

From: [Kowalsky, Lisa](#)
To: [Thomas, Christine M.](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)
Cc: [Miriti, Maria](#)
Subject: GS/CAA Review Meeting Proposal Feedback
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2023 9:19:23 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Dr. Thomas and Dr. Vankeerbergen,

Good morning!

On October 31, 2023, the combined Graduate School and Council on Academic Affairs (GS/CAA) curriculum subcommittee reviewed the proposal to create an additional non-thesis M.S. degree pathway in chemistry based on candidacy from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences. The subcommittee is supportive of creating pathways to support significant student milestones in an efficient manner; however, there are a number of concerns regarding the rationale of the degree pathway and the inclusion of programmatic changes that do not pertain to the non-thesis degree. Although the subcommittee is supportive of the non-thesis M.S. based on candidacy, they would like to see the items listed below addressed in a revised proposal.

Once these revisions are completed, please include a cover letter that points the subcommittee to the pages where the document has been revised.

1. The pathway to earn a Master's degree on the basis exists in the Graduate School (see the [Graduate School Handbook section 6.1](#)) providing certain conditions are met. This pathway is at the discrepancy of individual programs and should be specified in their program-specific handbooks. Enabling this pathway can be communicated to the Graduate School as an informational item. The Graduate School will subsequently forward this communication and approval to the Council on Academic Affairs. However, it is irregular to limit the Master's Degree on the Basis of Candidacy Examination to students who elect to leave a PhD program post candidacy, or for students who are making insufficient progress towards the PhD. This pathway should be available to all students who successfully complete candidacy, and submits the required forms in compliance with published deadlines.
2. The subcommittee recognizes the importance of receiving programmatic changes. Many of these changes can be communicated as informational items (specifically items 1 – 6 in the letter from J. Ottensen) rather than as a proposal. Given the number of changes, it will be useful to include the percent change to the program. Within the programmatic revisions, the committee noted the following:
 - a. The financial support available to students in the program is not consistently described in the proposal. Additional clarification and standardization in the document is requested.
 - b. Please clarify the timeline for taking the oral examination/candidacy exam as there was confusion of the timing.
 - c. Is a MS committee as referenced in the proposal unique from the exam committee or the annual progress committee. Please add clarification on the committees involved and their roles.
 - d. Removing the requirement for the First Year Oral Exam suggests that students may run

into later funding issues. Can this be clarified and expanded.

3. The addition of learning outcomes for the thesis-based M.S. degree may also be shared as an informational item if the percent change to the program is <10%. If this is greater, a proposal is required.

The subcommittee recognizes the work required in the development of the submitted proposal. Given the scope of the feedback provided, please advise if a follow-up meeting with Associate Dean Maria Miriti will be useful. Otherwise, upon receipt of revisions, the subcommittee will revisit the document, and if satisfied, will advance it to the Council on Academic Affairs for approval. I will keep you posted as the proposal moves along the review process.

Best,
Lisa



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Pronouns: she/her/hers