

## Graduate Council Program Review Summary

*Prepared by: Agamemnon Crassidis, Chair, Graduate Council*

Program Title	Science, Technology, and Public Policy	
Originating College	COLA	
Program Contact	Franz Foltz	
Degree Type	Master of Science, M.S.	
SCH New Program	30	
QCH Old Program	48	
NYSED IRP Code:		
HEGIS Code:		
Conversion Type	Type 1 Conversion: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Type 2 Conversion: <input type="checkbox"/>
Recommendation	Graduate Council recommends <b>approval</b> of this program	
Responsible Sub-Group	Graduate Council <b>Group A</b>	
Meeting Date/Time	Monday, March 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2011/10 am – 11 am	
Meeting Attendance	Agamemnon Crassidis (KGOE); Hossein Shahmohamad (COS); Don Wilson (SCB); Chip Sheffield (CIAS, At Large); Kevin Gold (GCCIS); Andrew Moore (Dean of Graduate Studies); Joel Kastner (COS); Linda Underhill (CAST); Babak Elahi (COLA); Franz Foltz (COLA)	
Meeting Location	CST Rm 82-1150	
Checklist Complete?	Yes	
Concerns?	<p>No major concerns sited. The following corrections were required in the documentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include QCH credits for the current quarter-based model on page 1 of the NYSED form.</li> <li>2. Enter HEGIS code on page 1 of the NYSED form.</li> <li>3. Enter proper Program code on page 1 of the NYSED form. The current code is incorrect.</li> <li>4. Identify culminating element at the bottom of Table 1b.</li> </ol>	
Discussion	<p>The proposed semester-based program is a near direct conversion from the current quarter-based model (48 QCH to 30 SCH). The new program structure is more uniform and contains five 3 SCH required courses, three 3 SCH electives, and a 6 SCH mandatory Thesis for the 30 SCH program. The curriculum was simplified to make it easier for the BS/MS programs. Currently there are 4 variations of courses and differing credit counts for students. Most external students require 60 credits, the internal dual degree students require 48, the dual degree with Mechanical Engineering requires 46 and the dual program with Chemical engineering requires 45 credits. To make this change, 4 methods courses were combined into 2 courses, plus an optional advanced methods course is offered so that quantitatively--focused students can take it as an elective. The culminating element is a 6 SCH Thesis taken in the Summer semester of Year 1 and the Fall semester of Year 2. A research methods type course where a thesis proposal is developed in the <b>PUBL-703 Program Evaluation and Research Design</b> course taken in the Spring semester of Year 1.</p>	

-Agamemnon Crassidis: wondered if it was possible to finish the program in 1 and half year with the students enrolling in a 6 SCH Thesis in the Fall Semester of Year 2?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: a research methods type course is required in the Spring Semester of Year 1 (**PUBL-703 Program Evaluation and Research Design**) where the students prepare a formal thesis proposal. Also, anticipate students will be working on thesis after the Spring Semester of Year 1 so it is possible for the students to complete the program in one and a half years.

-Joel Kastner: wondered if students are taking thesis currently?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: yes, a couple of students have taken a comprehensive exam that did not complete the thesis.

-Agamemnon Crassidis: wondered if the comprehensive exam would be part of the new program as an option?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: yes, but not a preferred option and used only as a fallback mechanism.

-Linda Underhill: asked if the only option then was thesis?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: yes, but a couple of students did not finish thesis and were granted taking the comprehensive exam to finish as a fallback.

-Linda Underhill: asked how many students are enrolled in the current program?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: 12 fulltime (FTE).

-Andrew Moore: asked if the revised program would help in the program enrollment trends?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: yes, new structure would make it easier for the 4 plus 1 students. New program may attract qualitative type students more and be more attractive to that type of student cohort.

-Hossein Shahmohamad: asked if there was a preapproved list of possible electives the students can take?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: they chose from three categories with all electives mostly foundation type courses: 1. economics and some type other type of business courses; 2. qualitative type (i.e., engineering statistics or math statistics) and GCCIS courses (i.e., data analysis, d-Base, etc); 3. Topical area (COS, IT, etc)

-Hossein Shahmohamad: wondered if the 6 SCH Thesis could be broken up to two 3 SCHs with first 3 taken in the Spring of Year 1 so students can get an earlier start on Thesis?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: thesis proposal is required to be complete normally in Spring semester of Year 1.

-Joel Kastner: asked if the thesis was more writing intensive given the nature of the program?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: depends on the type of thesis performed. Do typically see larger theses with 250 pages in length, typically. Some have lots of Systems Modeling and Simulation and tend to be less writing with more data. Stated that students should be able to write for Public Policy type work.

-Andrew Moore: wondered how the students use the summer of 1<sup>st</sup> year?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: ~1/2 the students are funded through research

projects related to Dr. Jamie Weinbrake so many students work off his projects and use a spinoff of their work for fulfillment of thesis requirement. Some go to IEEE in Washington working for congress. Some work in state offices.

-Agamemnon Crassidis: reminded program coordinators that only two of the three electives can be cross-listed with an undergraduate program?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: yes, are aware of the new policy.

-Joel Kastner: wondered what the arena for publishing thesis work, what type of journals?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: depends of the students. Students working on Dr. Weinbrake's grants tend to write a lot of journal papers related to public policy and attend many national conferences.

-Chip Sheffield: wondered if the current program is accredited?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: no, the accreditation agency would be APAN and would be required to hire ~10 fulltime faculty members. We've looked but don't meet the requirements.

-Andrew Moore: had a concern with current enrollment.

-Agamemnon Crassidis: suggested that a name change may help with enrollment?

-Ans from Franz Foltz: would consider that option in the future but probably not for the semester conversion.

Vote Tally	Approve: <b>10</b>	Not Approve: <b>0</b>	Abstain: <b>0</b>
Signature	Agamemnon Crassidis	<i>Agamemnon Crassidis</i>	