

Graduate Academic Council

Report to the Senate

April 2023

- GAC proposed several revisions to grading schemes. These revisions will be presented to SEC and introduced as a Senate bill in May.
- GAC unanimously approved the proposal for changing the deadlines for withdrawing from courses and switching to S/U grading. This proposal will be introduced as a Senate Bill by UAC in May.
- Revisions of several programs were approved during the GAC meeting on 4/6:
 - **Combined Art History BA/ Liberal Studies MA.** This new BA/MA program proposed by the Department of Art and Art History will allow UAlbany students to complete two degrees in five years, and it will culminate in an MA thesis.
 - **Information Science School Library MS.** The requirement for practicum hours is re-distributed between several existing courses to allow students to build the necessary skills before completing observation/field hours.
 - **Business Administration MBA.** Field Experience courses are aligned with concentrations, titles of some research courses are changed, and elective offerings are widened. These changes allow students to have better preparation before participating in Field Experience and Research courses.
 - **Clinical, Social Personality, and Cognitive Psychology PhD Programs.** GRE scores are removed from admission requirements. The new approach has been tested during the COVID emergency, and it has yielded good results.
 - **Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity MS.** Six credit hours are moved from core to elective courses. This adds flexibility to the degree paths and allows students who may start in fall or spring to balance their schedules to achieve a more efficient path to graduation.
 - **Social Welfare MSW.** Distance education format is added.
 - **Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) MS.** The overall number of credits is reduced from 36 to 30, two core courses are re-classified as electives, new options for “Educational Technology” are added. These changes will make the program more competitive and better reflective of the requirements of our era.
- This report was prepared by Oleg Lunin, Chair of GAC.