosure Committee

Re: Committee Report

The criminal disclosure committee met on Monday March 18th, 2024; Executive Director Laudick led the committee's discussion of the one case with the committee and finalized details pertaining last month's case. The committee voted to allow the students continue in the admissions review process at NIU.

Your Future. Our Focus.

Williston Hall 100 • DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2828 • 815-753-0395 • Fax 815-753-6366 • niu.edu/grad

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.



**Northern Illinois
University**

The Graduate School

March 14th, 2024

To: Graduate Council Members
From: Dissertation Completion Fellowship Committee
Re: Report from the February 28, 2024, Meeting

The Dissertation Completion Fellowship Committee met on February 28, 2024, to review 21 applications from 11 different departments. The committee offered four full-time and four part-time fellowships to the following departments:

Full-Time Recipients

Chemistry
Health Sciences
History
Biological Sciences

Part-Time Recipients

Health Sciences
Psychology
Political Science
English

Award letters have gone out.

Your Future. Our Focus.

AGENDA

Graduate Council Meeting 6th Meeting / Academic year 2023-24 **TEAMS ONLY**

10:00 – 12:00 p.m., Monday, April 1, 2024

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Section E Expedited Curricular Changes –

II. DISCUSSION AGENDA

- **Section A – *For inclusion in the 2025-2026 Catalog*. Dates listed after items are when the items were approved at the College level.**

1. College of Business –

- FINA 647 – New Course – 2/6/2024
- M.S. in Finance – Program Revision – 2/6/2024
- Finance Certificate – Program Revision – 2/6/2024

2. College of Education – *No Curricular Items*

3. College of Engineering – *No Curricular Items*

4. College of Health and Human Sciences –

- Homeland Security – Program Revision – 2/16/2024

5. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – *No Curricular Items*

6. College of Visual and Performing Arts – *No Curricular Items*

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

Section A

For 2025-2026 catalog

CBUS 2/6/2024

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

New course

2023-2024 Online Graduate Catalog [LINK](#)

CIP: 27.0305

Component: PRA

FINA 647 - Options Trading Practicum

Practical experience in options trading. Detailed analyses of a variety of option contracts and trading strategies. Design and execute options trading to achieve investment objectives and mitigate risks.

Prerequisites & Notes

PRQ: Consent of department. ~~Students must meet the prerequisite of applying through the Department of Finance which includes being interviewed.~~

Credits: 3

Rationale: Following the 2021 alumni donation earmarked to finance this initiative, this course has been taught within our topics class as a pilot to test its longevity. Given the resilience of the initial gift's market value and the unique learning opportunity it provides, we aim to establish it as an ongoing graduate certificate. Further, the course complements the College's experiential learning strategic priority by offering Business students the chance to apply option valuation and trading theories learned in other courses.

The prerequisites were updated after discussion with GC Executive Committee and department to be consistent with FINA 645

Note on duplication: We have reviewed the graduate catalog and have found no duplicative courses offered by other departments.

Other catalog change

2023-2024 Online Graduate Catalog [LINK](#)

Master of Science in Finance



Requirements



Three of the following electives (9)

To be selected from the following courses or from among relevant graduate offerings elsewhere in the university with approval of the academic program coordinator.

- FINA 526 - Insurance Principles Credits: 3
- FINA 530 - Treasury and Credit Management Credits: 3
- FINA 555 - Analysis of Derivative Securities Credits: 3
- FINA 560 - Financial Markets and Investments Credits: 3
- FINA 603 - Seminar in Financial Research Credits: 3
- FINA 604 - Independent Study in Finance Credits: 1-3
- FINA 622 - Security Analysis Credits: 3
- FINA 623 - Investment Management Credits: 3
- FINA 627 - Retirement and Estate Planning Credits: 3
- FINA 629 - Financial Planning Case Studies Credits: 3
- FINA 635 - Financial Analysis and Visualization Credits: 3
- FINA 640 - Introduction to FinTech Credits: 3
- FINA 642 - Machine Learning in Finance Credits: 3
- FINA 645 - Security Analysis Practicum Credits: 3
- FINA 646 - Portfolio Management Practicum Credits: 3
- **FINA 647 - Options Trading Practicum Credits: 3**
- FINA 662 - Financial Management Strategies Credits: 3
- FINA 680 - Programming for Finance Credits: 3
- FINA 685 - International Business Finance Credits: 3
- FINA 688 - Financial Risk Management II Credits: 3
- FINA 695 - Seminar in Finance Topics Credits: 3



Rationale: FINA 647 is a concurrently proposed new course which MS in Finance majors will have the option to take as an elective.

Other catalog change

2023-2024 Online Graduate Catalog [LINK](#)

Finance (12)

Certificate of Graduate Study



Requirements

- FINA 607 - Financial Analysis Credits: 3
- FINA 620 - Investment Fundamentals Credits: 3
- FINA 650 - Fundamentals of Financial Markets Credits: 3

One of the following (3)

- FINA 630 - Analysis of Fixed Income Securities Credits: 3
- FINA 635 - Financial Analysis and Visualization Credits: 3
- FINA 640 - Introduction to FinTech Credits: 3
- FINA 642 - Machine Learning in Finance Credits: 3
- FINA 645 - Security Analysis Practicum Credits: 3
- FINA 646 - Portfolio Management Practicum Credits: 3
- **FINA 647 - Options Trading Practicum Credits: 3**
- FINA 651 - Seminar in Financial Institution Management Credits: 3
- FINA 662 - Financial Management Strategies Credits: 3
- FINA 675 - Financial Modeling Credits: 3
- FINA 680 - Programming for Finance Credits: 3
- FINA 685 - International Business Finance Credits: 3
- FINA 695 - Seminar in Finance Topics Credits: 3

Rationale: FINA 647 is a concurrently proposed new course which students completing a Certificate in Graduate Study in Finance will have the option to take as an elective.

CHHS 2/16/2024

Graduate Catalog-Full Review-

Other Catalog Change

Course Catalog: [LINK](#)

2025-2026 Graduate Catalog

Homeland Security (15-18)

Certificate of Graduate Study

This certificate offers a set of courses designed to enhance students' knowledge of several aspects of homeland security including origins of terrorism; disaster preparation; disaster response, recovery, and follow-up. The certificate prepares students to develop and implement systems for homeland security planning and management at the local, state, and federal levels. They will be able to identify hazards due to human-made and natural disasters; advise public and private organizations of best-practice risk management preparation, response, and recovery strategies; and use appropriate technologies. They will have an understanding of the conditions that may lead to terrorist activity as well as how to prepare for and deal with human-made and natural disasters.

The certificate of graduate study in homeland security is open to all students admitted to NIU. Students must maintain good academic standing, achieve a minimum grade of B in each course applied toward the certificate, and complete all certificate work within a period of six calendar years. All course requirements for the certificate must be completed at NIU. Some courses may have prerequisites that are not part of the certificate curriculum. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the core courses early in the certificate curriculum. Students pursuing

the certificate of undergraduate studies in homeland security should meet with the certificate coordinator early in their career.

Core Course (3)

- TECH 532 - Disaster Preparedness Credits: 3
- OR
- UNIV 510X - Foundations in Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness Credits: 3

Biochemical Sciences Track (15-16)

Coordinators: Jozef Bujarski, Department of Biology; Victor Ryzhov, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Three of the following: (9-10)

- BIOS 517 - Pathogenic Microbiology Credits: 4
- BIOS 523 - Principles of Virology Credits: 3
- BIOS 632 - Radiation Biology Credits: 3
- BIOS 643 - Bioinformatics Credits: 3
- CHEM 525 - Analytical Chemistry II Credits: 4
- CHEM 572 - Biological Chemistry I Credits: 3
- CHEM 573 - Biological Chemistry II Credits: 3
- CHEM 600 - Selected Topics in Chemistry Credits: 3
- E. Biological

Students must take this course for 3 semester hours.

- CHEM 623 - Mass Spectrometry Credits: 3
- CHEM 626 - Electroanalytical Chemistry Credits: 3

Two of the following: (6)

- HSCI 550 - Administration for Professionals in Health and Human Sciences Credits: 3
- POLS 632 - Biotechnology and Political Structures Credits: 3
- POLS 633 - International Biotechnology Policy Credits: 3

Cybersecurity Track (15)

Coordinator: Raimund Ege, Department of Computer Science

- CSCI 607 - Principles of Computer Security Credits: 3

Two of the following (6)

- CSCI 608 - Telecommunications and Networking Security Credits: 3
- CSCI 609 - Computer Security Management Credits: 3
- CSCI 610 - CISSP Review Credits: 3

Two of the following (6)

- BIOS 643 - Bioinformatics Credits: 3
- EAE 656 - GIS Design and Data Credits: 3

- ISYE 575 - Decision Analysis for Engineering Credits: 3
- OMIS 679 - Business Geographics Credits: 3
- OMIS 682 - Advanced Networking and Network Security Credits: 3
- PHHE 607 - Public Health and Health Services Management Credits: 3
- HSCI 550 - Administration for Professionals in Health and Human Sciences Credits: 3

Emergency Management and Response Track (15)

Coordinator: Theodore Hogan, Department of Technology

Five of the following: (15)

- CSCI 607 - Principles of Computer Security Credits: 3
- IEET 590 - Topics in Engineering and Engineering Technology Credits: 1-3
- ISYE 575 - Decision Analysis for Engineering Credits: 3
- TECH 533 - Chemical Hazards in Industry Credits: 3
- TECH 537 - Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene Credits: 3
- TECH 540 - Monitoring and Evaluating Exposures to Hazardous Materials Credits: 3
- TECH 582 - Industrial Safety Engineering Analysis Credits: 3
- TECH 638 - Risk Management Credits: 3

Environmental and Hazards Risk Assessment Track (15-18)

Coordinators: Wei Luo, Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences; Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

- STAT 500 - Introduction to Probability Theory Credits: 3

Four of the following with at least one chosen from outside the division of statistics (12-15)

- CSCI 607 - Principles of Computer Security Credits: 3
- EAE 506 - Science of Disaster Credits: 3
- EAE 656 - GIS Design and Data Credits: 3
- EAE 795 - Graduate Internship Credits: 1-9
- Students should take this course for 3 to 6 semester hours.
- STAT 538 - Applied Time Series Analysis Credits: 3
- STAT 635 - Regression Analysis Credits: 3

Health Sciences Track (16)

Coordinator: Dr. Michael Kushnick, College of Health and Human Sciences

Five of the following: (15)

- COUN 593 - Crisis Intervention Credits: 3
- HSCI 550 - Administration for Professionals in Health and Human Sciences Credits: 3
- PHHE 603 - Behavioral and Social Aspects of Public Health Credits: 3
- PHHE 605 - Biostatistics in Public Health Credits: 3
- PHHE 607 - Public Health and Health Services Management Credits: 3

- ~~PHHE 609 Problems and Issues in Environmental Health Credits: 3~~
- ~~PHHE 613 Principles and Methods of Epidemiology Credits: 3~~
- ~~PHHE 621 Theories and Principles in Health Promotion Credits: 3~~
- ~~UNIV 590 Internship Credits: 0-9~~

RATIONALE:

The College of Health and Human Sciences would like to remove the Health Sciences Track from the Homeland Security certificate of graduate study.

It was brought to our attention that the core courses for this certificate TECH 532 and UNIV 510X were no longer being offered because the qualified faculty member had retired. TECH 532 was offered last in Fall 2022 but had no enrollment (TECH 532 Enrollment data pulled from query). UNIV 510X was offered in Fall 2022 with no enrollment as well (UNIV 510X Enrollment data pulled from query).

Queries pulled determined there are no students in process of completing the Homeland Security certificate (Spring 2024 enrolled and not enrolled). We do not have viable alternatives for the core courses now and do not have student demand. We also lost our Health Sciences track Coordinator when the faculty member stepped down.

Emails were sent by the School of Health Studies Chair, Dr. Jeanne Isabel on January 10th, 2024, to other track coordinators to discuss whether the certificate should be removed from the catalog. The Department of Computer Sciences has indicated that they are looking for someone to teach the core courses and do not want to remove the entire certificate.

We feel it is in our best interest to remove the Health Sciences track.

Section E

For 2025-2026 catalog

CHHS

2/16/2024

Course Deletion Course Catalog: [LINK](#) 2025-2026 Graduate Catalog

~~PHHE 601—Introduction to Health Systems (3)~~

~~Overview of the structure, function, and evolution of the U.S. health system as compared to that of other countries. Systems approach to the organization, financing and delivery of health care and public health. Evaluation of health care controversies using critical thinking. Specific topics include the role of technology, health system structure and labor force, financing methods, mental health, primary care, inpatient services, insurance and managed care, long term care, the public health infrastructure and essential public health services. PRQ: Admitted MPH students or consent of school.~~

RATIONALE:

Conditional on the approval of PHHE 615: Health Systems and Policy, PHHE 601: Introduction to Public Health Systems will be removed from the Graduate Catalog, because the new course will include all essential aspects of PHHE 601.

PHHE 615 was approved by the GC on 1/17/2023 and added to the course catalog. PHHE 601 has already been removed from the program page for the Master of Public Health with PHHE 615 added in its place.

All programs who were utilizing PHHE 601 were notified in Fall 2022 and made the necessary corrections.

Course Deletion Course Catalog: [LINK](#) 2025-2026 Graduate Catalog

~~PHHE 661—Public Health Policy and Law (3)~~

~~Introduction to the policymaking and legal processes that underpin the use of policy to solve public health problems, including the roles of ethics, advocacy, and evidence. Topics include skills to effectively assess and influence the policy change process. Development of a framework for analyzing public health policies. Case studies of current public health policy issues. Key topics include covering the uninsured, expanding prescription drug coverage, addressing rising healthcare costs, improving quality of care, providing services for long term care, and preparing for public health emergencies.~~

RATIONALE:

Conditional on the approval of PHHE 615: Health Systems and Policy, PHHE 661: Public Health Policy and Law will be removed from the Graduate Catalog, because the new course will include all essential aspects of PHHE 661.

PHHE 615 was approved by the GC on 1/17/2023 and added to the course catalog. PHHE 661 has already been removed from the program page for the Master of Public Health with PHHE 615 added in its place.

All programs who were utilizing PHHE 661 were notified in Fall 2022 and made the necessary corrections.