# Graduate Council Annual Report, 2022-2023

## Membership

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Faculty Members  Jason Triche, Management Information Systems (2023) Chair Kelly McKinnie, Mathematics (2023) Eric Reimer, English (2023) Katrina Mullan, Economics (2023) Chuck Dumke, Integrative Physiology and Athletic Training (2023) Fletcher Brown, Teaching and Learning (2023) Greg Machek, Psychology (2023) Duncan Campbell, Psychology (2023) Nat Levtow, History / WLC (2025) Dong Wang, Chemistry (2025) Douglas Brinkerhoff, Computer Science (2025) Nadia White, Journalism (2025) Keith Bosak, Society and Conservation-fall (2025) Laurie Yung, Society and Conservation - spring | Graduate Students: Megan Albee Jared Gibbs  Ex-Officio Members Ashby Kinch, Dean, Graduate School Kimber McKay, Acting Vice Provost |

## Subcommittee Members

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Humanities Eric Reimer, English (Co-chair) Nat Levtow, History/WLC (Co-chair) Professional Schools Chuck Dumke, Integrative Physiology & Athletic Training (Chair)  Fletcher Brown, Teaching and Learning  Nadia White, Journalism)  Keith Bosak, Society & Conservation – Fall  Laurie Yung, Society & Conservation – Spring | SciencesKelly McKinnie Mathematics (Chair) Doug Wang, Chemistry Douglas Brinkerhoff, Computer Science    Social Sciences Katrina Mullan, Economics Greg Machek, Psychology  Erin Semmens, Public & Community Health |
| DIS Oversight Committee  Duncan Campbell, Psychology (Co-chair) Erin Semmens, Public & Community Health (Co-chair) Kelly McKinnie, Mathematics Nat Levtow, History/WLC Doug Wang, Chemistry Keith Bosak, Society and Conservation Douglas Brinkerhoff, Computer Science | |

Committee Charge

* Promote, review, and evaluate graduate programs to ensure vitality, currency, and quality;
* Review and make recommendations on all requests for new programs, for deletions of programs, and for curriculum additions or changes by departments and schools;
* Consider suggested changes in Graduate School regulations;
* Consider issues raised by graduate students relating to regulations of specific graduate programs or their welfare;
* Initiate and supervise interdisciplinary graduate programs in response to national, regional, or state needs, or to the desires and needs of sufficient numbers of graduate students;
* Decide on substantive matters relating to graduate programs, curricula, general Graduate School regulations, awards and scholarships, etc., and forward decisions to the Graduate School, Faculty Senate, and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs as appropriate.

Meetings

Graduate Council met via Zoom and face-to-face during the academic year. Members missed the face-to-face interaction, but also found it convenient to have the appropriate documents on their computer screens during discussions.

Annual Curriculum Review

The Coursedog contract was extended through September 30th to accommodate the submission of fall curriculum proposals. The forms were downloaded into PDF for the review. The spring curriculum deadline was extended to March 3rd given delays in CourseLeaf implementation. [Virtual CourseLeaf trainings](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.leepfrog.com%2Fwebdemo%2Fumt&data=05%7C01%7Ccamie.foos%40mso.umt.edu%7Ce1f6071f70354a61140d08dafff3b703%7C68407ce503da49ffaf0a724be0d37c9d%7C0%7C0%7C638103719454292490%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Jde4bd4f1BUjnRulYThLIF0euwF%2FpaCreGvYJPVD9JQ%3D&reserved=0) were available January 31st at 2:00 p.m. and February 3rd at 11:00 a.m. and Associate Registrar Troy Morgan attended the March 8th meeting to give a demonstration.   
  
The Graduate Council acted on 77 proposals, including 4 level II and 5 level I proposals, 5 program modifications, 22 new courses, and 23 course deletions. This includes 16 proposals considered in the spring, including 2 level II, 1 program modifications, and 9 new courses. The Council organized the review assignments among four subcommittees: humanities, professional schools, science, and social science. In order to balance the workload, some proposals were moved among subcommittees; otherwise the professional schools subcommittee would review 2-3x more proposals than other subcommittees. At the start of the semester, Chair Triche held a curriculum review training session for subcommittee chairs to communicate the goals and objectives of the review process, where to access files, and the deadlines for completing reviews. Subcommittee Chairs were provided with an excel template to take notes.

### Academic Program Form -Level I

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type of Proposal | Title | Description |
| Level I | Museum Studies | New Graduate Certificate |
| [Level I](https://umt.app.box.com/s/sz0d3ok4hti1msjcu07eo3cecmluxhdg) | MS in Integrated Physiology -Generalist | Name change to: Integrated Physiology – Sports Performance |
| [Level](https://wapps.umt.edu/winapps/adminfin/eCurr/CourseForm/Index/3515) I | Transitional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (tOTD) | Change title to post-professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (ppOTD) |

### Academic Program Form -Level I – Spring

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level I | [550: Trauma Studies Certificate](https://umt-next.courseleaf.com/courseleaf/courseleaf.cgi?page=/programadmin/550/index.html&step=showfullrecord) | New Certificate |
| Level I | [JD and MS in Resource Conservation](https://umt.box.com/s/p1aq4j5e6o60lcb7qz5485irei6brjko)- Dual program | |
| Level I -program revision | [490: Master of Social Work](https://umt-next.courseleaf.com/courseleaf/courseleaf.cgi?page=/programadmin/490/index.html&step=showfullrecord) – Advance Standing Program | |

### Academic Program Form -Level II

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [Level II](https://umt.box.com/s/mrse4hnlmsa7xcox1vehzthmkm2s6jdu) | MA Mathematics Consolidation | Combine the Mathematics MA" and the "Mathematics Education MA |
| Level II | Sociology Department name change | To Sociology and Criminology |

### Academic Program Form -Level II -Spring

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level II | [542: Master of Physician Assistant Studies](https://umt-next.courseleaf.com/courseleaf/courseleaf.cgi?page=/programadmin/542/index.html&step=showfullrecord) | New Program (\*note\* provisional approval) |
| Level II | [545: Joint MPA/MPH Degree](https://umt-next.courseleaf.com/courseleaf/courseleaf.cgi?page=/programadmin/545/index.html&step=showfullrecord) | New Program |

\*Note\*

1. The process is expediated due to an accreditation visit therefore our approval is only to move forward with the accreditation.
2. We did not have time to review new course syllabi for rigor.
3. We require the program to resubmit the proposal and new course once the new director is hired.

Given the long lead time and sustained examination of the future external accreditation process for the PA Masters, Graduate Council is approving the creation of the degree, so that process can move forward. But Graduate Council wants the program to have a secondary process where the pieces of the curriculum are re-submitted in line with those external accreditation standards.  The Graduate Council recognizes that the degree approval process is necessary to move forward the accreditation, and we support that, but we do not want this approval to be construed as having exhaustively examined the degree.

## Curriculum Review Issues

* Professor Chacon, who proposed the Museum Studies Certificate joined the Council on 10/26/22 to addressed the questions from the subcommittee. The Certificate is designed as an easy entry program for current professionals with existing baccalaureate degrees and would serve 7 states. It is modeled after the Creative Pulse Program with flexible courses and was reviewed by the Strategic Enrollment Process (SEP) and a needs assessment was conducted by Hanover Research.   
  Students would need to review the course offerings on the website since the catalog would only have a description for Museum Studies Seminar and Museum Studies Field Project. There would also be a press release with the offerings. The Board of Regents Policy requires a common core. The Director would track the field projects in an area of the students’ interest. Common content will include History & Theory and Exhibition and Design.
* The Council has considered the MPA / MPH degree 3 different times. It was approved prior to the update to policy C5300 which differentiates between a single joint degree and a dual degree which meets the requirements for two degrees. There are now students ready to graduate, but there seems to be a misunderstanding / miscommunication of the program. Another proposal will be submitted and reviewed as a single degree with a new CIP code to resolve the issue for these students and to correct advising going forward.   
    
  Dean Gagliardi had concerns about MPA accreditation related to the joint MPA/MPH program. The CouresLeaf proposal did not have Dean Gagliardi’s approval. Camie sent a PDF to her for consideration. The item was taken off the April consent agenda. Revisions were received and the item was put on the May consent agenda.
* Professor Thomas A. Bryant joined Graduate Council on 4/5/23 to discuss the questions related to the [Physician Assistant proposal](https://umt.box.com/s/39xs5s5iv9dcqhls77zp4njcp9xfakp6) / [Pathway](https://umt.box.com/s/39xs5s5iv9dcqhls77zp4njcp9xfakp6). The Council was concerned that the current proposal has 114 credits and thought this may be a result of UW being on quarters rather than semesters. Also the course forms were missing. The proposal was quickly revised to be reconsidered since the accrediting body won’t start the timeline until the university and Board of Regents approves the program. However, the Council still had concerns so voted to give the program a provisional approval.
* Dawn Hambrick, Director of Graduate Programs for the College of Business joined the meeting on 4/5/23 to answer questions regarding the program modification for the MS in Business Analytics. Not all the course forms were available when Graduate Council started the review. The restructure eliminates electives and creates additional core courses. The changes will not increase faculty load. 4-5-23

## Program Reviews

* The following program review documents were approved. The Council continues to use the [Qualtrics](https://umt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eyUJklllwIeQrGt) survey to streamline the process. The Educational Leadership program review was postponed since the internal review information was missing.
  + History
  + Visual and Media Arts
  + Counseling

## Bertha Morton Awards

* This year $75,000 was available for Bertha Morton scholarships and only $1,500 for recruiting   
  There were 48 applications and each subcommittee reviewed 12 to decide on the 25 awards at $3,000/ea.

## Procedure and Policy Review Items

### Policies

* Chair Triche developed the [Curriculum Review Check List](https://umt.box.com/s/6txny9tm6oppv6jpvpz11af20op3icyo) for members to reference while conducting the curriculum review.
* The [International Admissions Policy](https://umt.box.com/s/c58jabwj5znye348l7zjybqflmf7c4b1) was revised. The grid of countries from which UM accepts English proficiency waivers was updated and the TOEFL take-home test was added. The Graduate School will continue to consider petitions on a case-by- case basis. (9/21/22)
* The [Dormant Course Report](https://umt.box.com/s/v3ftpx067oyro0ytscanbvzacflkmhbl) / [Procedure](https://www.umt.edu/faculty-senate/procedures/ascrc-procedures-201/dormant-courses-201.pdf) was shared with the Council as information. Department Chairs have been given the opportunity to request that courses be retained. (10/19/23)
* The [Student Academic Probation/Suspension](https://umt.box.com/s/pwazabb4x74d9m9a0kt7krnwuk82rdpb) policy was updated. COVID revealed some gaps in the policy Dean Kinch and reviewed MSU’s policy and worked with Kate Duran, Associate Legal Counsel to formalize the procedure timeline an clarify the appeal process. (11/9/22)
* The [Bertha Morton Recruitment Procedure](https://umt.app.box.com/s/mpu08zy3wqxq44qp14olesipmrix6og8)  was added to the Faculty Senate procedures available on the website. (11/16/22)
* The [DIS Admissions Policy](https://umt.box.com/s/7wr0xsfrhj6lpojor578g6qirrqw9ihc) was edited to allow two of five committee members to have an MFA if it is the terminal degree in the unit for students seeking an interdisciplinary degree with a substantial creative component. The Graduate School Dean would still review exceptions for other programs for which an MA is the terminal degree.
* A workgroup was assigned to review the [Certificate Guidelines](https://www.umt.edu/faculty-senate/procedures/graduate-council-procedures-301/graduate-certificate-guidelines-301.pdf) policy. The [proposed revisions](https://umt.box.com/s/ad2nz1o9mu8g3ru5wk3rcgnxmljw70d7) were discussed at the 3/1/23 meeting but were not finalized. The revisions are pending for next academic year.
* The Graduate Council discussed the [Interim Assessment of New Programs](https://www.umt.edu/faculty-senate/procedures/ecos-procedures-102/ecos-new-program-assessment-102.pdf) procedure. (1/25/23)   
  Since 2018 OCHE has required a three-year and five-year follow-up of level II proposals. The Interim Assessment Procedure will be edited to incorporate the OCHE review. (2-1-23, 2-22-23, 3-8-23) The Council will consider the revised procedure next fall. (4-26-23)

Other Business Items:

* Approved the 2021-22 DIS [annual report.](https://umt.box.com/s/fkrub8sv0qzod8rgaqlyjuwy4tnrshpz)
* The Graduate Council drafted another TA/RA stipend resolution to stress the importance of the issue to the administration. (2/22/23) The resolution was approved by the Faculty Senate 3/16/23 and was sent to the administration by Chair Triche on 4/7/23.
* The Council briefly discussed the issue of non-existent CIP codes for the joint MPA / MPH graduate degree. The CIP code will depend on the area of focus. In the past Interdisciplinary programs were put in the other category which is problematic for UM’s Carnegie classification.

Pending Strategic Initiatives

* + WAGS/UMI Award – revisit/ delete policy [The issue with this procedure is timing. The deadline is two weeks before the semester starts, so Dean Kinch has been doing the work. UM has not had a successful candidate for the $1,000 award. Dean Kinch will also consider a process for the 3- minute thesis competition.]
  + Review of UG and Co-convened systems of course offerings – revisit policy, grad increments for UG courses, teaching in-load (UG vs co-convene) [ Graduate increments continue to be missing from syllabi when courses are modified, which leads one to believe graduate students may not always have different expectations in UG courses. Is there a better way to manage? Should UG courses transition to co-convened? Co-convening was created because accreditation standards for some programs do not allow 400-level courses to count towards graduate degrees. This is also an equity issue in terms of faculty load. Some units count UG courses once, but co-convened courses twice.]
  + Program review meta-analysis
  + Investigate number of graduate courses available to student outside of majors for interdisciplinary programs [Often course have restrictions but instructors may consider exceptions through the consent of instructor process.]
  + Teaching Certificates for Graduate Assistants [Dean Kinch is working on this and would warmly appreciate faculty joining the effort. The certificate would likely be housed in Education or the Graduate School and would need consistent offerings to include methods and course development.]

## Other Communication Items

* Various updates from the Graduate School
  + Over the summer the worked on three projects (implementation of U-approve contracts [Kendal], transition to Slate for graduate student admission [Jessica] and creating a graduate catalog). The catalog is mandated by the VA.
  + The Graduate School is working to set up career paths to quickly promote staff to higher pay rates given the issues with recruiting and retaining staff.
  + Slate is in use. The implementation was challenging given the staffing issues in IT. (1-25-23)
  + The residency issue in Slate were resolved by adding a question that asks students if they were recently enrolled as a Montana resident undergraduate student. The Graduate School will still need to confirm the information, but it will be less onerous for the student. (2-1-23)
* The Graduate School’s website has been updated with additional information about health insurance and housing for [newly admitted students](https://www.umt.edu/grad/student-journey/new-students.php). 2-1-23
* Dean Kinch held a graduate student listening session that was attended by individuals interested in Unionizing the students. There are some very strong opinions on the issue. (10/26/22)
* Dean Kinch is working to streamline the graduation application process and improve the accuracy of record keeping. Graduate students are not yet built into DegreeWorks. The Registrar’s Office has limited resources, so this will take some time. The accuracy of the graduate catalog information needs to be verified. Programs should link to the catalog rather than maintaining information on websites. (3-8-23)
* More details will be added to the web site about office functions including staff member video introductions.. (4-26-23)
* Professor Levtow provided the following statement with respect to the problem identified in the opening paragraph of the proposed DIS Admissions/Committee revision:

"The University of Montana seeks to retain its classification as a Carnegie Very High Research Activity Institution (R-1), and has listed as a key strategy under PFA 2, ‘Grow PhD Completers’ 2.3.2 (Maintain Carnegie “Very High Research Activity” Classification).... In STEM, and to some extent social science, our per/faculty ranking is strong, but we are very weak in Humanities PhDs, as we have only one established program (History)."

*Thanks Jason, and thanks Duncan and all for holding two additional meetings about this proposal, including on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This clearly reflects your, and our commitment to the graduate school and our students, as well as our respectful attention to all proposals that come to this committee in this constructive spirit.*

*Thanks also to Ashby for his tireless and constructive efforts to create opportunities for UM grad students within our budgetary constraints, and for his email yesterday in which he clarified that this proposal was not developed as strategic solution to the problem it identifies.*

*As the Graduate Council passes this measure, it is important to note that this proposal is neither intended nor effective as a solution to the problem it identifies: specifically, that UM must produce more humanities PhD's to retain R1 status. Because this proposal highlights this problem, it was my responsibility to argue that it will not lead to robust Humanities PhD production for R1, and so should indeed not be presented or viewed as a solution to the problem it identifies.*

*Efforts to create more Humanities PhD's while continuing to reduce Humanities programs, and not invest in them, will fail.  While I'm here to say that, I want to make a positive recommendation:*

*If, as was noted in yesterday's meeting, UM distinguishes itself from MSU by being recognized as a University in all its dimensions beyond stem; and if having viable humanities programs is a key to why UM receives R1 status - we need to make this clear to all stakeholders at every chance:*

*There is direct benefit, financially also, for investing in the Humanities; and that there is a cost to reducing Humanities programs to the point of nonviability.  Those benefits, and those costs, impact UM beyond its remaining humanities programs.*

*I encourage the grad school to continue at every opportunity like this, to make that case.  If R1 is a concern, the solution to humanities PhD productivity at UM is to support robust humanities programs.*

*Thanks for listening; I've taken the time - your time - here to identify the institutional and financial incentives to invest in humanities again at UM .  There are disciplines in the humanities and scholarship; without those disciplines, interdisciplinarity is only a slogan.*

Acting Vice Provost McKay put the link to the [Academic Planning and Priorities Statements](https://mus.edu/che/arsa/AcademicPlanningAndPriorities/ACademic-Priorities-and-PLanning-Statement-2022_2.pdf) in the Chat as information to members. 12-7-22

## Appendix

# Doctoral Interdisciplinary Studies Program (DIS) Annual Report, Academic Year 2022-23

**DIS Roster:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AY 18-19** | **AY 19-20** | **AY 20-21** | **AY 21-22** | **AY 22-23** |
| **Active Students** | **10** | **10** | **12** | **6** | **5** |
| **Inactive Students** | **1** | **1** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| **Leave / Transfer** | **0** | **0** | **3** | **1** | **0** |
| **Graduated** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **2** |
| **Newly Admitted** | **3** | **3** | **0** | **0** | **0** |

## Current Enrollment / Student Surveys

5 students were enrolled in the fall, and 4 in the spring, 1 completed in fall 2022, 4 of whom submitted surveys. 4 of those 4 have completed comps. 1 is slated to complete their dissertation in fall 2023. While two students have a full-time paid position, 2 others report professional activities related to their research: conference presentations as well as a paper submission to the ICML Conference.

## **IGP Work: *22-year statistics: 2001-2023***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Admissions | 73 |
| Declined offers | 6 |
| Stop-out | 7 |
| Transferred | 8 |
| Graduated | 46 |
| Active Currently | 4 |

Dean Ashby Kinch and Kendall Kihn, the new program manager responsible for the DIS administrative support, continue to work all inquiries to the DIS and MIS programs. There were 4 new inquiries about the DIS program in the last academic year. 1 of those resulted in a complete application (admission for Fall 24), Gabriella Graceffo (more detail below). 2 others may be applying in the Fall of 23 for Spring 24 admission.

## New Developments

Following up on last year’s work at expanding interest in the degree among non-STEM students (see *Creative Humanities Track in the DIS*, from 2022 report), the major development in AY 22-23 was the adoption of new policy on committee composition for the DIS to facilitate interdisciplinary work between and among our arts and humanities faculty. The policy change ([G1.000](https://www.umt.edu/grad/student-journey/current-students/academic-policies/qualifications-of-graduate-committee.php): Qualifications of Graduate Committee Members) impacts the ability of such committees to include faculty whose terminal degree is an MFA.

UM has only one existing PhD in the Humanities, which is History, a program that has had faculty involvement in DIS committees in the recent past: a History faculty member served on the committee for Peter Phillips who graduated in Fall 22. Phillips had an MFA in Theater, and developed a DIS proposal that combined elements of history and psychology with his focus on the great American playwright Tennessee Williams. A second fall 22 graduate, Rebecca Durham, who has an MFA in Poetry and an MS in Botany, completed her degree with a dissertation that combined work in ecocriticism, environmental philosophy, and literature. She produced two books of poetry while completing her DIS, won a Bertha Morton Award, and defended a dissertation with both an analytical, research focus and a creative product.

Combined with new funding opportunities from the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship, this new direction will allow the DIS program to recruit students from MFA programs who have sufficient academic preparation and a clear research focus to have funding for 2 years to pursue their PhDs beyond their high-credit MFAs. Gabriella Graceffo is the first applicant in this model, and she is a prime candidate: in addition to her MFA work, she has completed substantial credits in the MA in Literature, and has an ambitious research agenda exploring interdisciplinary work in trauma theory across multiple programs (Community Heath and Psychology).

*Native American Studies Track in the DIS*

With precipitous faculty changes in NAS last year—both Dr. Shanley’s planned retirement and the sudden departure of Dave Beck—the collaboration on the multi-campus work has stalled somewhat, as has the integration of the MA in Native American Studies (which was held by the Provost’s Office). There is a hire in NAS ongoing, however, and new grant opportunities in that program, whose combined effect might be to allow this track to jumpstart. We admitted a student into the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies, and have a recent graduate with a BA also interested in that path, so this pipeline may develop through the combined work in Anthropology, History, and Literature, as well as undergraduates in NAS.

We are likely graduating a DIS student, Ramey Growingthunder, who works on educational models relevant to the culture of her home reservation, Ft. Peck.