

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

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

April 24, 2026

1:00 pm

Graduate Council Chair: Dr. Frank Lambert

Members Present: Alyson Lischka, Carol Nies, Dan Morrell, Deborah Wagnon, Frank Lambert, Jaishree Ranganathan, Kim Ward, Patrick Richey, Joan Boulware, Sanjay Asthana, Rachael Oke, Don Roy, Stephen Salter, Helen Binkley, Abigail Nkuah

Members Absent: Sally Ann Cruikshank, Kate Pantelides, Barbara Lancaster, Hongbo Zhang, Kim Evert

Visitors Present: Racha El Kadiri, Christine Crisp, Emily Butch

1. Call to order: Dr. Frank Lambert 1:01 pm

2. Approval of Graduate Council Minutes of March 27, 2026

Motion was made to approve the Feb 2026 Graduate Council Minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

3. New Business

A. Lightning Track – Dr. Racha El Kadiri

Motion was made to approve adding catalog language to describe Lightning Track, an accelerated admission pathway for undergraduate students to graduate programs

B. Probation, Suspension, Termination Procedures– Dr. Racha El Kadiri

Motion was made to approve clarifying the process for graduate student academic probation, suspension, and termination based on GPA requirements in catalog

4. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum Changes – Dr. Alyson Lischka

Motion was made to approve the proposals. The motion was seconded and approved.

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

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1:00 pm

B. Graduate Faculty Status – Dr. Sanjay Asthana

Motion was made to approve the applications. The motion was seconded and approved.

C. Scholarship/Program Review – Dr. Helen Binkley

Scholarship Subcommittee is scheduled to meet 4/27/24 to make their selections and will email the list of recipients to Grad Council.

5. Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Frank Lambert 1:37 PM

Academic Probation, Suspension, and Termination

Degree-seeking graduate students are expected to enroll in appropriate coursework and make satisfactory academic progress toward their degree objectives as determined by their graduate program.

Minimum GPA Requirements

To remain in good academic standing, graduate students must maintain the following cumulative GPAs (referred to as the minimum retention standard) for all graduate coursework completed at MTSU:

- Master's and Specialist students: 3.00
- M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies: 2.75
- Doctoral students: 3.25

Calculation of Academic Standing

Academic standing (good standing, probation, suspension, or termination) is evaluated at the conclusion of each academic term based on the cumulative graduate-level GPA on record at that time. If a grade change is submitted after academic standing is determined, a student's academic standing may be adjusted up to the start of the subsequent term. A student's academic standing may not be adjusted once the new term begins.

Incomplete Grades

Courses assigned a grade of "I" (Incomplete) are included in academic standing determinations using the default grade that will be assigned if the incomplete is not resolved by the start of the next term. If the default grade for an incomplete course would cause the cumulative GPA to fall below the minimum retention standard, the student may be placed on academic probation or suspension accordingly. Students should be aware that their displayed cumulative GPA in Pipeline may not reflect the impact of a potential default grade for an incomplete course. Academic standing is determined using the GPA calculated with the applicable default grade.

Academic Probation

A graduate student who fails to meet the applicable minimum cumulative GPA retention standard will be placed on academic probation for the subsequent term of enrollment.

Academic probation serves as formal notification of unsatisfactory academic progress and the requirement to re-establish good academic standing. While on probation, the student has up to three consecutive enrolled semesters to restore the cumulative GPA to the minimum required level.

If the student restores the required cumulative GPA within the probationary period, the student will return to good academic standing and probation will be removed.

Suspension

A student will be automatically suspended under any of the following conditions:

- Failure to restore the minimum cumulative GPA by the end of the third consecutive semester on probation
- Falling below the minimum cumulative GPA after returning to good standing following a probationary period
- Failing to meet the GPA retention standard after being reinstated from a prior suspension

The first suspension is for one semester (excluding the summer term), and the second suspension is for one calendar year.

Students with a prior academic suspension from MTSU at the graduate level are not eligible for another probationary period. If the retention GPA standard is not met, the student will be suspended for one year.

If a student is suspended, all future registrations will be purged, and the student may not attend MTSU as a graduate student for the duration of the suspension period.

Reinstatement and Appeals

A student placed on academic suspension may appeal for reinstatement by following the appeal procedures established by the academic department. Students should contact their program director for department-specific appeal requirements.

The academic department's decision on the appeal is final (no further appeal process is available). If the appeal is approved and the student is reinstated, the student must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA. No additional probationary period will be granted if the GPA standard is not met after reinstatement.

If the appeal is denied, the student may return only after completing the required suspension period.

The appeal process with the department and all appropriate forms must be sent to the College of Graduate Studies by the following date:

- Fall Reinstatement: August 15
- Spring Reinstatement: January 15
- Summer Reinstatement: May 15

Termination

After serving a one-year suspension, a student who fails to meet the minimum cumulative GPA by the close of the semester will be academically terminated and will no longer be eligible for matriculation in any graduate program at MTSU.

Termination is an automatic administrative action based strictly on the GPA threshold. The student cannot appeal to the Graduate Council Appeals Committee.

Financial Aid vs. Academic Suspension

Students should understand that financial aid suspension and academic suspension are separate actions with independent appeal processes:

- A financial aid suspension affects eligibility for financial aid but does not prevent enrollment.
- An academic suspension prohibits enrollment at MTSU for the duration of the suspension, regardless of financial aid eligibility.

International Students

International students attending MTSU on student or exchange visa (I-20 or DS-2019) are required to maintain satisfactory academic progress and a full course of study. Failure to

do so may invalidate their immigration status, and the appropriate immigration authorities will be notified.

International students may not be eligible for readmission after a second suspension, even if the standard suspension period has elapsed. International students who are suspended may appeal to their academic department for reinstatement if they believe their academic difficulties were due to circumstances beyond their control.

Lightning Track

Proposed Catalog Language:

The Lightning Track pathway at Middle Tennessee State University provides eligible MTSU undergraduates with an accelerated route to select graduate programs. Through Lightning Track, students may apply to participating programs without an application fee and without submitting traditional admission materials. Participation is limited to approved programs, and each graduate program must elect to participate in the pathway. Students should review the list of participating programs and eligibility requirements to determine whether this streamlined admission option is available for their intended program of study.

MINUTES
2025-2026 Graduate Council Subcommittee
April 17, 2026
ZOOM - <https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/87504291199>
9:00 a.m.

Call to Order: Alyson Lischka 9:00am

Present: Alyson Lischka, Joan Boulware, Dan Morrell, Carol Nies, Deborah Wagnon

Absent: Barbara Lancaster

Visitors Present: Scott Handy, Tammy Donham, Paula Calahan, Tongia Key, Mitzi Brandon, Melinda Korzaan, April Weissmiller, Rachel Leander, Tyler Henson, Racha El Kadiri, Allie Sultan, David Nelson, Andrew Polk, Rachel Davis, Wendy Gamble, Emily Butch, Carmelia Dotson

Previously Tabled Proposals n/a

New Business n/a

Proposals

Proposal	Effective Date	Proposed Action	Detailed Explanation	Reference #
College of Basic and Applied Sciences				
MOBI - 7203 - Dissertation Proposal Design and Preparation in Molecular Biosciences	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Admission to the MOBI doctoral program. Preparation of dissertation proposal with the research mentor	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.				

Molecular Biosciences, Cellular and Molecular Biology Concentration, Ph.D.	Summer 2027	New Program	New Concentration: Molecular Biosciences, Cellular and Molecular Biology Concentration, Ph.D. Restructuring the program	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.				
Molecular Biosciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry Concentration, Ph.D.	Summer 2027	New Program	New Concentration: Molecular Biosciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry Concentration, Ph.D. Restructuring the program	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.				
Molecular Biosciences, Organismal Biology Concentration, Ph.D.	Summer 2027	New Program	New Concentration: Molecular Biosciences, Organismal Biology Concentration, Ph.D. Restructuring the program	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.				
Biology				
BIOL - 5340 - Human Skeletal Biology	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: BIOL 2010 or ANTH 3650 or ANTH 4300 with a grade of C (2.0) or better. Advance the understanding of theory in human skeletal biology and biocultural evolution concerning pathology, nutrition, human variation, bone biomechanics, and functional morphology.	1
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				

BIOL - 6340 - Cancer Biology	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: BIOL 3250 (Genetics), BIOL 4210 (Cell and Molecular Biology) or BIOL 4450 (Molecular Genetics), CHEM 2030/2031 or CHEM 3010/3011 (Organic Chemistry). Biological mechanisms underlying cancer formation, progression, and maintenance. Topics covered include oncogenes, tumor suppressors, DNA repair and genomic instability, cancer genomics, metabolic reprogramming, tumor microenvironment, metastasis, and cancer therapeutics. Evaluation and presentation of primary research literature will be incorporated.	2
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
Chemistry				
CHEM - 6600 - Research in Biomedical Sciences	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisites: Must be a student in the Biomedical Sciences program. Permission of Department required. Plan, implement, and interpret a research problem in the area of Biomedical Sciences. Topics limited by expertise of graduate faculty associated with the Biomedical Sciences program.	3
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
Mathematical Sciences				
STAT - 7500 - Statistical Quantum Machine Learning	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: STAT 4360/5360, COMS 6500 or MATH 5310 or equivalent with a grade of C or above, or consent of the instructor. Comprehensive introduction to principles, applications, and software for quantum computing and machine learning.	20

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions. **Department asked to change the title of the course to Statistical Quantum Machine Learning.**

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

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Social Work

Social Work, M.S.W.	Summer 2027	Change in curriculum of existing major	Formally add SW 5010, SW 5050, SW 5260, and SW 5720 to the program's elective list	21
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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 Business

Information Systems and Analytics

INFS - 6520 - Project Management Case Studies	Summer 2027	Course Change	From IT Project Management Case Studies to Project Management Case Studies; update course description	11
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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 Liberal Arts

History

HIST - 6460 - Digital Tools for Historians II	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisites: HIST 6450: Digital Tools for Historians; This advanced seminar investigates how historians research in the Digital Age using computational methods.	5
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Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

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

HIST - 6490 - Topics in Digital History	Summer 2026	New Course	In-depth readings and discussion of a specified digital method of historical research, including historiography, theory, and methodology. Students will create or complete a digital project. May be repeated for credit with a different topic.	6
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Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

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

HIST - 6515 - Topics in Public History	Summer 2026	New Course	Analyzes scholarly literature and professional practice in various fields of public history. May be taken more than once with a different topic.	7
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Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

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

HIST - 7460 - Digital Tools for Historians II	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisites: HIST 6450. This advanced seminar investigates how historians research in the Digital Age using computational methods. The digital methodologies within this course will assist students in completing advanced digital projects.	8
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Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

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

HIST - 7490 - Topics in Digital History	Summer 2026	New Course	In-depth readings and discussion of a specified digital method of historical research, including historiography, theory, and methodology. Students will create or complete a digital project. May be repeated for credit with a different topic.	9
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Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

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

HIST - 7515 - Topics in Public History	Summer 2026	New Course	Analyzes scholarly literature and professional practice in various fields of public history. May be taken more than once with a different topic.	10
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Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

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

Political and Global Affairs

PS - 5310 - East Asian Politics	Summer 2027	Course Change	From Comparative Asian Government to East Asian Politics; change catalog course description.	16
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Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

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

Sociology and Anthropology

SOC - 5210 - Social Media: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	Summer 2026	New Course	An in-depth study of social media from a sociological perspective. Topics may include the history of social media, social media research methods, an overview of major social media platforms, and social media policies and practices.	19
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Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

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

Borchetta College of Media and Entertainment

Media Arts

FTV - 5300 - Advanced Television Production	Summer 2026	New Course	Admission to the MFA in Film and Television degree program and FTV 6450, or permission of Instructor. Practical experience in the conceptualization, pre-production preparation, and production of live television programming for the Bonnaroo Music Festival. Can be repeated for up to 6 credit hours.	4
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Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

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

Recording Industry

RIM - 5690 - Digital Strategies for the Music Business	Summer 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a Music Business concentration or the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Recording Arts and Technologies, or permission of the department. Provides an advanced overview of digital marketing strategies and data analytics within the context of the global music industry.	17
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Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.

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

RIM - 6000 - Graduate Music Business Internship	Summer 2026	New Course	Admission to MTSU Jones School of Business MBA Graduate Program with a concentration in Music Business-- MBA_BUAD_MUBU; permission of department. This course provides graduate students with hands-on experience in professional recording industry settings, such as record labels, artist management, music publishing, and booking agencies. Students apply industry concepts within a graduate-level business framework to develop practical skills and strengthen their professional résumés. Pass/Fail.	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.				

Adjournment: Alyson Lischka 9:16am

Graduate Council - Faculty Status Subcommittee Minutes
April 17, 2026

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

I. Voting was conducted by email

II. Graduate Faculty Status:

Adjunct

1. Goodson, Aaron - Approved
2. Hobbs, Wes- Approved
3. Macon, Erica- Approved
4. Moisant, Kathryn- Approved
5. Mondro, Claire – Approved for Adjunct
6. Quarto, Christopher- Approved
7. Watson, Jada- Approved
8. Welbourn, David- Approved

Full

1. Elleman, Amy- Approved
2. Halamek, Jan- Approved
3. Rossi, Elizabeth- Approved
4. Peasley, Michael – Approved for Full

Teaching - n/a