

*Graduate Council*  
**GRADUATE COUNCIL AGENDA**  
Friday, October 3, 2025 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
MHRA 2711

**Members of the Graduate Council Present:**

Ben Dyson, Chair	Vladislav Maksimov
Rick Barton	Salih Rakap
Dora Gicheva	Gwen Schug
Brad Johnson	Jin Su
Dennis LaJeunesse	Robert Wells
Jocelyn Smith Lee	Melody Patterson Zoch
Marianne LeGreco	Nooshin KianvashRad
	Sarah Posidis-Kowalski

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

Jodi Pettazzoni	Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Academic Program Planning
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**Ex Officio & Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Greg Bell	Graduate School
Lisa Henline	University Registrar's Office

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
11:00 a.m.	<b>I. Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2025</b> Motion to approve September 5, 2025 minutes (Johnson, Wells). Minutes approved (1 recusal).
11:03	<b>II. Report of the Chair—Ben Dyson</b> Chair Dyson welcomed the Council with a Maori greeting and introduced the new graduate student representative, Sarah Posidis-Kowalski.
11:13	<b>III. Report of the Dean of the Graduate School – Ben Dyson on behalf of Greg Bell</b> Chair Dyson shared remarks from Dean Bell, which are posted in Sharepoint. Maria Anastasiou and Dee Stafford from the Global Engagement Office met with Graduate Program Directors last week and provided updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposed change to duration of status for international students<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ International students would be limited to 4 years in the US for a bachelor's or doctoral degree and 2 years for a master's degree</li><li>○ They would have to return to their home country to renew their visa if they need more time or to pursue CPT or OPT.</li></ul></li></ul>

If they wish to change programs, they would also have to return to their home country and apply for a new visa.

- Companies that employ individuals on H1-B visas will need to pay a fee of approximately \$100,000
- The Council expressed concern about these proposed changes and requested clarification from Maria Anastasiou and whether she could attend a future meeting
  - The Council particularly expressed concerns to be transparent with students about financial limitations of departments when it comes to accepting international students
- The Council also inquired whether the information from GPD meetings could be shared more broadly with the graduate faculty

#### Increasing Graduate Enrollment

- The Graduate School plans to incentivize student participation in accelerated programs by subsidizing graduate tuition in their last “graduate” year to bring the tuition to the undergraduate rate.
  - The funding used means it’s only available to in-state students who are UNCG undergraduates.
  - The Policy Committee may review the possibility of an accelerated certificate.
  - The Council discussed that dual bachelor’s-master’s registration provides more flexibility for undergraduate students who want to take graduate courses (in terms of earned credit hours at UNCG and potentially regarding GPA). The Council expressed a desire for information to be shared about dual bachelor’s-master’s registration so that more departments are aware of this option.
- A secondary application for students who are denied entry to a program but are otherwise qualified is under development in Slate.
  - If a PhD applicant is denied but is a good fit for a master’s program, this would allow direct admission to be offered (or admission to a future term if the current term is full).

The 3 Minute Thesis Competition will be hosted later in October and registration is open through October 10.

The 2024-2025 Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Awards were presented this week:

- Outstanding Dissertation Award
  - Dr. Cameron Pugach, Psychology
- Fisher Gerontology Dissertation Award
  - Dr. Hilary Mendel Green, Nursing

- Outstanding Thesis Award
  - Taylor Wood, Psychology

11:28      **IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association – Nooshin KianvashRad**

Nooshin shared that the GSA event at Piney Lake is taking place today. She reported that she has received approval from Dean Bell for her plan for inviting companies to campus. Nooshin stated that she has also spoken to Faculty Senate chair Chuck Bolton, who will share the plan with Faculty Senate. GSA is planning for a showcase night and meetings with faculty and students. They are looking for those with connections to companies, and Gwen Schug volunteered that the RISE Network may be of assistance.

Nooshin expressed concern for international students who are navigating the changing landscape of US requirements. The Council recommended connecting with Maria Anastasiou, and Brad Johnson shared resources from the GEO website.

11:38      **V. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Salih Rakap**

- *GCC Information Item (from September 19, 2025 meeting)*

Chair Rakap reported that the GCC approved 5 program proposals at the September 19 meeting, included the discontinuation of the PhD Social Work. The committee also discussed the inclusion of admission requirements in the Catalog.

11:48      **VI. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Brad Johnson**

- *Updates from September 26, 2025 meeting*
  - Discussion items:
    - Potential revisions to Selective Retroactive Withdrawals for Extenuating Circumstances
      - This will be further discussed at a future Policy Committee meeting
    - Inclusion of admission requirements in the Catalog
      - The Policy Committee is recommending a separate review process for admissions requirements changes. This process will be coordinated with Kelly Meris's requests for admissions requirements updates in Slate. The Catalog will link to the Graduate School website for admissions requirements information to minimize updating in multiple places.
    - Course numbers and intended audience
      - The definitions of course numbers are being updated so that 500 and above=intended

primarily for graduate students is the only graduate definition (no longer distinctions for 600-749 or 750-799). This will benefit some departments that are running out of course numbers.

- Departments will be able to indicate in CIM whether the primary audience of a course is master's or doctoral students.

- The Doctoral Plan of Study policy will also be revised to indicate that students can have more than one quarter of their course work at the 500 level if approved by the student's advisor and Graduate School.

- Eligibility for coming off Probation Status (small correction to policy)

- The Probationary Status policy has been corrected to clarify that students can come off probation when "the student's cumulative GPA for all graduate courses is at least 3.0 **at or before** the end of the semester in which the student completes 9 semester hours." This will align the policy with current practice.

11:58      **VII. Report of the Student Appeals Committee**—No report

12:00 pm    **VIII. Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Ben Dyson**

Chair Dyson reported that Promotion and Tenure Guidelines are being rewritten. He also stated that Paul Steimle will serve as the new Faculty Senate Chair after the completion of Chuck Bolton's term.

12:30      **IX. Adjournment**

Dora Gicheva shared that Phi Beta Kappa has research scholarship applications open for students who have been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at UNCG or other institutions.