



94-210

THE FACULTY SENATE

April 16, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Elsa Murano, President

FROM: Clint Magill, Speaker *Clint Magill*

SUBJECT: Approval of Graduate Council Item **(FS.26.107)**

At its regular meeting on April 13, 2009 the Faculty Senate approved the following curriculum item from the Graduate Council. The Faculty Senate submits it for your approval. Attached is a copy of the material sent to our Senators.

Special Consideration - March 5, 2009

Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Education and Social Sciences
Advanced Research Methods (ARM)

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please inform me of your action on this matter.

Attachment

cc: Jeffrey S. Vitter
Paul Meyer
Paul Parrish
Sandra Williams
Robert Webb
David Reed
Douglas Palmer

Approved:

Elsa Murano

7/27/09

President

Date



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Dean

UCC/GC MAR 05 2009
FS APR 13 2009
Pres. App JUL 27 2009
SIMS _____
Catalog _____



SLW

February 23, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Robert Webb
Interim Dean Graduate Studies

Robert Webb

FROM: James B. Kracht
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

James B. Kracht

SUBJECT: GC Agenda Item
New Certificate Program entitled Graduate Certificate in Education and Social Sciences Advanced Research Methods (ARM) at its March meeting.

*Approved
Graduate Council
David W. Reed
2/5/09*

Texas A&M University
 Department Request for a New Certificate Program
 Graduate **** Professional

1. This certificate request is submitted by the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD).
2. Complete Title of Certificate Graduate Certificate in Education & Social Sciences Advanced Research Methods (ARM)
3. Paragraph for catalog:

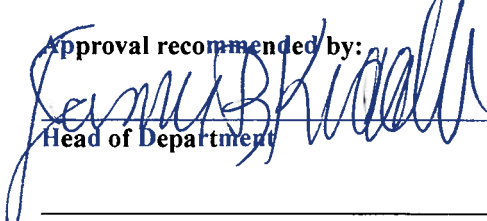
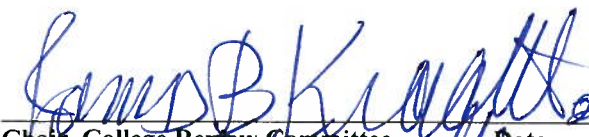


The Graduate Certificate in Education & Social Sciences Advanced Research Methods (ARM) is offered by the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). Consisting of 12 credit hours, the certificate testifies to a student's successful mastery of advanced competencies in education and social sciences research methods, with emphasis on quantitative or qualitative approaches. Graduate students in the CEHD and in other colleges, who have met the minimum research methods requirements in their programs, are able to apply for the ARM Certificate.

4. Is the certificate in a disciplinary area where Texas A&M University already offers degrees? Yes X No ____
 If no, TAMU may not have the authority from the state to offer such a certificate. Please consult with the Provost's Office.

5. How many hours are in the certificate? 12 credit hours If 15 or less, approval beyond the President is generally not needed. If the certificate is 16-29 hours and in a discipline where the University already offers a degree, notification of the Coordinating Board and Board of Regents is required. If the certificate is over 15 hours and in an area where Texas A&M University doesn't already offer degrees, state approval may be needed.

6. Is the certificate potentially going to be offered as a stand-alone certificate program to students at other locations than the Texas A&M University Campus? Yes X No ____
 Answer yes, if the program is offered in Texas, out of state, or out of country. If yes, then after the President approves the certificate, the Provost's Office needs to notify the Board of Regents, the Coordinating Board, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. *If SACS is not notified, the students taking the certificate as a stand-alone program may not qualify for Federal financial aid.* TAMU is also required to notify SACS of any specific location to which a certificate program is offered to multiple students. If you are offering a certificate program to a location Texas, the state also requires us to notify potentially affect institutions, which have competing programs, ahead of time.

7. Is the certificate program going to be available through Distance Education?
 Yes ____ No X If yes, then again, SACS will need to be notified.

<p>Approval recommended by:  _____ Head of Department</p>	<p> _____ Chair, College Review Committee</p>
Date	Date
<p>_____ Date</p> <p>Head of Department (if cross-listed course)</p>	<p> _____ Dean of College</p>
Date	Date
<p>Submitted to Coordinating Board by: _____</p>	<p> _____ Dean, Office of Graduate Studies</p>
Date	Date

Effective Date

**PROPOSAL FOR A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN
EDUCATION & SOCIAL SCIENCES ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS (ARM)**

College of Education and Human Development

Texas A&M University

September, 2008

Purpose of Proposal

Under the leadership of the Research Methods Certificate Committee, the Associate Dean for Graduate Program Development, and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University seeks approval to offer a **12-hour graduate-level certificate in *Education & Social Sciences Advanced Research Methods (ARM)***. The CEHD will offer the certificate as a college-wide initiative.

Rationale

The initiative to offer a Graduate Certificate in Education & Social Sciences Advanced Research Methods aligns itself with:

- Texas A&M's *Vision 2020* imperative number two, "To strengthen our graduate programs", specifically with the goal to

"Commit to an implementation plan that identifies and initiates graduate programs in the humanities and social sciences that are configured to achieve distinction." (p. 25 of *Vision 2020: Creating a Culture of Excellence*. Texas A&M University).

- The CEHD's imperative of strengthening graduate education (CEHD Strategic Plan; available: http://www.cehd.tamu.edu/articles/strategic_plan)
- The CEHD's *2005 Doctoral Research Education Task Force* recommendation to:

"Establish course sequences, policies, and necessary support structures to insure that doctoral students develop a high level of proficiency in the theoretical basis and application of either quantitative or qualitative research methodologies and a knowledge and appreciation of alternative theoretical bases and methodologies." (p. iv of *2005 Doctoral Research Education Task Force Report*).

A Graduate Certificate in Education & Social Sciences Advanced Research Methods will allow graduate students in the CEHD to add to their degree's minimum requirements for training in research methodology, and to obtain academic validation for their additional efforts. The Certificate testifies to a student's successful mastery of advanced competencies in education and social sciences research methods, with emphasis on quantitative or qualitative approaches. The Certificate attests to students' competency, and sends the message the

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student is prepared *both* to engage in social science research, and to teach these methods, in his/her academic careers. As part of the certificate completion requirements, students will provide evidence of submission of a manuscript for publication as the main author, or as a co-author. Such requirement facilitates students' initiation into the academic publication process, and allows them to become more 'marketable' in today's competitive hiring practices (especially in the context of Research Universities with Very High Research Activity – *RU/VH* – the current designation for “research-intensive” universities, proposed by the Carnegie Foundation).

The Certificate will attract mostly doctoral students (Ph.D.s) in the CEHD. Nevertheless, it is plausible to expect some Master's students may desire to add to their research training (without the burden of pursuing a doctoral degree).

The CEHD Graduate Certificate in Education & Social Sciences Advanced Research Methods will also be offered as a 'stand alone' program for individuals who possess basic and intermediate research methods training. Prospective students who wish to acquire advanced social sciences and education research skills (due to requirements stemming from their current jobs) would be able to obtain the certificate with an investment of 12 credit hours, as opposed to 32-36 hours required for a Master's degree. The Certificate might represent an attractive option for already-graduated Master's students (from CEHD or other schools/colleges), who wish to enhance or refresh their potentially dated research methods training.

Given these characteristics, the CEHD envisions the Certificate as serving various constituent groups:

- CEHD graduate students in various departments
- Texas A&M graduate students in various colleges wishing to add to their social science research training
- Professionals in the community who wish to improve their research skills.

Precedence

Many research-intensive universities, nation-wide, offer similar certificates. Ranging from 12 to 24 credit hours, these certificates can be found at:

- Stanford University (Methods of Analysis Program in the Social Sciences - MAPSS Certificate)
- Duke University (Program for Advanced Research in Social Sciences PARISS)

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- University of Florida (Social Science Methodology Graduate Certificate Program)
- University of South Florida (Graduate Certificate in Research Methods)
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Certificate Program in Survey Methodology)
- University of Michigan (Survey Methodology)

Resources

Most of the courses comprising the Certificate have been taught at the CEHD for several years, and the current demand for these courses has been adequately met. It is expected, however, that the Certificate option may generate the need for additional support, such as:

- Removing existing ‘caps’ in student enrollment for certain courses.
- Adding sections of specific courses to accommodate increased demand.
- Developing and implementing additional advanced-level courses in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

**Certificate
Management**

The Certificate will require minimum coordination. The office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will train each department’s Graduate Adviser, regarding enrollment in the certificate, and record keeping. The Associate Dean’s office will also maintain a database of students enrolled in, and receiving the certificate. The Registrar’s office – upon receipt of the list of approved Certificate courses – will be able to identify students who have completed the Certificate requirements, and provide evidence of completion in students’ transcripts (see *Transcripts*, below).

A Research Certificate Committee – consisting of two faculty members from each of the four CEHD departments – will coordinate the processes of identifying and authorizing new advanced courses that become part of the certificate’s offerings. The Committee will meet periodically – convened by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Associate Dean for Graduate Program Development, as needed – to assess the progress of the Certificate initiatives, and to propose recommendations for future adaptations/changes. The Committee will exercise a supervisory role, overseeing potential changes in course offerings (addition and removal of courses), and will ensure accountability in implementing and evaluating the Certificate initiatives. The Committee – in coordination with a student’s Dissertation Chair – can approve substitutions in a student’s original certificate plan.

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Transcripts

Students' transcripts will document the Certificate completion and will contain the following wording:

Certificate in Education & Social Sciences Advanced Research Methods

Expected Enrollment

Between 4 and 8 students (across the four departments) will enroll in the Certificate, each academic year. The CEHD expects the enrollment in the first few years of the Certificate to be low, yet increase over time, contingent upon demand from students inside and outside the college or the university.

Certificate Requirements

12 credit hours of advanced-level graduate courses in Research Methods will comprise the ARM, distributed as follows:

ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS CERTIFICATE (ARM)
4 Advanced Quantitative or Qualitative (or mixed methods) Research Methods Courses
12 hours
Requirement for Completion: Evidence of submission of an article, for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, as main author or co-author.
Total: 12 hours

GRADE REQUIREMENT: In order to qualify for the Certificate, only courses for which students earned grades A, B, or S will be counted toward the Certificate.

ADVANCED COURSES: Only courses identified as advanced, by the Research Certificate Committee will be eligible for credit (see list below).

Pre-Requisites

Enrollment in all of the advanced methods courses will require the completion of established pre-requisites (designated in the Graduate Catalogue) and/or the approval of the course instructor and the student's dissertation committee chair/faculty advisor.

It is expected that students enrolled in the ARM courses have completed basic and intermediate training in research methods, as defined by each students' program of studies.

Research Requirement

It is expected that students enrolling in the ARM Certificate will be actively engaged in research scholarship. This engagement might take many forms: participation in a faculty-member's research project; conducting one's own study; contributing to specific projects with research teams outside A&M.

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In addition to completing the Certificate's course-work, students will need to provide – to their Graduate Advisers – evidence of *submission of a manuscript*, for publication in a peer-reviewed journal of their choice. Students should be the main author or a co-author on the manuscript. Acceptance for publication is *not* a requirement; evidence of submission for review, *is*. If students have questions regarding this requirement, they should be directed to the CEHD's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs' office.

Current Research Methods Requirements by Departmental Programs for Ph.D. Degrees

Department / Program	Minimum Research Methods Requirement In credit hours
Teaching, Learning and Culture	15 hours
Educational Administration & Human Resource Development	18 hours
Educational Psychology	15 hours
Health & Kinesiology	9 – 18 hours

CEHD Courses Approved for Certificate

The list below depicts courses offered on a regular basis throughout the CEHD, from which students can choose to meet the Certificate requirements. Students must ensure their degree plans contain the minimum requirements for their respective programs. Additional courses, taken to meet the requirements for the Certificate, must be approved by the Graduate Adviser and by the student's committee chair/advisor.

DEPARTMENT / PROGRAM	COURSE OFFERINGS	CREDIT HOURS
Teaching, Learning and Culture	EDCI 627 – Teaching and Learning Data Analysis and Uncertainty Concepts	3
	EDCI 689 – Advanced Research Methods in EDCI	3
	EDCI 689 – Advanced Research Methods in Qualitative Res	3
	EDCI – 689 – Models and Methods of Curriculum Evaluation	3
	EDCI – 689 – Mixed Methods Research in Education	3
Educational Administration & Human Resource Development	EDAD 623 – Advanced Fieldwork Methods	3
	EHRD 656 – Narrative Analysis	3
	EHRD 657 – Life History Research	3
	EDAD or EHRD 690C – Quantitative Design	3
Educational Psychology	EPSY 625 – Advanced Behavioral Measurement	3
	EPSY 642 – Meta-Analysis of Behavioral Research	3
	EPSY 643 – Applied Multivariate Methods	3
	EPSY 651 – Theory of Structural Equation Modeling	3

New courses – offered as 689's initially – may be taken for the Certificate, pending approval by the Research Certificate Committee of the course as advanced-level.

Other TAMU Courses

Contingent upon students' particular academic interests *and* approval

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**Approved for
Certificate**

from both the chair of their graduate/dissertation committee and the Graduate Adviser (in consultation with the Research Certificate Committee), students may enroll in one or more advanced research methods courses offered at the TAMU campus, in departments such as Statistics, Sociology, Psychology, Communication, and the School of Rural Public Health. Students must secure approval of these courses, **prior to enrolling**, to ensure the credits will be counted toward the Certificate.

**Performance
Expectations for
Certificate Students**

Performance expectations for students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Education & Social Sciences Advanced Research Methods are presented below, according to 5 performance areas: Course Work, Research Experience, Publishing and Presenting Research Findings, Academic and Interpersonal Skills, and Certificate Evaluation.

Area 1: Course Work

- Develop a plan for taking research methods courses counting toward the Certificate, prior to enrollment in these courses.
- Submit plan for approval by committee chair and Graduate Adviser.
- Perform at a satisfactory level in all research methods courses; grades lower than B (and U grades) will not be accepted for Certificate courses.

Area 2: Research Experience

- Plan to engage in active research (either one's own study, or as part of a research team).
- Proactively seek out research mentoring, among CEHD faculty, if not taking part in funded research projects.

Area 3: Publishing and Presenting Research Findings

- Plan submission of a research-based manuscript, to a peer-reviewed journal, as first author or co-author.
- Provide evidence of submission of manuscript for review, in order to satisfy Certificate requirements.
- Although not a Certificate requirement, it is expected that students will have made at least one presentation – at a professional conference – based on his/her research project, by the time they complete the Certificate coursework.

Area 4: Academic and Interpersonal Skills

- Take initiative to secure opportunities for conducting research (either funded or unfunded), supervised by a Graduate faculty member in the CEHD.

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- Work cooperatively within a research team.
- Abide by ethical guidelines appropriate to the conduct of research and to professional conduct within the student's field of study.

Area 5: Certificate Evaluation

- Provide informal and formal feedback on experience with the Graduate Certificate, to the Graduate Advisers, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and/or to the committee chair.
- Identify areas in which the Certificate can be improved.
- Identify Certificate elements that are most helpful and useful.
- Identify particular challenges faced by students enrolled in the Certificate.

**Performance
Expectations for
Mentors or Professors**

Area 1: Course Work

- Assist the student who desires to obtain the Graduate Certificate, to identify the appropriate courses to be taken for Certificate credit.
- Consider the needs of Certificate students, when deciding whether to add students to a "full" class.
- Teach Certificate-related courses on as-needed basis (especially if need arises for additional sections and/or courses).

Area 2: Research Experience

- Assist students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate to identify faculty members who might serve as appropriate research mentors and/or might be able to provide practical research experience for Certificate students.
- Oversee – or collaborate with – student's submission for publication requirement, as needed.
- Foster a culture of scholarship, through appropriate mentoring and modeling of research productivity.

Area 3: Publishing and Presenting Research Findings

- Support students in submitting manuscripts for publication and abstracts for conference presentations.
- Co-author student publications when appropriate.

**Performance
Expectations for
Certificate Oversight
Committee**

- Annually, review the list of advanced research methods courses approved for the Certificate.
- Recommend changes, when appropriate.
- Assess students' formal and informal feedback regarding the

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Certificate and carry out appropriate changes.

- Function as a resource to the Graduate Advisers and Graduate Faculty in CEHD, regarding the Certificate requirements, as needed.
- Assist with advertising the Certificate to doctoral students in the CEHD, in other departments across campus, and to community members who might benefit from enrollment in the Certificate.