Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/82406790478

March 27, 2026

1:00 pm

Graduate Council Chair: Dr. Frank Lambert

Members Present: Carol Nies, Deborah Wagnon, Frank Lambert, Helen Binkley, Stephen Salter, Dan Morrell, Rachael Oke, Alyson Lischka, Joan Boulware, Jaisharee Ranganathan, Kimberly Evert, Don Roy, Patrick Richey, Barbara Lancaster, Hongbo Zhang,

Members Absent: Kim Ward, Kate Pantelides, Sally Ann Cruikshank, Sanjay Asthana, Abigail Nkuah

Visitors Present: Christine Crisp, Racha El Kadiri

1. Call to order: Dr. Frank Lambert 1:01pm
2. Approval of Graduate Council Minutes from February 27, 2026
   Motion was made to approve the Feb 2026 Graduate Council Minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.
3. Committee Reports
   A. Curriculum Changes – Dr. Alyson Lischka
      Motion was made to approve the proposals. The motion was seconded and approved.
   B. Graduate Faculty Status – Dr. Kim Evert
      Motion was made to approve the applications. The motion was seconded and approved.
   C. Scholarship/Program Review – Dr. Helen Binkley
      There was no report from the Subcommittee, as it did not meet this month.
4. Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Frank Lambert 1:09pm

MINUTES
2025-2026 Graduate Council Subcommittee
March 20, 2026
ZOOM - https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/87504291199
9:00 a.m.

Call to Order:	Alyson Lischka 9:00am
Present:	Alyson Lischka, Carol Nies, Joan Boulware, Deborah Wagnon, Dan Morrell
Absent:	Barbara Lancaster
Visitors Present:	Christine Crisp, Racha El Kadiri, Mitzi Brandon, Paula Calahan, Tongia Key, Lei Miao, Lee Wade, Emily Butch
Previously Tabled Proposals	n/a
New Business	n/a

Proposals

Proposal	Effective Date	Proposed Action	Detailed Explanation	Reference #
College of Basic and Applied Sciences				
Engineering Technology				
ENGR - 6010 - Artificial Intelligence in Robotics	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; proficiency in computer programming and familiarity with data structures and algorithms. Examines state-of-the-art AI methods for robotics, integrating computer vision, natural language processing, and world modeling. Includes the application of these AI methods in robotic systems.	**4**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6020 - Advanced Control and Applications	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; familiarity with classical control theory and linear algebra. Examines optimal control and neural network-based control methods for dynamic systems, emphasizing robustness and reliability. Focuses on applications to performance optimization and efficiency in mechatronic systems and robotics.	**5**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6030 - Reinforcement Learning for Controls	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisites: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; proficiency in computer programming, familiarity with linear systems and control theory, and basic knowledge of machine learning concepts. Explores Reinforcement Learning (RL) techniques for controlling dynamic systems. Students will master foundational RL concepts (Markov Decision Processes, value- and policy-based methods), advanced algorithms (deep RL, policy gradients), and their applications in control systems and robotics.	**6**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6040 - Edge Computing and AI for Mechatronic Systems	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; proficiency in computer programming, familiarity with linear algebra, data structures and algorithms, basic machine learning and statistical concepts. Discusses the development and deployment of AI algorithms for mechatronic applications on edge computing platforms. Covers distributed machine learning, federated learning architectures, neural network optimization for embedded systems, model compression, real-time inference, and edge frameworks.	**7**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6050 - Advanced Robotics Design and Applications	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; proficiency in computer programming and experience with robotics. Design and applications of robotics including industrial robots, collaborative robots, manufacturing workcells, combat robots, functional robots, and autonomous systems.	**8**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6060 - Introduction to Finite Element Analysis	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; familiarity with computer-aided design (CAD). Introduces Finite Element Analysis and its applications in mechanical design and additive manufacturing. Covers SolidWorks Simulation for modeling fixtures and loads, symmetry exploitation, mesh design, and stress analysis of common geometries.	**9**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6070 - Introduction to Autonomous Vehicles	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; proficiency in computer programming, familiarity with algorithms, data structures, and object-oriented programming. Covers the design, development, and deployment of autonomous vehicles. Integrates robotics, artificial intelligence, computer vision, sensor fusion, control systems, and machine learning.	**10**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6080 - Industrial Internet of Things and Intelligent Systems	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; familiarity with computer programming, computer networking, and embedded systems. Introduces Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) and its integration with mechatronic systems for automation, monitoring, and optimization. Covers industrial networking, cloud and edge computing, cybersecurity, and protocols in robotics, manufacturing, and smart infrastructure.	**11**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6090 - Real-Time Motion Planning for Autonomous Robots	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisites: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; proficiency in computer programming. Covers advanced motion planning methods for autonomous ground and aerial robots in manufacturing, logistics, and agriculture. Emphasizes real-time performance via GPU and edge computing techniques.	**12**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6100 - Discrete Event Systems	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; proficiency in computer programming, familiarity with control theory and probability theory. Introduces modeling, analysis, and control of discrete-event dynamic systems. Topics include automata theory, supervisory control, Petri nets, and queueing models, with applications in manufacturing, robotics, intelligent transportation, and cyber-physical systems.	**13**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6110 - Energy Systems: Theories and Applications	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in engineering or related discipline; physics I and II. Covers scientific principles of energy sources, transformation, and use. Examines various energy sources, energy flow, storage, efficiency, conservation, and energy conversion in mechatronic systems for applications in generation, transportation, heating, and cooling.	**14**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6180 - Mechatronics Systems Engineering Internship	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Mechatronics Systems Engineering; departmental approval. Opportunity for students to gain practical experience in mechatronics systems engineering. Students will be evaluated based on input from internship supervisor and a detailed final report.	**15**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6190 - Directed Research in Mechatronics Systems Engineering	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Mechatronics Systems Engineering; permission of department. Independent research directed by a graduate faculty member on a topic in mechatronics systems engineering.	**16**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ENGR - 6640 - Thesis Research	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Mechatronics Systems Engineering; thesis advisor approval; permission of department. Selection of a research problem, review of pertinent literature, collection and analysis of data, and composition of thesis. Once enrolled, student should register for at least one credit hour of master's research each semester until completion. S/U grading.	**17**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

Mechatronics Systems Engineering, M.S.	Aug-26	New Program	The proposed MS MechSE is designed to prepare graduates with advanced technical expertise and communication skills to address emerging challenges in intelligent manufacturing, robotics, and automation.	**19**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Human Sciences

Human Sciences Minor (Graduate)	Summer 2026	Termination of Minor	Termination of graduate version of Human Sciences minor due to department reorganization in CBHS.	**18**

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

College of Education

Assessment, Learning, and Student Success: Higher Education Concentration, Ed.D.	Summer 2027	Change to curriculum of existing major	Reducing required higher education offerings to increase elective hours	**3**

Discussion: n/a
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

Educational Leadership

FOED - 6043 - Critical Issues in Community Relations and Education	Summer 2026	New Course	This core graduate seminar equips aspiring and current educational leaders in K-12 and higher education with the knowledge and analytical frameworks needed to address key challenges facing modern institutions. https://mtsu.curriculog.com/proposal:9745/form	**2a**

Discussion: n/a
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

FOED - 7034 - Educational Leadership and Community Engagement	Summer 2026	New Course	This course explores the principles and practices of effective educational leadership through the lens of community engagement. https://mtsu.curriculog.com/proposal:9574/form	**1a**

Discussion: n/a
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

Administration and Supervision, Ed.S. (all concentrations)	Summer 2027	Change to curriculum of existing major	FOED -7034 Educational Leadership and Community Engagement to replace the course FOED 7060 Seminar in Educational Foundations within the Ed.S. Administration and Supervision major.	**1**

Discussion: n/a
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

Administration and Supervision, M.Ed. (both concentrations)	Summer 2027	Change to curriculum of existing major	FOED 6043 Critical Issues in Community Relations and Education to replace FOED 6020 – Educational Foundations within the M.Ed. Administration and Supervision major.	**2**

Discussion: n/a
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

Adjournment: Alyson Lischka 9:08am

Good of the Order

The next (and final) meeting of the Graduate Council Subcommittee will be Friday, April 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Graduate Council - Faculty Status Subcommittee
March Minutes – Zoom
https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/82406790478
March 20, 2026
1:00 PM

I. Call to Order: Kim Ward 1:00pm

Members Present: Kim Ward, Sanjay Asthana, Kim Evert, Hongbo Zhang
Members Absent: Sally Cruikshank, Kate Pantelides
Visitors Present: Christine Crisp

II. Graduate Faculty Status

Adjunct

1. Billings, Sandra - approved
2. Bradley, Susan- approved
3. Gilley, Tolbert- approved
4. Hollins, Tachaka- approved
5. Palicka, Melissa- approved
6. Sturm, Anna- approved
7. Tansey, William- approved

Full

1. Dremel, Frank - approved
2. Foster, Paul- approved
3. Fowler, Robert- approved
4. Koti, Francis- approved
5. McCormick, Janet- approved
6. Miao, Lei - approved
7. Miao, Lei- approved
8. Salter, Stephen- approved
9. Scarlata, Audrey- approved

Teaching

1. Griswold, Paul - approved
2. Higgins, Ariel- approved
3. Meeks, Richard- approved

III. Motion to Adjourn: Kim Ward 1:04pm