PURDUE UNIVERSITY
REQUEST FOR ADDITION, EXPIRATION,
OR REVISION OF A GRADUATE COURSE
(50000-60000 LEVEL)

DEPARTMENT Communication EFFECTIVE SESSION Fall, 2015

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check the items below which describe the purpose of this request.

☐ 1. New course with supporting documents (complete proposal form) ☐ 2. Add existing course offered at another campus ☐ 3. Expiration of a course ☐ 4. Change in course number ☐ 5. Change in course title ☐ 6. Change in course credit/type

☐ 7. Change in course attributes ☐ 8. Change in instructional hours ☐ 9. Change in course description ☐ 10. Change in course requisites ☐ 11. Change in semesters offered ☐ 12. Transfer from one department to another

PROPOSED:
Subject Abbreviation
Course Number 69800
Long Title Research MA or MS Thesis
Short Title

EXISTING:
Subject Abbreviation COM
Course Number
Long Title
Short Title

TERMS OFFERED
Check All That Apply:
Fall ☒ Spring ☐ Summer ☐

CAMPUS(ES) INVOLVED
Calumet ☐ Cont Ed ☒ Tech StateWide ☐ FL Wayne ☒ Indianapolis ☐ W. Lafayette

Abbreviated title will be entered by the Office of the Registrar if omitted. (20 CHARACTERS ONLY)

CREDIT TYPE
1. Fixed Credit: Cr. Hrs. ______________________

2. Variable Credit Range: Minimum Cr. Hrs. (Check One) ☐ Or ☐
   Maximum Cr. Hrs. ______________________

course

3. Equivalent Credit: Yes ☐ No ☒

4. Thesis Credit: Yes ☐ No ☒

Schedule Type Minutes Per Mitg Meetings Per Week Weeks Offered % of Credit Allocated
Lecture ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Recitation ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Presentation ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Laboratory ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Lab Prep ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Studio ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Distance ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Clinic ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Experiential ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Research ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Ind. Study ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________
Pract/Observ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________ ______________________

COURSE ATTRIBUTES: Check All That Apply
1. Pass/Not Pass Only ☐
2. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Only ☐
3. Repeatable ☐
4. Credit by Examination ☐
5. Fees: ☐ Coop ☐ Lab ☐ Rate Request: ☐
   include comment to explain fee
6. Registration Approval Type ☐
   Department ☐ Instructor ☐
7. Variable Title ☐
8. Honors ☐
9. Full Time Privilege ☐
10. Off Campus Experience ☐

Cross-Listed Courses
__________________________________________

COURSE DESCRIPTION (INCLUDE REQUISITES/RESTRICTIONS):

* COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

__________________________________________

Calumet Department Head Date
Calumet School Dean Date
Calumet Director of Graduate Studies Date

Fort Wayne Department Head Date
Fort Wayne School Dean Date
Fort Wayne Director of Graduate Studies Date

Indianapolis Department Head Date
Indianapolis School Dean Date
IPU Associate Dean for Graduate Education Date

North Central Department Head Date
North Central School Dean Date
North Central Director of Graduate Studies Date

West Lafayette Department Head Date
West Lafayette College/School Dean Date
Date Approved by Graduate Council Date

Graduate Council Secretary Date

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
Adding a Thesis Option to a Currently Approved Nonthesis-Option Master’s Degree Program

Signature Page

Title of Degree to be Conferred: MA/MS Professional Communication

Proposed Date of Initiation of the Thesis-Option Program: Fall, 2015

Name of Academic Unit Offering the Degree (Major): Communication

Campus: IPFW

Dr. Marvin D. Ouellet
Chair, Department of Communication

1/1/14
Date

R. Cliven
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

12/1/14
Date

Approval Recommended by the Graduate Council:

Date

Final Approval:

Dean of the Graduate School

Date
Request for Thesis Option in MA Professional Communication

Rationale and sustainability

The Graduate Faculty of Department of Communication are currently engaged in the revision of non-course requirements for the Master's Degree program. We propose that the thesis option be added to our graduate program, which is the only comprehensive graduate degree program in Communication within a 75 mile radius. This proposed change can better serve the region's educational needs. More specifically, this proposal is based upon the following rationale:

First, our graduation record shows that more than 30% of the M.A. students who graduated in 2013-2014 have been admitted to Ph.D. programs in R-1 institutions. Five students in the last four years have pursued Ph.D programs (See graduate enrollment data below). This helped us realize that we can better serve our students by offering a thesis option. Furthermore, based on our program review, there has been an increasing number of our graduates getting teaching jobs at area universities. The thesis option will not only enable our graduate students to become more competitive in their Ph.D. pursuits, but also help to enhance both the qualifications and choices of our graduates, especially those who wish to pursue university teaching as an eventual career. In short, this option will serve our current population more effective and may also help recruit students who are interested in pursuing a more research intensive graduate degree.

Second, we have re-examined the current synthesis paper assignment as part of the non-course M.A. requirements. Our self-reflection indicates that this 15-20 paged paper assignment, in terms of its scope and depth, at times constrains students from conducting original research. The addition of the thesis option will provide graduate students the opportunity to employ diverse methodological and theoretical approaches from our current course offerings, conduct in-depth data analysis, and make important contributions to their respective subfields of communication studies.

Third, our external reviewers from our most recent program review commented, "Reconsider the purpose of the Professional Communication Master's degree and align the curriculum accordingly... Consider adding a thesis option for students who wish to pursue the doctorate and consider offering other types of final projects, such as a professional project."

Finally, to add the thesis option is our active response to IPFW's 2014-2020 Strategic Plan, which endeavors to "expand the production of high-quality and high-impact scholarship by students, faculty, and staff." While the Strategic Plan encourages students to "participate in research and scholarly activity," the proposed thesis assignment will further promote the intellectual collaborations among graduate students and faculty members. We expect that the thesis assignment will result in even more coauthored scholarly conference presentations and publications by graduate students and faculty mentors.
In short, the proposed thesis option will strengthen Department of Communication’s commitment to enrich students’ educational experience, enhance student and faculty research productivity, and leverage M.A. students’ competitiveness in their future intellectual and professional pursuits. This option, along with the professional project and comprehensive exams alternatives, will make the master’s program much more flexible so that we can more aptly meet the diverse needs of our master’s students.

**Admission Requirements**

**Materials:**

1. Statement of Purpose
2. Transcripts for all undergraduate work
3. Three letters of reference
4. Online Application through Purdue website with application fee
5. GRE (optional)

**Criteria:**

- 3.0 undergraduate GPA required for unconditional admission
- Unconditional admission or meeting of conditions required for graduate teaching assistantship positions
- *"Fit"* between applicant’s reasons/goals for pursuing MA/MS and our program’s ability to meet those goals
- High likelihood of success in the program

**Process:**

All applications for admission to the MA/MS in Professional Communication are evaluated by two graduate faculty and the graduate director to determine the *“fit”* between the program and the student’s stated goals/reasons for pursuing the Masters degree as well as to predict the likelihood of success within the program.
Graduate Faculty Participating (short vitas attached)

Dr. Steve Carr
Dr. Marcia Dixson
Dr. Art Herbig
Dr. Michelle Kelsey-Kearl
Dr. Wei Luo
Dr. Irwin Mallin
Dr. Assem Nasr
Dr. Barbara Smith
Dr. Dan Tamul

Required Resources for adding Thesis option

No new resources are necessary to implement the thesis option

The following resources are already available:
- Most of our graduate faculty are from R1 institutions (see abbreviated vitas) and, thus, quite capable of supervising the Masters Thesis option. We have operationalized a formula for release time that has been discussed and approved by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Helmke Library offers fairly complete access to electronic databases, particularly, Communication and Mass Media Complete and Social Science Journals (via ProQuest) with electronic full text access for most recent journals. When resources are not available in this way, the Document Delivery services (via IUCat) are very reliable and efficient.
- Ithenticate, plagiarism detection software, is available through Purdue and all MA theses will be submitted through this software.

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**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
Request for Master's Degree Advisory Committee and Plan of Study Approval  
(Please read instructions on reverse side.)

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<th>Area</th>
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<th>Subject Abbr.</th>
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<th>Non-degree Regis.</th>
<th>Other or Transfer From +</th>
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7. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS  
Method to be used to meet language requirements  
+ Transfer course must be described as on original transcript.  
* Mark course number with asterisk (*) if B or better is required.

8. NAMES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
(Please type full name.)

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<td>Dan Tamul</td>
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<td>Irwin Mallin</td>
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9. GRADUATE FACULTY IDENTIFIER  
APPROVED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
(Signature)

10. DEPARTMENT  
11. ADVISOR  
in AREA OF:

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12. SIGNATURE OF STUDENT  
Date  
Academic Dean (if required)  
Date  
Graduate School Dean