

Graduate Council Report, 2024-25 academic year

Charge: It is the mandate of the Graduate Council to “advise the Dean of the Graduate School and monitor all aspects of the University's graduate program. It will evaluate all proposed new graduate programs and degrees and will participate in program review of existing graduate programs.” “New graduate programs and changes to existing programs must be approved by the Graduate Council, SUNY Central in Albany and registered with the State Education Department (SED). Proposals that have resource implications (e.g., need for new faculty) will also need approval of the appropriate College Dean before Graduate Council consideration.” The Graduate Council also has a Graduate Council Appeals Committee (GCAC), which when requested by the Dean of the Graduate School, reviews documents and makes recommendations related to student appeals of program decisions. The committee comprises two faculty members appointed by the Graduate Council and two students appointed by the GSO. A third faculty member serves as an alternate.

Membership: The Graduate Council includes two representatives from the Humanities and Fine Arts, two from Social and Behavioral Sciences, two from Natural Sciences, one from the Library, two from the College of Engineering, one from the College of Business, two from the Health Science Center, one professional, and two graduate students from the GSO. Also participating are nonvoting members from the Graduate School and Provost’s office, the registrar and one volunteer faculty. (See separate Table)

Council activities: During the 2024-25 academic year the Graduate Council met fourteen times. As listed below, the Council evaluated six new programs, seventeen revisions to existing programs, and five reaffirmations. In addition, the Council reviewed four new Graduate School policies and updates to five policies.

From May 2024 through April 2025, the Graduate Council Appeals Committee considered a total of five appeals.

New Programs Evaluated (6):

MA in Political Psychology
AGC in Aging Populations & Healthcare Administration
Accelerated BA/MS Asian and Asian-American Studies
AGC in K-12 Computer Science Education
PhD in Clinical Psychological Science Research
Accelerated BS/MBA in Communications

Program Revisions Evaluated (18):

Chemical & Molecular Engineering, MS & PhD	Philosophy, MA
Materials Science & Engineering, MS & PhD	Anatomical Sciences, PhD
Musical Arts, MMA and DMA	Computer Science, MS
Science Communication, MS	Creative Writing & Literature, MFA
Biochemistry & Structural Biology, PhD	Chemistry, PhD
Molecular & Cellular Biology, PhD	Business Analytics & Intelligence, MS
Sociology, MA	Television Writing, MA
Public Health, Climate Solutions and Health Concentration, MPH	English, MA

Program Reaffirmations Evaluated (5):

Sociology, PhD
Marine Conservation & Policy, MA
Political Science, PhD
Public Policy, MA
Africana Studies, MA

New Policies Evaluated (4):

Generative AI Use in Graduate School
Research Mentor Training Requirement for New Faculty
Multi-modal Dissertations
Establishment of a Postdoctoral Council

Policy Revisions Evaluated (5):

Add/Drop and Course Withdrawal
Removal of Duolingo as accepted English Proficiency Test
Addition of Gateway E3 Exam as accepted English Proficiency Test
Leave of Absence Policy
Grievance and Appeals Policy

Programs evaluated and/or completed, 2024-25

Program Title	Approved by Graduate Council	Approved by SUNY	Approved by NYSED
Data Science, MS (New offering at SUNY Korea)	12/13/2023	9/13/2024	N/A
Clinical Psychological Science, PhD (Revision)	5/2/2024	9/17/2024	(10/10/2024)
Business Administration & Social Work, MBA/MSW (New Combined Program)		6/10/2024	3/7/2025
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, MA (Revision)	5/2/2024	12/9/2025	2/10/2025
Political Psychology, MA (New Program)	9/12/2024	(12/5/2024)	(12/5/2024)
Chemical & Molecular Engineering, MS & PhD (Revision)	9/12/2024	12/23/2024	1/23/2025 3/18/2025, MS
Materials Science & Engineering, MS & PhD (Revision)	9/12/2024	12/6/2024	3/4/2025
Musical Arts, MMA and DMA (Revision)	9/26/2024	N/A	N/A
Aging Populations & Healthcare Administration, AGC (New Program)	9/26/2024	3/6/2025	5/1/2025
Science Communication, MS (Revision)	10/10/2024	N/A	N/A
Sociology, PhD (Reaffirmation and revision)	10/10/2024	N/A	N/A
Biochemistry & Structural Biology, PhD (Revision)	10/24/2024	12/20/2024	2/10/2025
Molecular & Cellular Biology, PhD (Revision)	10/24/2024	12/16/2024	1/29/2025
Sociology, MA (Revision)	11/7/2024	2/18/2025	3/7/2025
Asian and Asian-American Studies, BA/MS (New Accelerated Program)	11/7/2024	N/A	N/A
Public Health, Climate Solutions and Health Concentration, MPH (Revision)	11/21/2024	N/A	N/A
Marine Conservation & Policy, MA (Reaffirmation)	11/21/2024	N/A	N/A
Political Science, PhD (Reaffirmation)	11/21/2024	N/A	N/A
K-12 Computer Science Education, AGC (New Program)	12/5/2024	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>

Communications, BS/MBA (New Accelerated Program)	12/5/2024	N/A	N/A
Public Policy, MA (Reaffirmation and revision)	12/5/2024	N/A	N/A
Philosophy, MA (Revision)	2/11/2025	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Anatomical Sciences, PhD (Revision)	3/25/2025	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Africana Studies, MA, (Reaffirmation and revision)	3/25/2025	N/A	N/A
Computer Science, MS (Revision)	3/25/2025	N/A	N/A
Creative Writing & Literature, MFA (Name change)	3/25/2025	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Chemistry, PhD (Revision)	4/8/2025	N/A	N/A
Clinical Psychological Science Research, PhD (New program)	4/8/2025	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Business Analytics & Intelligence, MS (Name change and revision)	4/22/2025	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Television Writing, MA (Revision)	5/6/2025	N/A	N/A
English, MA (Revision)	5/6/2025	N/A	N/A

Graduate Council Membership, 2024-25

Chair: David Green (Applied Math & Statistics, CEAS)

Secretary: Daniel Waxman (GSO, Electrical Engineering)

Voting members:

Bell, Kimberly R.	Professional – CELT
Bialkowska, Agnieszka B.	HSC – Medicine
Belisle, Brooke A.	HFA – Art
Blocker, Lily	COB – Management (on family leave, Spring)
Brennan, Susan E.	SBS – Psychology
Cognato, Holly	NS – Pharmacological Sciences
Ehm, Lars	NS – Geosciences
Ferdman, Michael	CEAS – Computer Science (class conflict Fall)
Green, David	CEAS – Applied Mathematics & Statistics, Chair
Kretz, Chris B.	Library
Sharma, Shyam	HFA – Writing & Rhetoric
Shorette, Kristen E.	SBS – Sociology
Simon, Marcia Oral	HSC – Oral Biology & Pathology
Polychronakis, Michalis	Computer Science - Sitting for Michael Ferdman, Fall
Jiang, Danling	Finance – Sitting for Lily Blocker, Spring

Student Representatives:

Chintam, Bindu B. R.	GSO – Computer Science
Waxman, Daniel	GSO – Electrical & Computer Engineering

Non-voting Participants:

Anderson, Brenda J.	Executive Committee Liaison
Marshik, Celia J.	Cognate Administrator (Graduate School Dean & Vice Provost)
Boon, Elizabeth	Graduate School, Assoc. Dean (Strategic Initiatives)
Jordan, Melissa L.	Graduate School, Senior Assis. Dean (Student Services)
O'Toole, Colleen	Graduate School, Data Analyst (Student Services)
Rubenstein, David A.	Graduate School, Assoc. Dean (Academic & Student Affairs)
DeSanna, Kara M.	Provost's office, Assistant Provost
Nucci, Brian J	Registrar's office, Associate Registrar
Steckel, Arleen	Volunteer Faculty (Nursing, retired)