Program Revision Proposal:

Master of Science in Education- Instructional Systems Technology

The onsite Master of Science in Education (MS Ed) degree program in the Department of Instructional Systems Technology (IST) prepares graduates to work as practitioners in the field. MS Ed graduates in IST take positions in educational organizations, non-profit, for-profit, government, military and private agencies as instructional designers; program and materials developers; specialists in analysis, assessment and evaluation; change management consultants; human performance specialists; educational technology specialists; and professional development consultants.

The program currently enrolls a mix of recent undergraduates from technology, business, education, and humanities programs, and of individuals a few years into their working lives who are returning to school for enhanced credentials. Unlike our distance students, they usually do not have work experience or do not have work experience in this field. Members of our faculty have taken the lead in the field to address the appropriate preparation for these first-time designers and are revising the program to match the overall structure of our distance program with the substitution of 6 credits of internship for the “specialization core,” plus an open choice of electives in the major to be taken online and to include the specialization core courses for one of the tracks in that program if the student wants to do so.

1) The IST Masters program is built around a solid set of core courses, but the core has not been formally updated for more than 10 years. Based on review during the past year, the faculty is proposing the addition of an analysis course to the core. This change would rectify a gap in the core sequence that we have recognized for some time. With this change, the revised core includes five required courses which total 15 credit hours of the 36-hour masters program. The following courses would make up the core in the IST MS Ed program:

- R511: Instructional Technology Foundations I
- R521: Instructional Design and Development I
- R541: Instructional Development and Production Process I
- R561: Evaluation and Change in the Instructional Development Process
- R621: Needs Analysis and Assessment

As with the online program, this studio program requires:

- 15 credits (5 courses) of IST common core;
- 6 credits of “specialization core” (which is internship for this program);
- a set of choices for 6 credit of electives in the major; they may elect to take the specialization core for one of the online tracks;
- 9 credits outside the major;
- Electives are offered online.