

**University Curriculum Committee**  
**February 10, 2025**  
**ZOOM**  
**2:30pm**

## **Calling of the Roll**

Motion on the floor to waive quorum if necessary due to currently being one member short of quorum after allowing a couple of more minutes for log in.

Approved.

One more member logged in after motion approval and quorum was officially met.

## **Announcements**

### **Old Business - represented by Dr. Chad Brooks**

#### **Undergraduate Program Modification**

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by the University President

1. First Responder Concentration, AAS Professional Services
  - The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) with a concentration in First Responder is designed for emergency personnel, such as EMTs, who seek to advance their academic credentials. This program builds on foundational training in emergency response. Students will gain theoretical knowledge that is essential for leadership roles in emergency services. The degree is structured to accommodate working professionals, with flexible course options available online, in person, or in a hybrid format. Graduates will be prepared for career advancement or further specialized education in the field of emergency management.

Dr. Chad Brooked explained that like Nursing and Teachers there is a shortage of First Responders. We have a program through Distance Education that assists with this. Licensure is difficult these would be right under a paramedic but a level above the first responders. Vol State has a very similar curriculum and language that is in our proposal. Dr. Eve Rice assisted with the writing of the proposal but as the Continuing Ed department reports to Chad the concentration was being placed under his purview.

Motion to approve

Question or further concern:

Dr. Tucker Brown asked if the major core had been adjusted so it would be the same across all three concentrations of the program.

Dr. Chad Brooks stated yes this would be the case

No other concerns were noted.

Approved.

## Meeting Minute Approval

- Approval of the January 27, 2025 UCC meeting minutes.

Motion to Approve.

No questions or concerns.

Approved.

**Consent Agenda Items** – All items require final approval by the Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

- | <b>• Course Prerequisite Update</b>  | <b>Implementation Fall 2025</b> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CSCI 5619 – Graduate Ethical Hacking and Offensive Security<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removing the prerequisite of CSCI 5611 or CSCI 5612.</li></ul></li><li>• CSCI 5625 – Graduate Intrusion Detection and Prevention<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removing the prerequisite of CSCI 5611 or CSCI 5612 or CSCI 2700.</li></ul></li><li>• CSCI 5628 – Graduate Defensive Programming<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removing the prerequisite of CSCI 5611 or CSCI 5612</li></ul></li><li>• CSCI 5632 – Graduate Secure Software Engineering<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removing the prerequisite of CSCI 5611 or CSCI 5612</li></ul></li><li>• CSCI 5635 – Graduate Malware Analysis and Countermeasures<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removing the prerequisite of CSCI 5611 or CSCI 5612</li></ul></li><li>• EDUC 5550 – Advanced Educational Psychology<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removing the prerequisite of EDUC 5500</li></ul></li><li>• MATH 5170 – Finite Mathematics<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updating the prerequisite from Admission to the Professional Science Masters’ Program or permission of instructor to Admission to the College of Graduate Studies or instructor permission.</li></ul></li><li>• MATH 5230 – Risk and Interest Rate Models<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updating the prerequisite from Admission to the MS or PSM in Computer Science and Quantitative Methods or Instructor permission to Admission to the College of Graduate</li></ul></li></ul> |                                 |

Studies or instructor permission.

- MATH 5310 – Advanced Machine Learning I
  - Updating the prerequisite from Admission to the MS or PSM in Computer Science and Quantitative Methods or Instructor permission to Admission to the College of Graduate Studies or instructor permission.
- MATH 5321 – Data Analysis and Programming
  - Updating the prerequisite from Admission to the MS or PSM in Computer Science and Quantitative Methods or Instructor permission to Admission to the College of Graduate Studies or instructor permission.
- STAT 5050 – Probabilistic and Statistical Reasoning
  - Updating the prerequisite from Admission to the Professional Sciences Master’s program in Data Management and Analysis or instructor permission to Admission to the College of Graduate Studies or instructor permission.
- STAT 5200 – SAS Programming
  - Updating the prerequisite from Admission into the PSM program or instructor permission to Admission to the College of Graduate Studies or instructor permission.
- STAT 5310 – Advanced Machine Learning I
  - Updating the prerequisite from Admission to the MS or PSM in Computer Science and Quantitative Methods or instructor permission to Admission to the College of Graduate Studies or instructor permission.
  
- **Course Description Update** **Implementation Fall 2025**
  - COMM 5001 – Pro-Seminar in Communication
    - **Old Description:**  
Overview of functions, processes, strategies, tools, and effects of communication. Introduces students to fields of marketing communication, advertising, public relations, sales, print-broadcast electronic media and to the theories governing the study of these fields. Must be taken on campus.
    - **New Description:**  
Introduces students to fields of Marketing Communication, Corporate Communication, and Media Management. Course topics will include research, theory, law, organizational communication, marketing, leadership, corporate social responsibility, public relations, social media, strategic communication, management, ethics, economics, and APA style research and citations.

- EDUC 5550 – Advanced Educational Psychology
  - **Old Description:**  
Designed for graduate students earning initial licensure in a Master’s of Arts in Teaching (MAT), a MS in Counseling with a concentration in school counseling, or an MSN with a concentration in nursing education, this course promotes understanding of human learning and development necessary to engender competent, caring professionals by providing opportunities to describe, compare, and contrast various theories in order to create appropriate learning environments.
  - **New Description:**  
Designed for graduate students earning initial licensure in a Master’s of Arts in Teaching (MAT) or a MS in Counseling with a concentration in school counseling. This course promotes an understanding of human learning and development necessary to engender competent, caring professionals by providing opportunities to describe, compare, and contrast various theories in order to create appropriate learning environments.
  
- MATH 5321 – Data Analysis and Programming
  - **Old Description:**  
This course exposes students to computer algebra systems and other statistical software packages. Students will learn to use software to extract relevant data, analyze data, and apply programming techniques to solve problems and application in the field of Mathematics, Statistics, Sciences, and Engineering.
  - **New Description:**  
This course exposes students to computer algebra systems and other statistical software packages. Students will learn to use software to extract relevant data, analyze data, and apply programming techniques to solve problems and application in the fields of Mathematics, Statistics, broad range of Sciences, Business, and Engineering.

Motion to approve.

No discussion or questions. No items requested to be removed from consent agenda.

Approved.

# Action Agenda Items

## College of Arts and Letters

**Department of Communication** – represented by Dr. Christina Hicks-Goldston

### Graduate Program Modification

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by the Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

1. Communication Arts, MA
  - Adding COMM 5001 (Pro-Seminar in Communication) into the MA Communication Arts major core.

Dr. Christina Hicks-Goldston presented that the department previously utilized this course but as it became a course where instructors taught what they wanted it became less relevant to the program and less useful to the students. However, the course as proposed would create a curriculum that would be utilized for all students and assist them with introductions to all Communication concentration and the program as a whole. While multiple instructors might teach this, the curriculum would be set and not vary by instructor.

Motion to Approve.

No questions or discussion.

Approved

**Department of History and Philosophy** – represented by Dr. Kevin Tanner

### Graduate Program Modification

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by the University President

2. World History Concentration, History MA
  - Adding a new concentration of World History. This is assisting with the formalization of guided field electives into specific areas of study. Previously, the department has created a Military History and U.S. History concentration based on this reasoning.

Dr. Kevin Tanner presented this as a way to formalize the World History electives so students selecting those options would have their education officially recognized on the academic transcript.

Motion to Approve.

No questions or concerns.

Approved.

## **Department of Language and Literature** – represented by Dr. Wes Atkinson

### **Graduate New Course**

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

#### 3. ENGL 6001 – Directed Portfolio and Professionalization

- The portfolio is an individually supervised, unified collection of multiple components that includes intensive revision of a paper or papers from previous coursework and other elements to be determined by the portfolio director to demonstrate an appropriate breadth of knowledge and sophistication of writing. This course also teaches students to identify and prepare for career paths in and beyond academia by having them assemble application materials (CV, resume, job letters, reference letters, etc.), prepare and give a professional presentation, and practice a comprehensive examination of graduate study of English.

### **Graduate Program Modification**

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by the University President

#### 4. Creative Writing Concentration, English MA

- The Department of Languages and Literature is consolidating the Creative Writing concentration into the English Major and renaming it to English Studies Concentration. Therefore, the Creative Writing concentration will need to be terminated.

### **Graduate Program Modification**

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

#### 5. English Studies Concentration, English MA

- The department is consolidating the two concentrations and the straight English major into one concentration of English Studies. Along with this change, the core is being revised to increase flexibility and imbed the comprehensive exam into a required course.

### **Graduate New Certificate**

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by the University President

#### 6. Creative Writing Graduate Certificate

- Signify expertise in Creative Writing through the Creative Writing Graduate Certificate. This certificate requires nine (9) credit hours of graduate-level coursework in Creative Writing seminars, internships, or literary journal editing. This certificate will replace the concentration in Creative Writing (which is deleted in a separate proposal) while allowing for greater flexibility for students.

#### 7. Linguistics Graduate Certificate

- Signify expertise in Linguistics through the Linguistics Graduate Certificate. This certificate requires nine (9) credit hours of graduate-level coursework in Linguistics. This certificate will be

stackable with the MA in English Studies.

#### 8. Literature and Literary Criticism

- Signify expertise in the Literature and Literary Criticism through the Literature and Literary Criticism Graduate Certificate. This certificate requires nine (9) credit hours of graduate-level coursework in Literature and Literary Criticism seminars. This certificate will allow greater flexibility for students who are interested in literature as well as Creative Writing, Linguistics, or Technical and Professional Writing.

#### 9. Technical and Professional Writing

- Signify expertise in Technical and Professional Writing through the Technical and Professional Writing Graduate Certificate. This certificate requires nine (9) credit hours of graduate-level coursework in Technical and Professional Writing seminars, internships, or professional writing internships.

Dr. Wes Atkinson presented proposals 3-9 as a package. He indicated they are reducing the multiple concentrations into one concentration option. Current concentrations which are being eliminated are being made into certificates. All certificate programs will consist of nine credit hours, these hours may also be applied to the MA degree. Finally, the MA in English currently requires a comprehensive exam, this requirement is being removed and the exam is being placed within a required course.

Motion to Approve.

Dr. Maria Cronley asked if all these concentration and certificates had an overlapping pot of courses which could be utilized across programs.

Dr. Wes Atkinson explained they did but that each individual certificate did have specific course requirements but those could be utilized for the MA degree.

Approved.

## College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

**Department of Leadership** – represented by Dr. William Rayburn

### Graduate Program Modification

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

#### 10. Strategic Leadership Concentration, Leadership MSL

- Removing LDSP 5105 (Project Planning and Scheduling) and LDSP 5420 (Applied Project Management) from the electives.
- Adding LDSP 5999 (Graduate Civic Leadership Program Completion).

Dr. William Rayburn presented the program change explaining they had sunset their old Project Management certificate and therefore are removing the two courses that would have been under the electives from that program to a new course of LDSP 5999. However, students will still have a large pool to choose from regarding electives.

Motion to approve

No question or comments

Approved.

## College of Business

**Department of Management and Marketing** – represented by Dr. Emily Lean

### Graduate New Course

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

#### 11. BUS 5430 – Business Creativity and Problem Solving with AI

- This course leverages generative AI to enhance creativity and solve complex business challenges. Students will learn to craft effective prompts to generate ideas, identify solutions, and simulate outcomes.

#### 12. BUS 5440 – Ethics and Governance in AI

- This course addresses the ethical considerations and governance challenges associated with AI deployment in business. It explores regulatory frameworks, bias mitigation, and strategies for implementing AI responsibly and transparently

Dr. Emily Lean explained there are two new courses being proposed and combined with some existing courses to establish the Artificial Intelligence concentration.

Motion to Approve.

No questions.

Maria was excited that AI had made it into the Curriculum. Emily stated she thinks we are the first school with this.

Approved.

### Graduate Program Modification

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

#### 13. Artificial Intelligence in Business, MBA Business Administration

- The College of Business proposes a new concentration that will equip students to be future business leaders with the knowledge and skills to leverage artificial intelligence effectively and responsibly by emphasizing practical applications, strategic insights, and ethical considerations.

Dr. Emily Lean explained there are two new courses being proposed and combined with some existing courses to establish the Artificial Intelligence concentration.

Motion to Approve.

No questions.

Dr. Maria Cronley voiced her excitement that AI had made it into the Curriculum. Dr. Emily Lean stated she thinks we are the first school with this as a program/concentration.

Approved.

## **College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**

**Department of Mathematics and Statistics** – represented by Dr. Ramanjit Sahi

**Graduate New Certificate**

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by the University President

### 14. Actuarial Science Certificate

- The graduate certificate in Actuarial Science provides students with essential skills needed to build a successful career in the actuarial field. The program cover key topics, including probability, statistics, financial mathematics, actuarial modeling, and their practical applications in insurance and financial risk management. Ideal for individuals looking to advance their careers in actuarial sciences, the certificate also helps prepare students for professional actuarial exams. Available both fully online and on-campus, the 12-15 credit hour program can be completed in one year, with credits potentially transferable to the master's degree program in Computer Science and Quantitative Methods, with a concentration in mathematical Finance.

Dr. Ramanjit Sahi presented that they are presenting a new certificate on actuarial science. This is related to how industry and professionals are adjusting and this will assist students who do not need a full degree program.

Motion to Approve

No questions or comments

Approved.

Final approval required by Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

15. Mathematical Finance Concentration, Computer Science and Quantitative Methods, MS

- Adding MATH 5170 as an elective.

16. Mathematical Finance Concentration, Computer Science and Quantitative Methods, PSM

- Adding MATH 5170 as an elective.

Dr. Ramanjit Sahi presented on items 15 and 16 that they are adding MATH 5170 to give students more options and to assist with recruiting students.

Motion to approve.

No questions or comments.

Approved.

17. Cybersecurity Concentration, Computer Science and Quantitative Methods, MS

- Adding CSCI 5760 (Graduate Linux System Administration)
- Updating the program description and the concentration contact.

18. Cybersecurity Concentration, Computer Science and Quantitative Methods, PSM

- Adding CSCI 5760 (Graduate Linux System Administration)
- Updating the program description and the concentration contact.

Dr. Nicholas Coleman presented on items 17 and 18. Adding a course that they have already been teaching. This course was not previously added as part of the program and are correcting this issue. Updating the program description and concentration contact.

Motion to approve

No questions or discussion

Approved.

# Martha Dickerson Eriksson College of Education

**Department of Educational Specialties** – represented by Dr. Ling Wang

## Graduate New Course

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by the Provost/SVP Academic Affairs.

### 19. EDUC 6660 – Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language

- This course provides an in-depth exploration of the theory and practice of teaching English to non-native speakers, focusing on the diverse needs of learners in ESL/EFL contexts. Students will examine foundational principles in second language acquisition, curriculum design, and lesson planning, with an emphasis on the development of effective teaching strategies for listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar, and address cultural considerations in ESL/EFL classrooms.

## Graduate Program Modification

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by the Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

### 20. Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), Certificate

- Reducing the number of required credit hours from 18 to 12.
- Making the certificate available online or on-campus.
- Adding a new course EDUC 6660 (Teaching English as a Second/Foreign Languages)

## Graduate Concentration Elevation

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by SACSCOC

### 21. Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), MAED

- An M.A.Ed. in TESOL will enhance the program's identity and make the program more recognizable to employers and institutions seeking TESOL specialists. Graduates from M.A.Ed. in TESOL will find it easier to communicate their expertise to potential employers, enhancing their job prospects in TESOL-specific roles. Establishing TESOL as a standalone major can open pathways for future curriculum development and attract more attention to the program, potentially leading to increased enrollment and resources for students. The program will gain more visibility through marketing efforts that highlight its distinct focus, benefiting current and prospective students. An M.A.Ed. in TESOL will better align with the current trends of increasingly recognizing the importance of multilingualism and cultural competence in Education and better address the globally growing demand of TESOL professionals.

Dr. Ling Wang presented items 19, 20, 21, 22 as a group. She explained the new course being developed would replace three older TESOL certificate courses that had been previously utilized. This will decrease the number of required credit hours for the certificate from 18 hours to 12 hours in the certificate.

Additionally, there is a proposal to elevate the TESOL concentration to a stand-alone major. Due to this being the only concentration not leading to licensure under the MAED and some recent agreements with school out of country. Other than the one new course, there is no additional curriculum changes to this program.

Motion to approve.

No questions or discussion

Approved.

## **Department of Teaching and Learning** – represented by Dr. Cheryl Lambert

### **Undergraduate New Certificate**

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by the University President

#### 22. English Language Learners Certificate

- For those interested in teaching English Language Learners in K-12 environments, this program allows enrollees to add an ELL endorsement to their existing licensure. In order to be eligible, students must currently be enrolled or meet the requirements of admission into the graduate programs.

### **Graduate Program Modification**

**Implementation Fall 2025**

Final approval required by the Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

#### 23. Integrated Early Childhood Education (PreK-3), Teaching MAT

- The Integrated Pre-K-3/Sped pathway is a much-needed expansion to alleviate the needs of the LEA. Most importantly, the shift to integrating early childhood and special education educator preparation programs is an authentic and intentional approach to ensure a culture of inclusivity in today's classrooms. Given the high percentage of students identified as needing particular education services, it is clear that all teachers should possess the tools necessary to support students with disabilities. Educator preparation programs are a powerful and critical lever for ensuring teachers are prepared for the demands of today's classrooms.

Originally had this in the wrong place on the agenda, it did not belong under Educational Specialties.

Dr. Cheryl Lambert presented that this certificate was originally a minor but are moving this to a certificate to allow candidates to apply for an endorsement on top of the licensure they already have. Assist with the district partners.

This committee has already approved previous proposals that have come forward and is required by the state of Tennessee as they have terminated the Early Childhood program.

Motion to approve items 22 and 23 (previous 20 and 23 due to misplacement on agenda).

No questions or discussion.

Approved.