



Graduate Policy & Affairs Committee (GPAC)

*Elizabeth Bifuh (absent), Ramanpreet Kaur, Saira Latif, Jeff Moore, Suzanne Moore, Nese Orbey, Neil Shortland, Noah Van Dam, Kevin Petersen**, Mai Nguyen¹, Nancy Ludwig¹ (absent), Deborah White¹ (absent), Mubarak Ayinla² (absent), E. Shakira Fedna² (absent).*

**Ex-officio, ¹non-voting, ²student representative

MINUTES

<https://uml.curriculog.com/agenda:175/form>

Wednesday April 23, 2025 at 3:30-5:00 PM in University Crossing 421

1. **Executive Session** (*Noah Van Dam*) Graduate Student Petitions in University Crossing 155.
2. **Minutes from the March 24, 2025 Meeting** (*Noah Van Dam*)
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2490/form> No questions or corrections. Motion to approve by Neil Shortland, second by Nese Orbey. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**
3. **University-level Policy**
 1. **Graduate Credit Transfer Policy** (*Yi Yang and Bradley Mingels*) – POLICY:
Change Existing policy (University-Level) 2024-2025
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2376/form> This proposal is in response to requests from Master of Science in Engineering Management (MSEM) students who, as part of their MSEM curriculum, have taken a substantial number of business courses and wish to pursue a Master of Business Administration (MBA). Although many courses in the MSEM (both required and elective) are applicable to both the MBA and the MSEM degrees, UML's current policies do not allow students to count any credits that have been presented for the MSEM to the MBA. This has caused students who would like to pursue the MBA and the MSEM to take additional courses creating an unnecessary financial burden. A review of the MSEM and MBA curricula has identified an opportunity for structured credit sharing that would benefit students without compromising either degrees' quality.
There was a lot of discussion of potential for impacts on enrollments as well as other unintended consequences by having this policy to allow concurrent degree programs.

A majority of members felt enrollment impacts can be evaluated more specifically when the concurrent degree proposals are submitted and being evaluated. Members also clarified that double counting only applies to UML courses, not transfer credit. GPAC members were concerned with the language in the original draft stating GPAC will establish the guidelines. Members asked the originators to remove that language and the originators agreed. Process will need to be created, but that is not within the policy. It was also suggested to more clearly label the MBA-MSEM information as an example. The originator agreed to this suggested change, which does not change the proposal which is only creating the possibility to create concurrent design programs, not actually creating any programs right now. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Saira Latif. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

4. **Program Proposals** (*Noah Van Dam*)

New Plans/Subplans

1. **Graduate Certificate in Accounting** (*Stefanie Tate, Huimin (Amy) Chen*) – New Plan (Certificate) <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2472/form> The Graduate Certificate in Accounting (GCA) is designed to provide students with advanced accounting knowledge and practical skills that support professional credentialing, industry transition, and career growth. The program caters to a diverse audience, including recent graduates and working professionals, equipping them with essential accounting competencies for various professional paths. Motion to approve by Nese Orbey, second by Neil Shortland. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Change Plans/Subplans

2. **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Applied Psychology and Prevention Science** (*Yan Wang/Megan Papesh*) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2344/form> With the approved change of the program's CIP Code (Applied Psychology to General Psychology) and associated program name change (Applied Psychology and Prevention Science to Psychology), we are proposing to modify our curriculum to better align with the program's focus and student training needs. Specifically, the proposed changes: (a) formalize professional development; (b) facilitate the program's ability to offer doctoral student courses in a consistent, multi-year cycle; (c) change credits (from 42 to 54) to align with our full-time doctoral program (9 credits per semester over 6 semesters), consistent with both current doctoral student funding timelines and the minimum time-to-completion for students in the program (the program is in its 8th year). Motion to approve by Suzanne Moore, second by Ramanpreet Kaur. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**
3. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Business Analytics – tracks** (*Luvai Motiwalla, Thomas*

Sloan) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2497/form> The reason for these change from Track to Option is to improve the program delivery and heed to the student needs. Many students have communicated that Tracks do not show up on their transcripts or diplomas, which reduces their job prospects and marketability. In addition, Options allow us to estimate student enrollment for elective courses and deliver these courses more efficiently. We are initially limiting the program to only three Options due to course availability. Courses from the other Tracks from Manning School collapsed in the General Business Track. Other changes are the inclusion of AI in some of our courses and clearly mentioning these in the program. Overall, these changes are expected to enable us to enroll more students in the program and deliver the course offerings more efficiently. Currently, track enrollments are not recorded. Based on the OIS department enrollment record, the majority of MSBA students have enrolled in the elective courses listed under the Big Data track. Therefore, we propose converting this track to an Option and renaming it Data Science and Applied AI. Since MSBA enrollment is relatively low for the elective courses listed under the other business tracks (i.e., Accounting, Finance, Managerial Decision Making, and Marketing), we propose combining these tracks into one Option, General Business Analytics. Motion to defer by Saira Latif, second by Nese Orbey. **Deferred: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0. The proposal will be rejected back to the Originator and the department will launch separate proposals for each option after August 1.**

Engineering Coop Change Subplans

4. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Civil & Environmental Engineering – Master of Science in Engineering – Geoenvironmental** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2584/form> Please see the attached documentation from Dr. James Sherwood, Dean of the Francis College of Engineering. The Francis College of Engineering proposes restructuring the Non-thesis MS Co-op Option from a two-credit option added to the base 30- or 33-credit master's degree programs to be an Engineering Practice option with two pathways. In Pathway #1, the student will have the opportunity to complete a 3-month, 0-credit co-op. In Pathway #2, the student will have the chance to complete a 6-month co-op experience, which may be used at the discretion of the home department of the MS degree program to fulfill a three-credit tech elective within the base 30- or 33-credit master's degree program. This restructuring will allow non-thesis students to have paid career-connected work experience without increasing the number of overall credits above the base. A second proposed change to the Non-thesis MS Co-op program is to add an explicit degree designation, e.g., Master of Science in

Engineering – Electrical Engineering with Option: Engineering Practice for all students who complete either a 3-month or a 6-month co-op experience.

In the current Co-op program, the three additional course credits for the students are an additional cost to students, so Dean Sherwood wanted to reduce that cost and simplify administration into 2 courses that were either 0 or 3 credits instead of 3 1-credit courses. The idea is still to only award 3 credits for students completing a 6-month position. Up to individual departments whether to accept the 3 credits as a technical elective; Every program except Civil Engineering has said they would accept the credits as technical electives. This option would only be for Full Time, non-thesis students; Part time students would not be eligible. There was a question whether it is reasonable for a student to be gone for 6 months during a 30 credit program, but Dean Sherwood said there was demand. The original design of the program had duplicate degree plans for the coop options. This was meant to facilitate international students using CPT instead of OPT during their co-ops, but both domestic and international students are eligible for the program. Most of the options were never implemented into university systems, so the registrar cannot confirm whether change of program proposals are consistent with the programs as originally intended. Dean Sherwood asked the committee to conditionally approve these proposals while the missing programs are created, fixing the prior mistake. There was a concern about issues of consistency once the programs are implemented. It was determined that the programs would be evaluated over the Summer and presented to the executive committee if there are any questions about whether the proposed changes can be applied to the original options once they are implemented. Motion to conditionally approve agenda items 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 by Nese Orbey, second by ... [Conditionally approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1.](#)

5. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Civil & Environmental Engineering – Master of Science in Engineering – Geoenvironmental Engineering Option** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2584/form> (accidental duplicate agenda item).
6. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Civil & Environmental Engineering – Master of Science in Engineering – Structural Engineering Option** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2587/form> [Conditionally approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1.](#)
7. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Civil & Environmental Engineering – Master of Science in Engineering – Transportation Engineering Option** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2588/form> Conditionally approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1.

8. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Civil & Environmental Engineering – Master of Science in Geotechnical Engineering** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2585/form> Conditionally approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1.
9. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Civil & Environmental Engineering – Master of Science in Engineering – Environmental Engineering Option** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2589/form> Conditionally approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1. <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2583/form>
10. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Electrical and Computer Engineering – Master of Science in Computer Engineering** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2590/form> Conditionally approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1.
11. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Electrical and Computer Engineering – Master of Science in Electrical Engineering** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2591/form> Conditionally approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1.
12. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Mechanical Engineering – Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2592/form> Conditionally approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1.
13. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering Biotechnology – Cooperative Education Option in Biomedical Engineering Biotechnology** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2576/form> Jeff Moore expressed concern that there was no discussion with KCS on this proposal. Jim Sherwood decided to withdraw this proposal.
14. **Master of Science Engineering (M.S.E.) – Cooperative Education Option in Civil & Environmental Engineering – Master of Science Environmental Studies Environmental Engineering Sciences Concentration** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2583/form> Conditionally approved: Yes 5,

No 0, Abstain 1.

15. **Master of Science Engineering (M.S.E.) – Master of Science in Plastic Engineering – Cooperative Education Option in Plastics Engineering** (*James Sherwood*) – Change Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2575/form>
Conditionally approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1.

Engineering Coop New Subplans

16. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Energy Engineering – M.S. in Industrial Engineering*** (*James Sherwood*) – New Plan** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2593/form> *Name was entered incorrectly into Curriculog; should be “Cooperative Education Option in **Energy (Renewable)** Engineering – M.S. in Energy Engineering; **Engineering used the change plan form, but this program did not participate in the Coop program previously. An updated proposal using the New Plan form is being created by Engineering. All proposal documents will stay the same. Withdrawn to be resubmitted using the correct form for a new option.
17. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Engineering Management – Master of Science in Engineering Management** (*James Sherwood*) – New Plan** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2594/form> **Engineering used the change plan form, but this program did not participate in the Coop program previously. An updated proposal using the New Plan form is being created by Engineering. All proposal documents will stay the same. Withdrawn to be resubmitted using the correct form for a new option.
18. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Cooperative Education Option in Industrial Engineering – Master of Science in Industrial Engineering** (*James Sherwood*) – New Plan** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2595/form> **Engineering used change plan, but this program did not participate in the Coop program previously. An updated proposal using the New Plan form is being created by Engineering. All proposal documents will stay the same. Withdrawn to be resubmitted using the correct form for a new option.

5. **Course Proposals** (*Noah Van Dam*)

New Courses

1. **EDUC.5775 Foundations of STEM Education for Teachers** (*Patricia Fontaine*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2316/form> The course will focus on integrated STEM education with interdisciplinary applications, fostering critical

thinking, and aligning with career-oriented goals. This shift emphasizes real-world problem-solving, collaboration, and the interconnectedness of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, preparing students for emerging fields and technological advancements. Motion to approve by Saira Latif, second by Suzanne Moore. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.**

2. **EDUC.6126 Multilingual Learners w/ Disab: Policy & Practice** (*MinJeong Kim*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2503/form> A new course Multilingual Learners with Disabilities: Policy and Practice) will replace EDUC5410 Teaching Emergent Bilingual Students. EDUC 5410 is an on-campus SEI course, while the Language Arts and Literacy program is delivered entirely online. Moreover, students are required to complete the SEI endorsement course before admission. Therefore, EDUC 5410 should be replaced with an advanced online course that goes beyond the initial SEI endorsement. Additionally, the new course has been introduced to address specific SMKs related to diverse learner profiles, including multilingualism and struggling literacy learners. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Suzanne Moore. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.**
3. **ENGN.6031 Graduate Engineering Experience** (*James Sherwood*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2446/form> This course parallels ENGN.6030 in the new co-op structure and better reflects the extended duration and learning outcomes of the experience. It ensures that students gain professional skills, industry exposure, and hands-on expertise, reinforcing the commitment of UMass Lowell's College of Engineering to experiential learning and workforce readiness. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Neil Shortland. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.**
4. **ENGN.6032 Graduate Engineering Practice** (*James Sherwood*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2447/form> This course is introduced as a required component of the newly structured Engineering Practice Option for master's students in the Francis College of Engineering. This course provides students with a formalized, career-connected learning experience by integrating a 3-month co-op into their academic progression. Motion to defer by Noah Van Dam, second by Ramanpreet Kaur. **Deferred: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0. The proposal will be updated with a list of programs for students to be eligible, and reviewed at the September 22 meeting.**
5. **ENGY.5390 Nuclear Systems Design and Analysis** (*Eric L. Maase, Stephen Lam, Zhiyong Gu*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2547/form> A graduate capstone design course is required for students pursuing an ENGY masters

or PhD program in nuclear engineering. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Saira Latif. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.**

6. **IENG.5300 WORK DESIGN AND ANALYSIS** (*David Claudio*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2478/form> This course was formerly known as BMEN.5300 Occupational Ergonomics. Both the Biomedical Engineering and Mechanical and Industrial Engineering departments voted in favor of moving the course from the BMEN designation to IENG. The course will be co-convened with an undergraduate-level section. The graduate-level section will include additional content and assignments to reflect the advanced expectations. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Ramanpreet Kaur. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.**
7. **IENG.5400 Occupational Safety Engineering** (*David Claudio*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2479/form> This course was formerly known as BMEN.5400 Occupational Safety Engineering. Both the Biomedical Engineering and Mechanical and Industrial Engineering departments voted in favor of moving the course from the BMEN designation to IENG. This is the exact course and syllabus as BMEN.5400. Only changed from BMEN to IENG. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Ramanpreet Kaur. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.**
8. **PSYC.6001 Professional Development in Psychology** (*Megan Papesh*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2383/form> This course formalizes the professional development of Psychology's PhD students—including guidance and opportunities for professional development related to their future career goals. They will refine skills that do not consistently get covered in core, methods, or breadth courses, but are nevertheless important components of their professional training. This includes annual presentations of their current research in the program. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Neil Shortland. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Change Courses

9. **COMP.5930 Internship Education** (*Tingjian Ge*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2548/form> This course has been used in the past for international students using CPT. In order to continue to use this course for CPT, ISSO needs an updated course description, matching that for PHYS 7800. We are also updating the credits to match that of PHYS 7800. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Neil Shortland. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.**
10. **EDUC.6100 Teaching Reading in Content Area** (*MinJeong Kim*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2504/form> EDUC 6100 Teaching Reading in

Content Area has been changed to EDUC 6100 Teaching Disciplinary Literacy to meet the recent definition of disciplinary literacy in the literacy education field. Disciplinary literacy represents a broader concept than content area reading. While content area reading primarily focuses on the skills required to comprehend texts within specific subjects, disciplinary literacy encompasses a wider array of competencies that include, but are not limited to, reading. It involves ways of thinking, communicating, and problem-solving that are characteristic of each discipline. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Suzanne Moore. [Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)

11. **ENGY.5310 Selected Topics in Engineering** (*Stephen Lam, Eric Maase, Zhiyong Gu*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2546/form> Class has been used multiple times with a specific topic / need and we would like to formally define the class as specified. The number is the same as 3000- and 4000-level courses, but the registrar indicated only 4000-level courses can be co-listed. All past students have taken the selected topics course, and so changing the course this much would break their academic records. The recommendation was to either reject or table, but the same course number can't be used for the proposed course. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second to the concept of the vote by Neil Shortland. [Approved: Yes 0, No 6, Abstain 0. The course is not approved.](#)
12. **MATH.5020 Teaching College Mathematics** (*Roser Gine*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2510/form> Course Component: This is not a passive seminar class. It is a course with work assigned, submissions, and graded activities. Grading basis: Students who make an effort to prepare excellent lessons should be recognized. Distinguishing high quality work from lesser quality work also helps the department and future employers determine whether the student is a good candidate for work as a college math educator. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Saira Latif. [Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)

[Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm](#)

Next GPAC Meeting: September 22, 2025 at 3:30-5:00pm in Alumni Hall 102.