

Graduate Studies Committee Template

Prior to presenting at the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) for review, please provide answers to the following questions, as relevant. Please contact Matthew Boots (mboots1@iu.edu) with any questions.

Title: Update Required outside Program Hours for MSED from 12 to 6 Credits

GSC presenter: Sarah Theule Lubienksi

This proposal is for a...

☒ program change ☐ new program ☐ policy change ☐ new policy

Include responses to each question, as relevant:

1. What are you proposing and why? (If proposing a change, then the description and rationale should be relevant to the change(s) only.)

Currently, School of Education master's degrees require 12 hours of master's coursework outside the major program area. As some programs have argued to the Graduate Studies Committee recently, this requirement is relatively stringent, in comparison with many programs on our campus. The University Graduate School requires that no *more* than 12 credits may be outside the major, but they specify no minimum number of hours. Some of our SoE programs have either asked for exceptions or are creatively pushing the bounds of what might be considered "outside the major program area." Given that some coursework outside the major seems beneficial from a breadth standpoint, particularly in an interdisciplinary field such as education, we recommend 6 credits as a compromise between the currently required 12, and the university's 0-credit requirement.

2. How will this impact enrollment?

This change would not automatically shift enrollments, given that each program would need to seek GSC and PC approval for specific changes to their requirements.

Ultimately, this change in parameters could decrease enrollments in courses that are commonly selected as "outside the major," such as Y520, J500, or courses in ELPS, Adult Education, etc. However, the revised policy could help stem the tide of programs seeking exceptions or creative ways to avoid the existing requirement's intent.

Additionally, some programs currently require courses outside the SOE, so a change in those programs could result in additional SoE credit hours taken.

3. How will this impact students' time to degree?

This would not reduce overall degree hours. A few students may be able to complete sooner if they had issues with finding non-program courses.

4. How will this impact specific student populations and/or DEI issues?

This seems unlikely to affect populations differently.

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5. How will this impact School of Education resources, including faculty loads?

See #2 above. There is a danger of sudden shifts in faculty loads in specific program areas if programs quickly move away from courses outside the major. There is a danger that this proposal could contribute to some shifting. This proposal is partially motivated by a desire to prompt GSC and PC discussion of faculty load impacts before additional programs propose dropping outside courses altogether or continue finding creative ways to circumvent them. The overall intent is to allow programs sufficient latitude to best serve their students while maintaining a commitment to some breadth in our master's programs (and to the faculty hired to provide that breadth).

6. How will this be effectively sustained over time?

NA

7. What was the departmental vote tally for this proposal? (e.g., “*12 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstained*”)

Not proposed by a department.

Policies & Procedures

Masters Policies

General Requirements for Master's Programs

A master of science in education program requires a minimum of 36 credit hours. Up to 6 credits may be undergraduate course credits at the 300 and 400 level, however courses counted in a bachelor's degree may not be counted in a master's degree. Also up to 6 credits may be applied from a previous master's degree if the coursework is relevant and approved by the advisor. As there is no "general" master's program in education, requirements vary between programs. The minimum number of credit hours in a major area of specialization ranges from 12 to 30. Several programs have additional course requirements in areas such as research and foundations as well.

A minimum of ~~6~~12 credit hours must be taken outside of the major program area for all master's programs. ~~The exceptions are the master's degree in Adult Education and master's degree in Instructional Systems Technology, for which a minimum of 9 credit hours must be taken outside the major.~~ Master's degree students must complete all program coursework within seven years of matriculating in the program