Graduate Council Minutes

https://unt.curriculog.com/agenda:812/form

November 20, 2025

https://unt.zoom.us/j/89359333174

Zoom mtg. ID: 893 5933 3174

Note: Course changes and additions will not take effect until they are listed in the graduate catalog. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board must be notified of any item marked with a double asterisk (**) and must approve any item marked with a single asterisk (*) before listing in the graduate catalog. Items marked with a plus (+) must be approved by the Department of Education before being listed in the graduate catalog.

Graduate Council Voting Members: ***Rose Baker, Ana Cleveland, Jessica Craig, Mariya Gavrilova Aguilar, Jaymee Haefner, Jennifer Lane****, Maurizio Manzo (absent),* ***Divesh Ojha, Olav Richter****, Dalena Taylor (absent),* ***Anto Verghese***

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jennifer Lane:

- Welcomed all Graduate Council members and attendees
- Informed members that she will have a semester sabbatical in Spring and would like to call on any volunteer/nomination for someone at the next mtg. (on 1/15) to step in as interim committee chair.
- Informed members & attendees that there will not be GC meeting for the month of December

Brenda Barrio:

- Welcomed all Graduate Council members and attendees and thanked all the departments for working together to get their proposals in for today's meeting.

Jennifer Lane:

- Reminded/illustrated to voting members on how to submit their vote
- Called the meeting to order

II. MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE ON ITEM II-1. – APPROVED
ITEM II-1. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEM II-1

II-1. Approval of October 16, 2025, minutes

III. CHAIR / TGS DISCUSSION ITEMS / ACTION ITEMS / INFORMATION ITEMS

IV. REQUEST FOR NEW COURSES

College of Engineering

Department of Mechanical Engineering

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM IV-1. - APPROVED
ITEM IV-1. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEM IV-1

IV-1. **MEEN 5940Z - Graduate Seminar in Mechanical and Energy Engineering** (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: Implementation will be highly beneficial to the ME grad students.)

Description: Provides exposure to multidisciplinary research and opinions on current and future issues from industrial, scientific, academic, governmental, and engineering experts from mechanical and energy engineering areas.

College of Health & Public Service

Department of Rehabilitation & Health Services

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM IV-2. - APPROVED
ITEM IV-2. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEM IV-2.

IV-2. HLSV 5990 - Internship in Health Services

Description: The supervised internship provides graduate students with applied, hands-on experience in professional settings across health services organizations, healthcare systems, research institutions, or data-driven health enterprises. Students integrate theoretical knowledge from their coursework in health services administration or health data analytics with practical skills in leadership, operations management, policy implementation, or data analysis for decision-making.

College of Information

Department of Information Science

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS IV-3. AND IV-4. AS A BLOCK - APPROVED
ITEMS IV-3. AND IV-4. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEMS IV-3. AND IV-4.

IV-3. INFO 5715 - Vibe Coding: AI Collaboration for Rapid Development (requested exception yr.: 2026-27)

Description: Introduces the foundational concepts and practical applications of a methodology for collaborative, human-AI information system prototyping, focusing on demonstrations of the power and building using the approach. Moving beyond traditional programming, this approach focuses on using natural language and high-level conceptual prompts to iteratively develop and refine functional systems. Participants learn how to effectively partner with large language models (LLMs), multimodal models, and other AI tools to accelerate the prototyping lifecycle, from initial idea generation to the creation of a functional information system. The curriculum emphasizes the development of a practitioner's "algorithmic intuition," or a deep understanding of how to guide and critique AI-generated outputs. - Click the link for more details.

IV-4. INFO 5719 - Human-AI Multi-Agent Interaction Design (requested exception yr.: 2026-27)

Description: Exploring the principles and practices of designing systems where humans and multiple AI agents collaborate to achieve complex goals. Moving beyond single-agent interaction, the curriculum focuses on the basic architecture and protocols necessary for effective multi-agent systems, including how agents communicate with each other (Agent2Agent protocols) and how humans provide oversight and direction (MCP). Students learn to design, prototype, and evaluate users and multi-agents' experiences (UX and AX) that blend human insight with the computational power of AI agents. Key topics include collaborative task decomposition, conflict resolution among agents, and the design of transparent and auditable human interfaces for AI control. Through hands-on projects, students develop a critical understanding of the technical challenges and ethical considerations involved in building and directing multi-agent systems, preparing them to create synergistic and human-centered solutions.

V. REQUEST FOR ADD NEW OR DELETE EXISTING MAJOR/PROFESSIONAL FIELD, CONCENTRATION, OPTION, MINOR, CERTIFICATE (excluding GACs), OR SPECIALIZATION

College of Information

Department of Information Science

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM V-1. - APPROVED
ITEM V-1. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEM V-1.

V-1. **Information Science with a concentration in Agentic Artificial Intelligence, MS** (add) (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: making it available for students)

Justification: LLMs along with natural language instruction currently enable AI systems to flexibly accept voice and natural text prompts as instructions for complex information management and response tasks, and currently available multimodal (e.g. vision) models provide rich interaction capabilities that can be managed with more accessible skill sets. The goal of this concentration is to assure that students are not only aware of these tools and techniques but also have experience creating and augmenting information systems with them, building on the expertise of our research faculty which already manage multi-agent systems. This is particularly valuable as the students move forward through their degree program and carry these tools and integration knowledge with them throughout their curriculum enriching group projects, discussions, and impacts of these tools on society from a deeply informed perspective.

VI. REQUEST FOR ALL GRADUATE ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES

College of Information

Department of Information Science

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM VI-1. - APPROVED
ITEM VI-1. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEM VI-1.

VI-1. **Graduate Academic Certificate in Agentic Artificial Intelligence for Information Systems** (**) (add) (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: making it available for students)

Justification: LLMs along with natural language instruction currently enable AI systems to flexibly accept voice and natural text prompts as instructions for complex information management and response tasks, and currently available multimodal (e.g. vision) models provide rich interaction capabilities that can be managed with more accessible skill sets. The goal of this certificate is to assure that students are not only aware of these tools and techniques but also have experience creating and augmenting information systems with them, building on the expertise of our research faculty which already manage multi-agent systems. This is particularly valuable as the students move forward through their degree program and carry these tools and integration knowledge with them throughout their curriculum enriching group projects, discussions, and impacts of these tools on society from a deeply informed perspective.

VII. REQUEST FOR NEW GRADUATE TRACK PATHWAYS

College of Engineering

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS VII-1. THROUGH VII-5. AS A BLOCK - APPROVED
ITEMS VII-1. THROUGH VII-5. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEMS VII-1. THROUGH VII-5.

VII-1. through VII-5. (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: approved by UUCC at October 2025 meeting for inclusion in 2026-27 catalog)

VII-1. **Computer Engineering, BS with grad track option leading to Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering, MS**

Justification: The new Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering, MS program is an interdisciplinary program that prepares students for the vital and growing semiconductor industry. This cross-departmental grad track pathway will allow students in the Computer Engineering, BS program to combine the knowledge they gained through their BS degree with advanced education in semiconductor manufacturing.

This grad track pathway provides the opportunity for any qualified Computer Engineering BS (CMPE-BS) student to complete a Master's in Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering (SCME-MS). Students can transfer up to 9 approved credits from their CMPE-BS degree to SCME-MS program.

VII-2. Computer Science, BS with grad track option leading to Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering, MS

Justification: The new Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering, MS program is an interdisciplinary program that prepares students for the vital and growing semiconductor industry. This cross-departmental grad track pathway will allow students in the Computer Science, BS program to combine the knowledge they gained through their BS degree with advanced education in semiconductor manufacturing.
This grad track pathway provides the opportunity for any qualified Computer Science BS (CSCI-BS) student to complete a Master's in Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering (SCME-MS). Students can transfer up to 9 approved credits from their CSCI-BS degree to SCME-MS program.

VII-3. Electrical Engineering, BS with grad track option leading to Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering, MS

Justification: The new Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering, MS program is an interdisciplinary program that prepares students for the vital and growing semiconductor industry. This cross-departmental grad track pathway will allow students in the Electrical Engineering, BS program to combine the knowledge they gained through their BS degree with advanced education in semiconductor manufacturing.
This grad track pathway provides the opportunity for any qualified Electrical Engineering, BS (EENG-BS) student to complete a Master's in Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering (SCME-MS). Students can transfer up to 9 approved credits from their EENG-BS degree to SCME-MS program.

VII-4. Materials Science and Engineering, BS with grad track option leading to Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering, MS

Justification: The new Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering, MS program is an interdisciplinary program that prepares students for the vital and growing semiconductor industry. This cross-departmental grad track pathway will allow students in the Materials Science and Engineering, BS program to combine the knowledge they gained through their BS degree with advanced education in semiconductor manufacturing.
This grad track pathway provides the opportunity for any qualified Materials Science and Engineering Bachelor of Science (MSEN-BS) student to complete a Master's in Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering (SCME-MS). Students can transfer up to 9 approved credits from their MSEN-BS degree to SCME-MS program.

VII-5. Mechanical and Energy Engineering, BS with grad track option leading to Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering, MS

Justification: The new Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering, MS program is an interdisciplinary program that prepares students for the vital and growing semiconductor industry. This cross-departmental grad track pathway will allow students in the Mechanical and Energy Engineering, BS program to combine the knowledge they gained through their BS degree with advanced education in semiconductor manufacturing.
This grad track pathway provides the opportunity for any qualified Mechanical and Energy Engineering Bachelor of Science (MEEN-BS) student to complete a Master's in Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering (SCME-MS). Students can transfer up to 9 approved credits from their MEEN-BS degree to SCME-MS program.

VIII. REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN PROGRAM, MAJOR, MINOR, DEGREE, OPTION, CONCENTRATION OR REQUIREMENTS

College of Engineering

Department of Mechanical Engineering

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS VIII-1. THROUGH VIII-3. AS A BLOCK - APPROVED
ITEMS VIII-1. THROUGH VIII-3. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEMS VIII-1. THROUGH VIII-3.

VIII-1. **Mechanical and Energy Engineering with a concentration in Biomedical Engineering, PhD** (change in other: Seminar course (MEEN 5940) is being replaced with its zero-credit version (MEEN 5940Z). Current total Seminar hours (3-hrs) are being added to elective hours. Total credit hours for the degree remain the same.) (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: this proposal aims to replace current Seminar course with its recently approved zero-credit version. Implementation of this change in AY2026-27 will be highly beneficial to the ME grad students.)

Justification: The current 1-credit Seminar course presents challenges. For MS students, it often results in a total of 31 credit hours, exceeding the 30-hour program requirement. The only workaround is to pair the Seminar with a 2-hour Directed Study. However, this is not practical as it depends on faculty and student availability and willingness. PhD students are also required to take the Seminar at least three times.
By transitioning to a zero-credit Seminar, we can eliminate the excess credit issue for MS students and allow PhD students more flexibility to enroll in additional organized courses or pursue Individual Research.

VIII-2. **Mechanical and Energy Engineering, MS** (change in other: Seminar course (MEEN 5940) is being replaced with its zero-credit version (MEEN 5940Z)) (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: This proposal aims to replace current Seminar course with its recently approved zero-credit version. Implementation of this change in AY2026-27 will be highly beneficial to the ME grad students.)

Justification: The current 1-credit Seminar course presents challenges. For MS students, it often results in a total of 31 credit hours, exceeding the 30-hour program requirement. The only workaround is to pair the Seminar with a 2-hour Directed Study. However, this is not practical as it depends on faculty and student availability and willingness. PhD students are also required to take the Seminar at least three times.
By transitioning to a zero-credit Seminar, we can eliminate the excess credit issue for MS students and allow PhD students more flexibility to enroll in additional organized courses or pursue Individual Research.

VIII-3. **Mechanical and Energy Engineering, PhD** (change in other: Seminar course (MEEN 5940) is being replaced with its zero-credit version (MEEN 5940Z). Current total Seminar hours (3-hrs) are being added to elective hours. Total credit hours for the degree remain the same.) (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: This proposal aims to replace current Seminar course with its recently approved zero-credit version. Implementation of this change in AY2026-27 will be highly beneficial to the ME grad students.)

Justification: The current 1-credit Seminar course presents challenges. For MS students, it often results in a total of 31 credit hours, exceeding the 30-hour program requirement. The only workaround is to pair the Seminar with a 2-hour Directed Study. However, this is not practical as it depends on faculty and student availability and willingness. PhD students are also required to take the Seminar at least three times.
By transitioning to a zero-credit Seminar, we can eliminate the excess credit issue for MS students and allow PhD students more flexibility to enroll in additional organized courses or pursue Individual Research.

College of Health & Public Service

Department of Rehabilitation & Health Services

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM VIII-4. - APPROVED
ITEM VIII-4. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEM VIII-4.

VIII-4. **Health Data Analytics, MS** (change in other: description of program modality options)

Justification: The Health Data Analytics MS was approved to be offered online and on-campus. However, the previous language in the catalogue was misleading, making applicants believe that the program could only be

completed on-campus, not online. We have cleaned up the language to ensure both options are highlighted to prospective applicants.

College of Information

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS VIII-5. THROUGH VIII-7. AS A BLOCK - APPROVED
ITEMS VIII-5. THROUGH VIII-7. PASSES – APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEMS VIII-5. THROUGH VIII-7.

VIII-5. **Interdisciplinary Studies, MA** (**) (change in other: hosting unit) (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: the MS/MA in Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as all its concentrations, will be moving to the College of Information by Fall 2026.)

Justification: The MS/MA in Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as all its concentrations, will be moving to the College of Information by Fall 2026, and a curriculum process is necessary for the transition. No changes in courses or the curriculum.

VIII-6. **Interdisciplinary Studies, MS** (**) (change in other: hosting unit) (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: the MS/MA in Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as all its concentrations, will be moving to the College of Information by Fall 2026.)

Justification: The MS/MA in Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as all its concentrations, will be moving to the College of Information by Fall 2026, and a curriculum process is necessary for the transition. No changes in courses or the curriculum.

Department of Information Science

VIII-7. **Information Science, PhD** (change in requirements, other: combining catalog entries for nine PhD concentrations) (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: Department obtained GCC approval for an extension to accommodate our catalog clean-up/curriculum revision project and new leadership)

Justification: This proposal reflects only those PhD program changes that have already passed through the university curriculum process. Those changes were previously recorded in nine or more separate catalog entries or were never recorded/implemented. This proposal is an effort to "clean up" the Information Science PhD catalog to increase ease of use for students, staff, and faculty. Separately, we will be removing the nine separate concentrations from the catalog. In sum, this proposal reflects no new additions/changes to the PhD program beyond those that have already navigated the curriculum process. Please see the attached Combined Information Science PhD document.

Consumer Insights concentration
HMGT 5590 - Hospitality and Tourism Data Analytics - is now HTAN 5300
CMHT 5440 or CMHT 6450 - Consumer Theory - as CMHT 6450 course does not currently exist; we will only list CMHT 5440
HINF 5637 - Fundamentals of Health Informatics (corrected title)

Health Informatics concentration
INFO 5960 Medical Digital Imaging - as this is a topics course, it will be listed as "INFO 5960 - Library and Information Sciences Institute or Seminar (when topic is Medical Digital Imaging)"
CECS 5310 Human-Computer Interaction - is now LTEC 5310

A. In Grad Track

College of Engineering

Department of Electrical Engineering

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM VIII-8. - APPROVED
ITEM VIII-8. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEM VIII-8.

VIII-8. **Electrical Engineering, BS with grad track option leading to Electrical Engineering, MS** (change in requirements) (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: approved by UUCC at October 2025 meeting for inclusion in 2026-27 catalog)

Justification: Adding two additional EENG 5000 level Grad Track course sections in order keep consistency with EENG Masters program core courses.

College of Health & Public Service

Department of Criminal Justice

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM VIII-9. - APPROVED
ITEM VIII-9. PASSES - APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEM VIII-9.

VIII-9. **Criminal Justice, BS with grad track option leading to Criminal Justice, MS** (change in requirements, other: additional course options and updated admissions requirements) (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: approved by UUCC at October 2025 meeting for inclusion in 2026-27 catalog)

Justification: This change is intended to increase the available grad track course options. Additional options will provide students a greater opportunity to receive the full benefits of this pathway.

IX. REQUEST FOR DUAL OR JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

X. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION TO APPROVE ON ALL ITEMS UNDER CONSENT CALENDAR FROM X-1. THROUGH X-7. AS A BLOCK - APPROVED
ITEMS X-1. THROUGH X-7. PASSES – APPROVED BY MAJORITY

APPROVAL OF ITEMS X-1. THROUGH X-7.

A. Course Changes

College of Health & Public Service

Department of Behavior Analysis

X-1. **BEHV 5810 - Practicum** (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: to make this meaningful change for students next year to improve their graduate experience)

CIP Code: 30.1701.00.01
Semester Credit Hours: 3 hours
Contact Hours: (0;0;3)

Department of Rehabilitation & Health Services

X-2. **HLSV 5550 - Health Insurance and Managed Care**

Prerequisite: none
Justification: Removing pre-requisites for this course since faculty have determined that pre-requisites do not impact potential for success in this course.

X-3. **RHAB 5734 - Psychopathology in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling**

Prerequisite: none
Justification: Removing pre-requisites for this course since faculty have determined that pre-requisites do not impact potential for success in this course.

College of Information

Department of Information Science

X-4. **INFO 6200 - Exploration and Evolution of Theories in Information Science** (requested exception yr.: 2026-27; rationale: With permission of the GCC, obtained via email, we request a catalog exception because we are undertaking a major catalog revision aimed at improving the student, staff, and faculty experience (e.g., on-time graduation rate).

Course Title: Exploration and Evolution of Theories in Information Science
Short Course Title: INFORMATIONSCI THEORY
Description: Focuses on the origin and evolution of theories, conceptual frameworks, and models in information science and related disciplines by examining the historical and social conditions that influence a tradition of ideas. Explores the nature of theory from both philosophical and analytical perspectives, including the relationship between creative discovery and the nature of epistemological knowledge.

B. Course Deletions

College of Engineering

Department of Mechanical Engineering

X-5. **MEEN 5940 - Graduate Seminar in Mechanical and Energy Engineering** (effective 2026-27)

Justification: We are proposing a zero-credit-hour version of this course for AY2026-27 Catalog, as MEEN 5940**Z** Graduate Seminar in Mechanical and Energy Engineering (https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:18075/form), with a pass/fail grading scheme; therefore, this existing 1-credit-hour Seminar needs to be deleted.

C. Information Item - THECB Delete

D. Information Item - Documenting Changes

G. Brint Ryan College of Business

Department of Marketing

X-6. **MKTG 5620 - Marketing in a Digital Age - prerequisite clarification** (catalog effective year 2025-26)

Description: After discussion with the department, the prerequisite for MKTG 5620 should read as "MKTG 5150."

College of Information

Anuradha and Vikas Sinha Department of Data Science

X-7. **DTSC 5950 - Master's Thesis** (effective Spr26)

Description: New course DTSC 5950 effective date is changing to Spr26.
Course was approved in May 2025 -https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:17005/form

NO NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING - APPROVED