



**GEORGIA
COLLEGE**
& STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate Council Meeting
Friday, January 16, 2026
1:00 p.m.
Atkinson 202

Call to Order

Members: Mandy Jarriel (Grad School), Doyin Cokerkolo (CoEd), Kristina Dandy (CoAS), Tanya Goette (CoBT), Josie Doss (CoHS), Janet Turner (CoEd), Mike Martino (CoHS), Krystal Canady (CoHS), Scott Cox (CoBT), Tina Holmes-Davis (CoAS), Al Mead (Chair, CoAS), Shanda Brand* (Grad Admissions), Solomon Ashu* (student rep.).

*non-voting

Additional: Cara Smith*, Kay Anderson*, Lyndall Muschell*

Regrets: Tanya Goette

Absent: Eleni Bonner

Guests:

Approval of Agenda

- Motion MM
- Second KD
- Vote: unanimous

Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2025.

- Motion MM
- Second KD
- Vote: unanimous

Welcome and Graduate School Updates: Mandy Jarriel, Interim Associate Provost, Director of the Graduate School

Dr. Jarriel shared several key updates across current projects and initiatives at this time. She noted continued progress on brand identity efforts, including development of the “It’s Different Here” campaign, which is moving forward as planned. Catalog revisions are also nearing completion and are close to being ready for launch. Additionally, there was discussion regarding international student engagement, with an emphasis on ensuring collaboration with the International Office as these efforts expand.

Program updates were reviewed as well, with one program still awaiting approval from USG, consistent with the information previously shared by Dr. Jarriel. Finally, The Graduate School email communication has been finalized and is now ready for use.

The search process is beginning for the Assistant Vice President for Graduate Research this role will also be the Graduate School Director/Coordinator, and members of the team may be asked to serve on the search committee.

Graduate enrollment is currently down at GCSU, although this trend is not reflected across all USG institutions.

A Graduate Education Task Force is being formed to explore innovative strategies for strengthening and advancing our graduate programs, with a focus on identifying what differentiates GCSU's offerings from those at other institutions.

Early discussions have also begun regarding the proposed M.S. in Organizational Leadership. The program is currently heavily rooted in Business and Arts & Sciences, and a consortium has been established to guide decisions about its future direction. A few other institutions have shown interest in this program concept. At this stage, the proposal remains very early in development.

Further details will be shared as they are received.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- maximum allowable credit overlap between graduate programs.
- Government and Sociology are working on developing a dual MPA/MSJ degree. This request highlighted that, institutionally, we do not currently have a defined standard for how many credits may be shared across two master's programs. After reviewing USG academic policy and discussing this with Kay, it appears that no such guidance exists.
- While our informal practice at GC has typically allowed approximately 9 hours of overlap, other USG institutions, such as Kennesaw State, permit significantly more (up to 18 hours).

Discussion:

Dr. Dandy presented and lead the following discussion:

Summary of Discussion Items:

- MPA/MSJ Overlap Review and discussion (KD):
KD noted that dual programs typically allow 9–18 hours of shared coursework, but there is no formal guidance beyond the requirement.
 - would like to examine other dual degree programs to understand how much overlap they currently allow to help guide our program development.
 - Shared vs. Individual Degree Requirements (Kay Anderson added):
Proposals must clearly outline which courses are shared between dual degrees and which courses are uniquely required for each individual degree.
- Credit Hour Justification (Mandy Jarriel):
 - Explained that programs may exceed standard credit hour limits only if a justification is provided. The rationale must be included when creating or amending a program.
- Academic Policy Oversight:
 - The group discussed whether certain matters—such as shared credit curricular policies—should be reviewed by the Senate, depending on whether they fall under the Senate's jurisdiction.
 - Follow up is needed.
- Limits on Dual-Degree Overlap (KD):
Dr. Dandy finished by emphasizing she wants to ensure any overlap is appropriately structured and

noted that ongoing conversation maybe needed about capping dual-degree overlap at possibly 9 hours to maintain program rigor and consistency.

More discussion to come.

- This topic led to further discussion started by Kay Anderson reiterated possibly long-term concerns about the Double Bobcat model, noting that students can currently apply 12–18 undergraduate hours toward a graduate degree.
 - She emphasized the need to establish clear limits so that bachelor’s coursework does not overly fulfill master’s requirements, which could eventually impact expectations at the doctoral level as well.
 - It was further added that this accelerated progress is also affecting graduate enrollment numbers. Students are completing master’s degrees so quickly after finishing their bachelor’s degrees that the university is not seeing an increase in graduate enrollment, despite their rapid completion.
- The discussion also highlighted that as new programs are developed, the institution must consider and plan for the faculty resources and requirements needed to support them.

Additional information is forthcoming as conversations continue.

- **Action Items:**

- **College of Arts & Sciences**

- None:

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- **College of Business & Technology**

- Master of Accountancy

- Add ACCT 5130 - VITA as accounting elective for the MACC Students.
 - Add ACCT 6350 as accounting elective for the MACC students.

- Dr. Scott Cox provided an update regarding the action item to add two new courses that have already been approved by the college.

- He proposed updating the program’s optional electives list so that these two approved courses can be included as additional elective options, giving students two more choices within the elective pool for those students.

· Motion KD

· Second MM

· Vote: unanimous

- **College of Education:**

- Professional Learning and Innovation

- EDTL 7100 / 7100-Practicum. Proposed change: Change EDTL 7100 – Leading Collaborative Cultures from a 3-hour course to a 4-hour course and eliminate the 1-hour EDTL 7100-Practicum course.

Dr. Janet Turner provided additional clarification regarding the COE action item. She explained that EDTL 7100, taken by the summer-start cohort of practicing teachers, currently includes both:

- a 3-credit theory course, and
- a separate 1-credit practicum (EDTL 7100 Practicum).

Because these students are full-time teachers and the course occurs during the summer, they struggle to complete a meaningful practicum experience within that one-hour requirement.

- She also noted that students do complete practicum hours later in the program, so the need for this early standalone practicum is minimal.

To better align with program structure and student realities, the proposal is to:

- Convert EDTL 7100 – Leading Collaborative Cultures from a 3-hour course to a 4-hour course,
- Eliminate the 1-hour EDTL 7100 Practicum, and
- Shift the early practicum expectation to theory-only content within the main course, since practical application requirements occur later in the program.

· Motion – TD

· Second JD

· Vote: unanimous

College of Health Sciences

- MSN, Graduate Certificates, DNP

- Change in Graduate Admissions requirements.

Josie Doss provided updates, discussion and clarification regarding the recent update to the Graduate Nursing Admissions Policy for BSN-to-DNP applicants. She explained that applicants may not yet hold an RN license at the time they apply—particularly if they have just graduated from their BSN program. To address this, the updated policy now allows applicants to still apply for the program and that nursing has a process in place to capture this information.

1. They will obtain their RN license in order to continue in the program after the first semester, and
2. They understand they must have one year of RN experience as part of the progression requirements.

This policy change ensures that newly graduated BSN students are not excluded from applying, do not necessarily need a separate application, but we do need to still maintaining the professional standards required for advancement within the DNP program and ensure that requirement are met in order to progress in the graduate programs.

· Motion DC

· Second KD

· Vote: unanimous

- **Information Items:**

- DNP: NRS 9300/L – Change from 4-0-4 (0 clinical hours) to 3-4-4 (60 clinical hours)
- DNP: NRS 9400/L – Change from 4-0-4 (0 clinical hours) to 3-4-4 (60 clinical hours)
- DNP: NRS 9320/L: Change from 1-6-3 (90 clinical hours) to 1-8-3 (120 clinical hours)
- DNP: NRS 9310/L: Change from 1-6-3 (90 clinical hours) to 1-8-3 (120 clinical hours)

Dr. Doss also provided updates related to the graduate nursing informational changes as listed above, and she addressed questions from the group to ensure full understanding of the revised changes. Her explanations clarified the rationale behind the updates.

Update from Each College:

- College of Arts & Sciences
- College of Business & Technology

Each college provided an update, and all agreed that strategic questions are being asked and that efforts are underway to explore new approaches for increasing graduate enrollment across the institution.

- College of Education

The College of Education echoed the broader institutional focus on asking strategic questions and identifying opportunities to grow graduate enrollment. In addition, they reported that they are actively engaging with local school districts to better understand workforce and program needs—including areas such as guidance counseling and psychology-related roles—to help shape future program development and ensure offerings remain aligned with district demands and professional expectations.

- College of Health Sciences

COHS shared that they are exploring the development of a Public Health Clinical Pathway in collaboration with SHHP and Nursing. The intent is to create a structured route that encourages students to remain within GCSU programs and potentially pursue a second degree in Nursing, strengthening progression and retention across health-related fields.

- They also reported ongoing consideration of a Doctor of Athletic Training (DAT) program. Two faculty members currently completing their doctorates at Ohio University will soon be fully credentialed, and COHS believes they have sufficient faculty capacity to support this possible addition. The proposed DAT would be delivered 100% online, making it broadly accessible and consistent with current professional trends.

Announcements/Discussion:

Next Meeting:

Graduate Council: February 13, 2026 (1:00 PM) – Atkinson 202

Adjournment

- Motion: MM
- Second: TD
- Vote: unanimous

Graduate Council Meetings for 2024-2025

August 29, 2025 – Atkinson 202

September 12, 2025 – Atkinson 202—did not meet, no agenda items

October 10, 2025 – Atkinson 202

November 7, 2025 – Atkinson 202

January 16, 2026 – Atkinson 202

February 13, 2026 – Atkinson 202

March 6, 2026 – Atkinson 202

April 3, 2026 – Atkinson 202