

TO: Faculty Senate Steering Committee

FROM: Dr. Aaron Liberman, Chair of Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Deletion of existing curriculum policy

DATE: August 7, 2007

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The Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee recognizes that language concerning the requirement that at least six hours of course work must be taken at UCF outside of a student's program is confusing and causing numerous student appeals through the Graduate Council Appeals Subcommittee. The Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee and the Graduate Council Appeals Subcommittee recommend that the requirement be deleted university-wide.

Also, the Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee does not think that this change in curriculum requires Faculty Senate approval, but that this is an informational item to the Steering Committee.

The change is identified below from the Graduate Catalog with the strikethrough feature. Please let us know if this item needs Faculty Senate deliberation. Otherwise, we recommend that the Graduate Catalog be updated with this strikethrough for 2007.

### **Course Requirements**

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The course requirements for a doctoral degree will consist of lectures, seminars, discussions, independent research, independent study, and dissertation research. However, because of the advanced nature of doctoral education, seminars and independent study are used frequently to encourage student participation, debate, evaluation, and discussion of diverse ideas and approaches. Student presentations and discussions are a standard instructional technique in doctoral programs, and careful analysis, independent research, and greater understanding and application of ideas is expected. A primary objective of doctoral study is to train students to a point of excellence in conducting, reporting, and applying scholarly research. Successful students must demonstrate that they are able to conduct and report original independent research that contributes substantially to the discipline in which they study.

Each doctoral program of study will include a minimum of 72 semester hours of graduate credit beyond the baccalaureate degree, at least one-half of which must be taken at UCF. ~~At least 6 semester hours of the course work taken at UCF must be outside the student's program area.~~ A university-wide minimum of at least 15 hours of dissertation credits is required for all doctoral programs. Some programs require considerably more than the minimum of 72 hours because of the nature of the discipline and the standards of the associated profession.