

Constitution of the Graduate Council

The Graduate Council will establish and maintain university-wide procedures, rules, and standards for the MA, MS, MLA, MFA, and PhD degree programs at Tulane.

Article I: Membership

The voting membership of Graduate Council will consist of the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research, who will serve as its chair, and fifteen elected faculty members each elected by a vote of the graduate faculty of their respective schools. Four of these members will represent the School of Liberal Arts, four will represent the School of Science and Engineering, and one each will represent the School of Medicine, the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, the A. B. Freeman School of Business, the School of Architecture, the School of Law, the School of Professional Advancement, and the School of Social Work. These fifteen members shall serve three-year staggered terms.

A Vice-Chair will be elected from the Graduate Council voting membership at the beginning of each academic year.

The Vice President for Research will also serve as a non-voting ex officio member.

Three non-voting student members will be elected from the graduate students. Two of these student members will be from the Graduate Studies Student Association (GSSA) to represent PhD and research based masters students and one from the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) to represent the professional students. The student members will be elected by a vote of their respective organization. Student members will serve one-year terms and are eligible for re-election.

Article II: Functions

1. The Graduate Council is the liaison between Academic Affairs and graduate programs and certificate programs. It is also the liaison between graduate education and the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research.
2. Approval of new MA, MS, MLA, MPS, MFA, and PhD programs after the program has received the approval of the graduate faculty of the school administering the program.
3. Approval of major curriculum changes in existing MA, MS, MLA, MPS, MFA, and PhD programs following the approval of the appropriate school.
4. Approval of the termination of any MA, MS, MLA, MPS, MFA, and PhD program after this termination has been approved by the graduate faculty of the school administering the program.

Originally approved by University Senate September 10, 2007.

Revised and approved by the University Senate October 2, 2017.

5. Establishment and maintenance of university-wide rules, procedures, and standards governing graduate education.
6. Initiation of reviews of programs without a professional association review process when the Graduate Council deems it appropriate.
7. Report by the Associate Provost on Graduate Council activities to University Senate at the last meeting of each academic year.

Article III: Meetings

Meetings of the Graduate Council shall be called by the Chair or by any eight voting Council members. Eight voting members of the Graduate Council shall constitute a quorum.

Article IV: Graduate Faculty

Each school offering graduate programs shall establish a graduate faculty within the guidelines established by the school. Members of the graduate faculty of each school may serve as members of the Graduate Council. The members of the Graduate Council are elected by votes of the graduate faculty of the appropriate school or schools.

Article V: Amendments

This constitution may be amended by the University Senate by a majority vote of members present.