

*Graduate Council*  
**GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**

Friday, March 21, 2025 • 11:00 a.m.  
Faculty Center

**Members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee Present:**

Robert Wells, chair	Dennis LaJeunesse
Salih Rakap, chair elect	Vladislav Maksimov
Diane Gill	Wanda Williams
Lakshmi Iyer	

**Members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee Absent (excused):**

Marianne LeGreco  
Gwen Schug  
Melody Patterson Zoch

**Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Present:**

Jodi Pettazzoni	Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Academic Program Planning
Lisa Henline	University Registrar's Office

**Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Greg Bell Graduate School

**Guests:**

Andrew Hamilton	Maria Hayden
Kelly Meris	

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

I. Approval of February 21, 2025 minutes

Motion to approve February 21, 2025 minutes (Iyer, Rakap). Minutes approved.

II. Course revisions related to DEI memo from UNC System—Andrew Hamilton

Andrew Hamilton discussed the DEI memo from the UNC System and that courses were surveyed and vetted. The School of Education had a course with a revision in progress (TED 646) and one course (TED 765) that was part of the Educational Studies, Ph.D.

Teacher Education and Development Concentration. That program has been revised so that TED 765 is an elective instead of requesting a waiver.

**School of Education**

**Teacher Education and Higher Education**

Course:	TED 646 Introduction to Equity Education
Request:	Revise title (Learning in Schools and Communities) and course description
Eff. Term:	Fall 2025
Motion/action: (Iyer, Rakap) Approved	

Program:	Educational Studies, Ph.D. Teacher Education and Development Concentration
Request:	Change program requirements
Eff. Term:	Fall 2025
Motion/action: (Rakap, Iyer) Approved	

III. New Business – Courses

**College of Visual and Performing Arts**

**School of Theatre**

01.	Course:	THR 642 Scenic Automation and Technology
	Request:	New course
	Eff. Term:	Fall 2026
Motion/action: (Rakap, Maksimov) Table for clarification regarding differentiation between expectations for undergraduate and graduate students and SLO revisions		

IV. Late item

**School of Nursing**

02.	Program:	Nursing, Ph.D. (Key 277)
	Request:	Change admission requirements (other changes previously approved)
	Eff. Term:	Fall 2025
Motion/action: (Iyer, Rakap) Approved		

V. New concentration form—Jodi Pettazzoni

Jodi discussed the new concentration form, which requires departments to demonstrate if a new concentration is a worthwhile investment and will help the committee evaluate the rationale for the concentration. The form has been reviewed by the deans, Provost, and budget office. The Academic Program Planning Financial Spreadsheet must be completed along with the form.

Vladislav Maksimov inquired about how much of a hurdle the form would be, and Jodi indicated that it would be helpful to think about the intent for the concentration in term of whether it is built for a small or large number of students. Student demand, societal demand, and job postings will all be helpful in completing the form.

Robert Wells asked if departments should consider capacity of concentrations given how quickly enrollment has grown for some concentrations, and Jodi said they would consider that edit to the form.

Salih Rakap asked if the form would need to be completed if the new concentration was very similar to an existing concentration, and Jodi stated that a new concentration should be differentiated from existing concentrations. If a new concentration only has a couple of courses different from an existing concentration, it may be better for a

department to revise the existing concentration to include options that allow for the other courses/decision points.

Dennis LaJeunesse indicated that the number of existing concentrations for a major or department may affect the decision, and Jodi echoed that the dean should evaluate the number of concentrations, faculty, and students. Jodi also answered the question that new concentrations will become part of the department's inventory that will be reviewed in the Academic Program Review process. She emphasized that Michele Laudenbacher is available to assist with the Academic Program Planning Financial Spreadsheet. The Provost will also have a role in approving new concentrations.

The committee made a motion to approve the new concentration form (LaJeunesse, Iyer). Motion approved.

#### VI. Timing of program discontinuations (follow up on discussion from February 21 meeting)

Lakshmi Iyer discussed the difficulty in discontinuing on-campus PhD programs that were consolidated into new online concentrations. International students who had applied for the on-campus programs were unable to enroll in the online programs and there was discussion regarding the refunding of application fees.

Kelly Meris, Director of Admissions for the Graduate School, emphasized that program changes can have a big impact on applicants (such as if a program moves to only online delivery and applicants have already applied for the program on-campus). Ian Draves discussed that it can be beneficial to have integrated timelines for curriculum, courses, scheduling, and admissions, which can require that changes be made farther in advance. Jodi Pettazzoni reiterated that many program changes are also dependent on UNC System approval and must abide by their timelines. The committee discussed that

programs could work ahead on some proposals (especially new programs) but that discontinuations due to resource concerns would be more urgent. Kelly Meris and Maria Hayden advocated for working with discontinuing programs on a case-by-case basis and changing the effective date as needed. The Graduate School/OAAAPP staff discussed building in a step in the curriculum review process for Admissions to indicate if a program has applicants.