

Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I= Information Item¹ R= Advise & Respond²

Course Number BMFT 699/Thesis Track or Degree Plan(s) _____

State the requested change and reason. A memo may be attached if more space is necessary.

The MMFT program requests permission to an additional thesis track. The program will continue to provide the 60 hour non-thesis track and will add a thesis track to better meet the needs of students who will pursue doctoral work. The thesis track will be a 66 hour track. It will include the courses in our current 60 hour track to six hours of thesis (66 hour program). A detailed description of the proposed track and its rationale is attached. This change will also necessitate the addition of a Thesis course (BMFT 699). Students in the thesis track would be required to enroll in BMFT 699 for three hours in the Fall semester of their second year and then enroll in it again for three hours in the Spring Semester of their second year (in accordance with the graduate school's thesis handbook policy).

Please see the attached memo for the rationale for this change.

Circle the number that corresponds to the requested change. Degree plan changes are on the second page.

		COUNCIL ³								
	Change to a Course	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	President
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I				I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I				I	I
3.	Content (substantive change)	A	A	A	I				A	A
4.	Number of hours (lecture, lab, contact)	A	A	A	A				A	A
5.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I				I	I
6.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A				A	A
7.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I				I	I
8.	Course fee(s)	A	--	A	--				A	I
9.	From U to G <i>or</i> G to U	A	A	A	A				A	A
10.	Cross list with another department: U or G level	A	A	A	A				A	A
11.	Department of record	A	A	A	A				A	A
12.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A				A	A
13.	New course — See website for application and process. This change includes combining or splitting a course(s).	A	A	A	A				A	A

Note: When an academic unit does not have a council, the UGEC and/or UUAC will serve as its academic council, depending on the nature of the issue.

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		COUNCIL ³										
	Change to a Degree Plan	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
1.	University Requirements — Change in approved course content ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
2.	University Requirements — Add or drop a required course from the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
3.	University Requirements — Add or drop a course from a menu within the University Requirements ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
4.	University Requirements — Change hours within a menu on the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
5.	Major — Revision of major ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
6.	Major — Adopt or change admission requirements	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
7.	Major — Add ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
8.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
9.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
10.	GPA — Revise major or cumulative requirement	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
11.	Minor — Revise course selection	A	A	A	I				I	--	I	--
12.	Minor — Add	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
13.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
14.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
15.	Degree — Add	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
16.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
17.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
18.	Any change to a graduate degree program	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--

		COUNCIL ³								Board of Trustees
Provost-Proposed Change		Provost	Department	Dean	TEC	UUAC	Graduate	Faculty	President	
1.	Major/Graduate Program — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I
2.	Minor — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			--	A	--
3.	Degree — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I

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COUNCIL³

	Change to the Catalog Information	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President
1.	General requirements for graduation including course requirements that are common to all majors for all degrees ⁷	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
2.	Admission requirements	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
3.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
4.	Requirements for graduating with honors	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
5.	Other academic policy changes	--	--	--		A		A	--	A

¹ Councils may request additional information about “Information” items. These items are approved as “Consent Agenda.”

² The Dean and Department should respond to the Provost’s recommendation to close a program in writing. Advise & Respond (R) requires that the voting body should receive the written responses at least one week prior to the vote.

³ All courses that meet University Requirements for general education must go through UGEC. Courses or degrees offered only to students seeking teacher certification must go through the Teacher Education Council. All undergraduate changes must go before the UUAC. All graduate degree plan changes must go through the Graduate Council.

⁴ A minimum of 30 hours is required for a major. A maximum is specified for each degree (e.g., BA, BS). The university minimum for elective hours is 6, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible.

⁵ Program or course changes that apply to any major that includes Teacher Certification will be reviewed by the college, the Teacher Education Council (TEC), and then the UUAC.

⁶ Courses that satisfy ACU’s University Requirements (General Education) will normally have lower-level numbering, be free of prerequisites and co-requisites, appeal to more than one or two majors, and “not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession” (SACS 2.7.3). Departments may request exceptions to the first three criteria.

⁷ The UUAC approved the clarification that “general requirements for graduation” means the enumerated items in the “General Requirements for Bachelor’s Degrees” section of the catalog.

Revised 10-16-13

Curriculum/Catalog Changes Signature Page

Department/School Chair(s)	
<u>De Paul pho</u>	<u>2/17/16</u>
Signature	Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

College Academic Council(s)	
<u>Charles T. Hutson</u>	<u>2-22-16</u>
Signature	Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Dean(s)	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Teacher Education Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

General Education Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Undergraduate Academic Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Graduate Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Provost	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Faculty	
_____ Chair of faculty senate	_____ Approval date

President	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Marriage and Family Therapy Thesis Option Proposal

1. Introduction

- a. The Marriage and Family Therapy master's degree program (M.MFT) is housed in the Department of Marriage and Family Studies, in the College of Bible and Religion. The M.MFT requires 60 credit hours and is completed in a 2-year plan of study. Additionally, M.MFT graduates complete at least 500 client contact hours of MFT internship; successfully propose, complete and present a research project at a state professional conference; and complete a capstone project consisting of a paper discussing the student's theory of therapeutic change and a case presentation demonstrating the student's use and integration of MFT theory.

2. Program Change Description

- a. The M.MFT program proposes to add an optional thesis track to our current program of study. Students who elect to complete a thesis will enroll in 6 hours of thesis credit over and above the required 60 credit hours for the M.MFT degree. Completion of a thesis will satisfy the program requirement that students propose, complete and present a research project at a state professional conference.

3. Rationale for Program Change

- a. The M.MFT has a history of graduates going on to doctoral work. In the last 10 years, 15% of graduates have entered doctoral programs around the country. Our graduates are competitive candidates for slots in high-quality PhD programs in MFT as well as in Human Development and Family Studies. Some doctoral programs, however, are closed to our graduates because those programs require a completed thesis. One example is East Carolina University's PhD in Medical Family Therapy, which won the 2015 American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Training Award. Because ECU's program requires applicants to have completed a thesis our graduates cannot compete for acceptance. In addition, some doctoral faculty look upon a thesis as essential training in research design and methods. Thus, even though a doctoral program might not require a thesis, students who have not completed one are sometimes less competitive candidates or, if accepted, may be required to take additional coursework in research methods.
- b. In a recent survey of ACU M.MFT graduates who have pursued a doctoral degree 10 of 12 respondents agreed that a thesis option would strengthen the preparation for doctoral work that our graduates receive. A common theme was the high quality of clinical preparation our graduates received in our program when they compared themselves to their fellow doctoral students from other MFT programs. Several graduates agreed that offering a thesis track as an option, rather than a requirement, would allow ACU to continue to place our emphasis on strong clinical preparation

while also giving students who want to pursue a PhD an additional layer of preparation in research.

4. Impact on the institution

a. Personnel

- i. For each thesis, the thesis committee chair and one at-large member will come from faculty in the MFS department. The second at-large member may be selected from qualified faculty in other academic units or from other universities.
- ii. Based on a recent survey of graduates since 1999, we anticipate 10-20% of each cohort will select the thesis option, giving 2-4 thesis-track students in our average cohort of 18. We propose to cap the number of thesis track students to five in each cohort. (see 5.a.i. below)
- iii. We believe our current faculty is sufficient in number to advise thesis projects and serve on thesis committees
- iv. Of our current faculty, Dr. Bertram has extensive experience chairing and advising thesis projects (more than 20 projects). Additionally, Dr. Brooks and Dr. Mennenga have experience leading and publishing research projects.

b. Financial impact

- i. Revenue: thesis track-students will be required to enroll in 6 additional credit hours
- ii. Cost: stipend for thesis readers

c. Enhanced reputation for the institution and program as students will be eligible for admission in selective doctoral programs that require a thesis track masters (e.g., Note-The ACU MFT Program has placed 10 students in doctoral programs since 2012. Since 2006, 15 percent of our graduates have entered doctoral programs after graduation. However, these students have been denied access to some programs that require a thesis).

5. Proposed thesis track curriculum and policies

- a. Students will indicate their selection during their first Spring semester and confirm their Thesis Committee by Week 8 of their first Spring semester.
 - i. If more than five students apply to complete a thesis, the MFS faculty will select up to five students based upon criteria such as academic standing, writing quality, and GRE scores.
- b. Thesis track students will enroll in BMFT 699 for three credit hours each in their second Fall and Spring semesters
- c. The thesis policies will be consistent with the ACU Thesis Guide document.