

#### **MEMO**

To:

Joseph Thompson

From: John Goodpaster, Simon Atkinson, Nigel Richards

CC:

Amy Maidi, Christine Picard, Gina Londino, Nick Manicke

Date:

October 11, 2013

Re:

Request for change in total credit hours for the M.S. in Forensic and Investigative

Sciences (FIS)

The Forensic and Investigative Sciences (FIS) Program has been offering Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees since its inception in 2004. Subsequently, a Master of Science (M.S.) degree was approved and began taking its first students in 2008. This program offers a thesis-based degree as well as a non-thesis degree, either of which comprises 35 credit hours. Targeted students are those who have completed a Bachelor's degree in a forensic or physical science and who need an additional credential in order to be competitive applicants for positions within forensic science laboratories, those who seek advancement within their organization or students intending to pursue a doctoral degree. Both thesis and non-thesis students take several laboratory courses so that they gain hands-on experience with the latest forensic techniques.

Recently, the FIS Program elected to not accept any new graduate students in 2013 as a tenured faculty member (Jay Siegel) had retired and we were not able to hire his replacement (Nick Manicke) until this fall. That being said, we continue to receive at least five inquires per week about the M.S. program (via phone, email and web form). Now that we have added Dr. Manicke to the faculty and are currently seeking a tenure-track hire in forensic biology, we are poised to begin accepting new students in Fall 2014.

The sole change we are seeking is to reduce the total number of credit hours for both the thesis and non-thesis M.S. degrees (in both the Forensic Chemistry and Forensic Biology track) from 35 credit hours to 30 credit hours.

The justifications for this change are:

1) A shorter M.S. degree would be consistent with other M.S. programs in the School of Science (e.g., Chemistry and Biology). The degree would consist of required FIS

- graduate classes as well as electives within the Department of Biology and the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology.
- 2) Recent meetings with forensic practitioners have confirmed that a graduate degree is desirable in forensic science laboratories. These meetings also made it clear that a thesis-based M.S. is not always necessary potential employers are simply seeking a solid scientific education with excellent oral/written communication skills.
- 3) The 30 credit M.S. degree (non-thesis track) would be configured so that it would be intensive full-time students would be able to complete the degree in 12 months. There would be no financial support for non-thesis students and the tuition for the accelerated M.S. would be set independently. This is directly analogous to the preprofessional M.S. degree in Biology that is currently offered at IUPUI.
- 4) The thesis-based M.S. would remain active and existing financial support would be offered to a select group of these students. As per usual, thesis students will take two years to complete this degree.

A total of eight example plans of study for students in the thesis-based and non-thesis based M.S. programs as they currently stand and as proposed are included for review. Note that proposed changes to an existing FIS course (FIS 59700) and the introduction of a new FIS course in laboratory management (FIS 50700) are in process separately.

I welcome any questions and can be reached at 317-274-6881 and jvgoodpa@iupui.edu.

Sincerely,

John V. Goodpaster, Ph.D.

Director, Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program

Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Nigel G. Richards, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Simon J. Atkinson, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Department of Biology

## **IUPUI**

## SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

A PURDUE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL Office of the Dean Indianapolis

Approval for the proposal for a change in the total credit hours for the M.S. in Forensic and Investigative Sciences (FIS) degree program.

Joseph L. Thompson

Staff Aide to the Graduate Education Committee

School of Science

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David G. Skalnik, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education

School of Science

Simon J. Rhodes, Ph.D.

Dean

School of Science

#### **PURDUE UNIVERSITY** GRADUATE SCHOOL

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1.	NAME OF STUDENT EXAMPLE		PU:	ID No.						
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P	Forensic Chemistry II Lab	FIS	51201	1	X					Spring 1
P	Forensic Microscopy	FIS	50600	3	X					Spring 1
R	Professional Issues in Forensic Science	FIS	50500	3	X					Fall 1
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R	Professional Issues in Forensic Science		FIS	50500	3	X					Fall 1
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### **PURDUE UNIVERSITY** GRADUATE SCHOOL

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P	Forensic Microscopy	·		FIS	50600	3	X				Spring 1	or 2
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Graduate School Form 6 (Revised 6/06)

12. SIGNATURE OF STUDENT

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Academic Dean (if required)

Date

Graduate School Dean

## PURDUE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

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Request for Master's Degree Advisory Committee and Plan of Study Approval

(Please read instructions on reverse side.) Date Degree Expected of 1. NAME OF STUDENT PUID No. EXAMPLE Thesis Option Nonthesis Option DEPARTMENT Chemistry and Chemical Biology Dept. Code CHM Degree Title Master of Science Degree Code FIS/MS Research Area N/A 3. AREA OF SPECIALIZATION (if any) AOS Code N/A Forensic Chemistry Area 5. METHOD OF 4. COURSES 6. DATE ESTABLISHING CREDIT COMPLETED OR TO BE OFFICIAL TITLE ABBREVIATION Subject Course Cr. Regular Other or Transfer From + COMPLETED Please group courses into "Primary" (P) & "Related" (R) areas. No \* Hours Regis. Abbr degree Regis. Forensic Chemistry I Fall 1 FIS 51100 X Fall 1 Forensic Chemistry I Lab X Р 51101 FIS Forensic Chemistry II Spring 1 FIS 51200 3 X Forensic Chemistry II Lab FIS 51201 1 X Spring 1 Forensic Microscopy FIS 50600 3 X Spring 1 R X Fall 1 Professional Issues in Forensic Science FIS 3 50500 Legal Issues in Forensic Science Fall 1 FIS 51500 3 X Law and Forensic Science X Summer 1 LAW D774 2 Design of a Research Project Fall 2 FIS 59700 6 X R Elective 3 X Fall 2 Elective 3 X Spring 2 ----Elective 3 X Spring 2 Elective X Spring 2 1 ----Under the current requirements, a non-thesis M.S. student in forensic chemistry would take 11 credit hours of coursework in their primary area (forensic chemistry and microscopy) and 24 credit hours of related coursework for a total of 35 credit hours. 7. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS Method to be used to meet language requirements + Transfer course must be described as on original transcript. \* Mark course number with asterisk (\*) if B or better is required. b. Ь. 8. NAMES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS 10. DEPARTMENT 11. ADVISOR APPROVED BY ADVISORY 9. GRADUATE IN AREA OF (Please type full name.) **FACULTY** COMMITTEE MEMBERS IDENTIFIER (Signature) Code Abbr. Chair Chair 13. APPROVED BY: Check here if supplemental notes or other requirements are attached. Date Head of the Graduate Program

Graduate School Form 6 (Revised 6/06)

# PURDUE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

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Request for Master's Degree Advisory Committee and Plan of Study Approval

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P	Forensic Microscopy		FIS	50600	3	X				Spring 1		
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2. \$	SIGNATURE OF STUDENT	Date		Academic De	ean (if requ	ired)		Ε	Date	Grad	raduate School Dean		

### PURDUE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

## Request for Master's Degree Advisory Committee and Plan of Study Approval

Pg	g of Pgs.	(Please read ins	structions	on revers	e side.)		Date Degr	ee Expected		
1.	NAME OF STUDENT EXAMPLE		PU	ID No.						
2.	DEPARTMENT Biology		De <sub>l</sub>	pt. Code	вю		_	sis Option	Nonthesis Option	
	Degree Title Master of Science		Deg	gree Code	FIS/N	AS Re	esearch Area	N/A		
3.	AREA OF SPECIALIZATION (if any) Forensic B	iology					AOS	Code N/A		
Area	4. COURSES	3					METHOD C		6. DATE	
	OFFICIAL TITLE ABBREVIATION Please group courses into "Primary" (P) & "Related" (R)	Subject Abbr.				Non- degree Regis.	COMPLETED OR TO BE COMPLETED			
P	Forensic Biology I	FIS	52100	3	X	Regis.			Fall 1	
P	Forensic Biology I Lab	FIS	52101	1	X				Fall 1	
P	Forensic Biology II	FIS	52200	3	X				Spring 1	
P	Forensic Biology II Lab	FIS	52201	1	X				Spring 1	
P	Forensic Microscopy	FIS	50600	3	X				Spring 1	
R	Professional Issues in Forensic Science	FIS	50500	3	X				Fall I	
R	Legal Issues in Forensic Science	FIS	51500	3	X				Fall 1	
R	Elective			3	X				Fall 1	
R	Project Design	FIS	59700	3	X				Spring 1	
R R	Elective			3	X				Spring 1	
	Law and Forensic Science	LAW	D774	2	X				Summer 1	
K	Forensic Science Laboratory Management	FIS		2	X		'		Summer 1	
+										
	30 credit hours of coursework - completing it in three semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer I). Approved electives would include graduate courses in biology. FIS 59700 (Project Design) will be offered as a 3 credit class that will include material on instrument evaluation, method development/validation and optimization. A 2 credit class in lab management will be offered and be team-taught by laboratory directors who currently advise the FIS program.									
7. J	LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS Method to be us	sed to meet language	requiremen	te .	l - Transfe	r course mu	st be described	d as on origin	al transcript	
1.	a.	ou to most maguage	requiremen						etter is required.	
).	b.								-	
3. 1	NAMES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS (Please type full name.)	9. GRADUATE FACULTY IDENTIFIER		OMMITTE		MEMBERS		Code	11. ADVISOR IN AREA OF:	
	Chair			<b></b>		Chair				
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]	Check here if supplemental notes or other requirements a attached.	re 13. APPROV	VED BY:	·						
		Head of the C	of the Graduate Program Date					si .		
2,	SIGNATURE OF STUDENT Date	Academic De	an (if requ	ired)		Da	ate	Graduate School Dean		