



MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Linda L. Neider
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: August 28, 2020

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-05(B) – Closure/Inactivation of the PhD in Marine Ecosystems and Society (to be merged with the PhD Program in Environmental Science and Policy Program)

Reference Legislation #2020-04(B) and #2020-06(B)

The Faculty Senate, at its August 26, 2020 meeting, had no objections to the proposal to close the PhD in Marine Ecosystems and Society, which will be to be merged with the PhD Program in Environmental Science and Policy Program through Legislation #2020-04(B). The program will be closed when new students will no longer be admitted. There are currently seven students enrolled in the program. The estimated program completion for these students is by August 2024.

The proposal is enclosed for your reference.


This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

LLN/rh

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost
Roni Avissar, Dean, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS)
Guillermo Prado, Dean, Graduate School
Kenny Broad, Professor, MES; Director, Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy
Katharine Mach, Assoc. Professor and Graduate Program Dir, Marine Ecosystems and Society (MES); Faculty Scholar, Abess Center
Gina Maranto, Director, Ecosystem Science and Policy; Graduate Program Coordinator, Abess Center
David Letson, Professor and Chair, MES, RSMAS

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-05(B) – Closure/Inactivation of the PhD in Marine Ecosystems and Society (to be merged with the PhD Program in Environmental Science and Policy Program)

PRESIDENT’S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 9/11/20
(President’s Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Roni Avissar, Dean (RSMAS) and Guillermo Prado, Dean (Graduate School)

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(pending any additional approval by the Board of Trustees)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

Program Change Request

A deleted record cannot be edited

Program Inactivation Proposal

Date Submitted: 03/04/20 4:27 pm

Viewing: **Ph.D. in Marine Ecosystems and Society**
: MES_PHD

Last edit: 04/16/20 4:51 pm

Changes proposed by: Kristina Santana (kxs706)

Catalog Pages Using
this Program

[Ph.D. in Marine Ecosystems and Society](#)

Date of Closure
(when new
students will no
longer be admitted)

In Workflow

1. PG Assessment and Accreditation
2. PG MES Chair
3. PG GR School
4. PG Graduate Council
5. PG GR Dean
6. PG MS GR Assoc Dean
7. PG ADPC
8. PG FS Office for GWC
9. PG FS GWC
10. PG Faculty Senate
11. PG FS Office for President
12. PG Registrar

Approval Path

1. 03/05/20 12:54 pm
Patty Murphy
(pxm491): Approved for PG Assessment and Accreditation
2. 03/06/20 11:05 am
David Letson
(dletson): Approved for PG MES Chair
3. 03/06/20 4:47 pm
Patty Murphy
(pxm491): Rollback to PG MES Chair for PG GR School

- 4. 03/07/20 1:55 pm
David Letson
(dletson): Approved
for PG MES Chair
- 5. 03/11/20 1:10 pm
Tiffany Plantan
(tplantan):
Approved for PG GR
School
- 6. 03/23/20 3:02 pm
Alexander Mas
(amas): Approved
for PG Graduate
Council
- 7. 03/23/20 9:29 pm
Guillermo Prado
(gprado): Approved
for PG GR Dean
- 8. 03/23/20 9:31 pm
Brian Soden
(bsoden): Approved
for PG MS GR Assoc
Dean
- 9. 08/10/20 1:37 pm
Patty Murphy
(pxm491): Approved
for PG ADPC

05/06/2020

Final Catalog 2020- 2021
Edition

Reason for Closure

**This program will be merged with the Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy program
which will be housed in RSMAS.**

Describe the
number of students
currently enrolled
in the program and
when they are
expected to

complete the
program

There are currently 7 students enrolled in the program. We estimate that all of these students will complete their program by August 2024.

Explain how current
students will be
helped to complete
their program of
study

All students currently enrolled in the program will be able to complete their program.

Describe any
additional
charges/expenses
students will incur
due to the program
closure, if any

None

Describe how
current faculty
and/or staff will be
affected by the
program closure, if
at all, and how they
will be redeployed
or helped to find
new employment,
if needed

No faculty or staff will be affected by the merger.

Explain how and
when any affected
parties (students,
faculty, staff) will be
informed of the
impending closure

The MES Program Chair will notify all affected faculty, students, and staff about the program closure via email announcement within 3 weeks of the Faculty Senate Meeting decision.

Please list the authors of this proposal including name, rank/title, program/department, and school.

Proposer(s) Name

Career Graduate

Academic Structure

School/ College	Department
School of Marine & Atm Science	Marine Ecosystems and Society

Plan Type Major and/or Degree

Degree Type Doctorate

Degree Name

Proposed Plan Code

Plan Name Ph.D. in Marine Ecosystems and Society

Will there be any subcomponents within the program such as concentrations, specializations, thesis/non-thesis options, or tracks?

Effective Term

First Term Valid

Program Instruction Mode In Person

Where is the program offered?

Location	Please provide the % of instruction at each location.
Marine Campus	100

Program Length (Years) 5

Total Credits 60

To Be Published in the Academic Bulletin

Program Overview

Program Mission Statement

Mission

The goal of the Marine Ecosystems and Society department is to educate, inspire, and train students to respond to the complex challenges associated with human utilization of and dependency upon vulnerable marine ecosystems. Our goal is to help our students better understand the emerging role they can play in shaping and ensuring the sustainability of marine resources, including strategic management efforts coupled with the highest standards of resource governance. Students will develop an interdisciplinary perspective through exposure to a wide breadth of intrinsically linked disciplines, including but not limited to fisheries ecosystem management, resource economics, mariculture, habitat restoration, climate change, anthropology, and social science. This facilitates their development as future leaders of the institutions and organizations charged with the responsibility of defining, utilizing, and conserving the marine environment and its resources.

Program Goals

Goals

To help our students better understand the emerging role they can play in shaping and ensuring the sustainability of marine resources, including strategic management efforts coupled with the highest standards of resource governance.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of a range of marine related disciplines, specifically relevant to their research (proposed and executed).

Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills through the development and execution of an original research plan, including the application of appropriate methodologies.

Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate ideas effectively and professionally, both in writing and orally.

Curriculum Requirements

Curriculum Requirements

The MES Ph.D. degree requires 60 total credits. 1

Core Courses

[MES 608](#)

Biometrics in Marine Science

6

<u>MES 715</u>	Advanced Biometrics in Marine Science	
Electives 2		21
Dissertation Research		33
<u>MES 830</u>	Doctoral Dissertation	
Required Examinations		
Comprehensive Examination 3		
Qualifying Examination 4		
Additional Requirements		
<u>RSM 700</u>	Research Ethics	
MES Seminar 5		
Proposal Defense 6		
Educational Training Program (TA) 7		
<u>RSM 771</u>	Educational Training 1	
<u>RSM 772</u>	Educational Training 2	
<u>RSM 773</u>	Educational Training 3	
Total Credit Hours		60
1	Minimum of 27 course credits and 12 dissertation credits. 6 course credits must be taken at the 700-level.	
2	Course enrollment and scheduling is defined by the student and their Chair. Students are affiliated with one or more of the MES tracks, and will be expected to adhere to all relevant academic requirements.	
3	MES Ph.D. students must take a comprehensive exam at the end of their second semester in residence. The exam format and content is defined by the Committee Chair and members. The exam is graded as pass/fail. If a student fails the exam, the option to pursue remediation occurs at the sole discretion of the Committee and the Program faculty. A failed Comprehensive Exam with no endorsement to retake the exam will result in immediate dismissal from the MES graduate program.	
4	At the end of the second year in residence, all Ph.D. students must take a written qualifying exam, which emphasizes subject matter critical to the execution of the proposed dissertation research. The purpose of the qualifying examination is to demonstrate that MES doctoral students possesses the requisite knowledge and expertise to be successful. The topic areas are established and agreed upon by the student, Chair, and the dissertation Committee at the proposal defense. The Committee is encouraged to provide direction and readings for study, as well as establish a clear format for the exam. It is the Chair's responsibility to host the exam and organize and distribute grades (pass/fail) in a timely manner. Students must pass the qualifying exam in order to be admitted to candidacy. In the event of a failure, a student may be reexamined once upon the recommendation of the Committee, in consultation with the MES Academic Committee. If approved, the reexamination must occur before the end of the subsequent semester. A supplemental oral qualifying examination may be required by the student's Committee but cannot serve as a substitute for the written examination, which is a Graduate School requirement.	
5	Students are required to attend all MES student seminars.	

MES Ph.D. students must host one seminar during their fourth semester at RSMAS and every year thereafter, with the exception of the semester in which they defend their dissertation.

6 All MES students are expected to compose a full proposal, including a thorough literature review, clearly outlined objectives, a summary of the significance of their proposed project (including broader impacts, if relevant), a detailed research plan, and a budget. Following the written proposal vetting process by the committee, students are required to formally defend their proposal. The purpose of the proposal defense is to certify the readiness of the student to conduct dissertation research, as well as facilitate an open discussion regarding the objectives of the dissertation and the relevant experimental approach.

The dissertation proposal is the foundation for the qualifying exam, and both must be completed no later than the end of the second year in residence.

7 Ph.D. students are expected to be a Teaching Assistant (TA) for two courses while pursuing their degree.

The mandatory TA program will include training of new TAs, evaluation of their performance, and recognition of excellence. The goal is to make the experience as valuable as possible for the TA, the faculty, and the students taking our courses.

A training session and two teaching opportunities are offered as courses in educational training (RSM 771, RSM 772, RSM 773). Students will be registered accordingly.

Specific requirements for TAs are outlined in the RSMAS Student Handbook.

Plan of Study

Admission Requirements

Rationale

Rationale

Market Demand

Relationship to Other Programs

Relationship to Undergraduate and Professional Programs

Library Resources Available and Needed to Support the Program

Laboratory Facilities, Equipment, and Space Available and Needed to Support the Program

Other Resources Available or Needed to Support the Program

Curriculum

Program Curriculum

Upload Syllabi for Any New Courses

Proposed Schedule of Course Offerings for the First Three Years

CIP Code

Proposed CIP Code

Faculty

Program Directors

Upload CV(s)

Program Faculty

Upload CV(s) Grad

Students

Applicant Pool

Enrollment Projections

Teaching or Research Assistants

Administration

Program Administration

Budget

Program Budget

Comparison

Peer Comparisons

Documents

Attach Supporting Documentation

Reviewer

Comments

Patty Murphy (pxm491) (03/05/20 12:54 pm): This program will be merged into the PhD in Environmental Science and Policy. This proposal is part of the proposal to move the PhD in Environmental Science and Policy from the Graduate School to RSMAS.

David Letson (dletson) (03/07/20 1:55 pm): The Marine Ecosystems and Society voted unanimously to approve the proposal on March 4, 2020.

Alexander Mas (amas) (03/23/20 3:02 pm): The Graduate Council met to discuss this proposal on March 17, 2020. No concerns were expressed by Council members.

Patty Murphy (pxm491) (03/24/20 9:52 am): The RSMAS School Council voted to approve this proposal on 3/13/2020. See documentation submitted with proposal to revise Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy.

Key: 279