



Graduate Council

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Brad D. Smith, President

From: Dr. Richard Eggleton, Graduate Council, Chair Richard Eggleton *Richard Eggleton*

Date: October 10th, 2026

Subject: **Review of Graduate Council Minutes: September 25th, 2026**

Attached are the minutes of the recent Graduate Council meeting for your review. Approval of these minutes will also serve as approval of graduate faculty status, etc. The meeting was held in a hybrid format in MSC 2W16-B and via TEAMS.

Please advise me if you have any comments/concerns/questions.

Minutes approved.



Mr. Brad D. Smith
President, Marshall University

10/14/26
Date

Note to Andrea Gray, Executive Assistant to the President:

Please return the signed original to Dr. Carl Mummert with .pdf copies e-mailed to:

Dr. Richard Eggleton, Chair Graduate Council, eggleton@marshall.edu

Dr. Steven Young, Secretary, Graduate Council, young250@marshall.edu

Dr. Diane Petrella, Provost, petrellad@marshall.edu

Dr. Carl Mummert, Assistant Provost, mummert@marshall.edu

Dr. Karen McComas, Associate VP, mcomas@marshall.edu

Dr. Julia Spears, Asst Provost of Online Education, spearsj@marshall.edu

Dr. Jerry Ross, Chief Enrollment Officer and VP of Enrollment Management,
jerry.ross@marshall.edu

Dr. Sonja Cantrell, Registrar, cantrell@marshall.edu

Dr. Allison Carey, Associate Provost for Assessment & Strategic Initiatives
careya@marshall.edu

Dr. Susan Tusing, Chief University Accreditation Officer, tusings@marshall.edu

MU Graduate Council Meeting -September 25th, 2026

MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting—MSC 2W16-B + Teams

Members Present: Amanda Meadows, Stephen Young, Timothy Bryan, Johan Botes, McKenzie Brittain, Monica DellaMea, Tammy Johnson, Yousef Sardahi, Sarah Clemins, Ashley Walters, Julie Snyder-Yule, Craig Kimble, Sandra Stroebel, Conner Waller, and Huanshu Yuan

Members Absent: Nate Floyd, Richard Eggleton,

Ex-Officio Voting Members Present: Rick Gage

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present: Carl Mummert and Diane Petrella

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Absent:

Guests: Yi-Po Chiu, Monica Brooks, Scott Davis, Debbie Lockwood, Susan Tusing, Eryn Roles, Sonja Contrell-Johnson, Carleen O'Neill, Kelli Adkins, Cicero Fein, Tracy Christofero, Morgan Jennifer, Kelly Bradley, and Vikki Stroehler

Agenda

Meadows	Welcome; Approval of the Agenda, introduction of Graduate student rep
Young	Approval of August Minutes
Guest Speaker	Provost – Dr. Diane Petrella
Yuan	Credentialling (Attachment #1) (GC-26-09-01-CRC)
Stroebel	Planning Committee Report (Attachment # 2) (GC-26-09-02-PC—GC-26-09-08-PC)
Meadows	Program Review Announcement
	Update from the Chair • Proposal that all new majors, certificates, and programs need to be at the Graduate Council no later than March 1, 2027. (Attachment #3 (GC-26-09-09). • Sent out an email regarding the summer AI leadership workshop, please try to give feedback via the link. • Will send out some other times for the retreat as we could not get a date when more than half could make it. • Next month Dr. Gautam Pillay will be presenting
Mummert	Graduate Studies Report (Attachment # 4)
Gage	Faculty Senate Report (Attachment # 5)
Meadows	Wrap up and adjournment

Attachments

Attachment #	Description
1	Credentialling report
2	Planning Committee Report
3	Graduate Council (GC-26-09-09)
4	Graduate Studies Report
5	Faculty Senate Report

Future Meetings 2026 - 2027:

- September 25th – MSC 2W16-b
- October 30th – MSC 2W16-b
- November 20th – MSC 2W16-b
- January 29th – MSC 2W16-b
- February 26th – Drinko 349
- March 26th – MSC 2W16-b
- April 30th – Drinko 349

Meeting Started at 1:00pm

Agenda approved by members present (Rick Gage motioned)

Minutes from August 2026 meeting were approved (Rick Gage motioned)

Conner Waller was introduced as the student representative for the graduate council

Dr. Petrella's Presentation

- Introduced herself and discussed how she believes it is a privilege to be at Marshall University
- Her philosophy on graduate education
 - Believes it plays a central role at the university
 - Need the advanced knowledge, scholarship, and professionalization
 - Especially to meet the needs of our region
 - Five key principles
 - Still maintain a focus on student success (mentoring, flexible learning, strong support systems, etc.)
 - Should drive research, scholarship, and creative activities
 - Should support workforce and economic development
 - Prepared highly skilled professionals that meet the needs of our region
 - Should foster interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation
 - Should strengthen Marshall's impact on the communities we serve
- Provost Dr. Petrella was asked to clarify her policy on all faculty being assigned a 4/4 teaching load.
 - She provided context that the 4/4 load was a starting point and that through finding efficiencies this load can be reduced based on individual situations in the various departments.

Credentiailling Committee

- Committee reviewed applicants
- Found some duplicates with the same candidates being listed twice with different dates
 - Others also had duplicated terms
 - Others had no defined end of term
 - Some listed as not starting until 2028

- Committee was unsure if this was a typo or if colleges wanted to wait for two years to grant status
- Monica Brooks cleared up one applicant (it was a typo)
- Committee put forth their recommendation for approval
- Council approves the recommendation

Planning Committee

- See notes for list of committee decisions.

Program Review Committee

- Assignments will be made so everyone on the committee reviews programs
- First vote in November
 - May need to wait for the SWAT or External Review before voting
- Want to have them all voted on by January
- Dr. Allison Carey added that 26 programs are up for review this year.
 - Around 10 of these programs are certificate programs.
 - Only 8 of the 26 programs will have a SWAT report.
 - All but those 8 should be available for review in about a week of this meeting date.
 - All SWAT reports should be completed by November 8th.
 - Committee can begin review before SWAT is completed.
 - Programs asked to improve last cycle will likely need to meet with the graduate council.
 - These programs should also be sending a report to Dr. Allison Carey's office by November 2nd.
 - She will vet the reports than provide them to committee when complete.

Chairs Updates

- Do have a proposal to change the last submission date for review of new programs or majors.
 - Proposal to set the new date to March 1st
 - Concerns brought up about getting other steps done downstream and will we ever grant exceptions
 - Carl Mummert added that even if a program is submitted by the new deadline, it is possible they may not be able to begin by the following fall due to external reviewers
 - Better to get things submitted in the fall for a following fall start

- Chair requested that we push this information out to colleges, chairs, etc.
- Proposal was approved by the committee
- Reminder to make sure to review materials from Summer AI Retreat and a new email will be sent out to schedule our retreat

Dr. Carl Mummert Graduate Studies Report

- International students
 - The new regulation on international student F1 VISAs is on pause
 - Students should stay in contact with the International Office
 - The Department of Homeland Security sent a letter stating that CPT can only be authorized if it is offered/required for everyone.
 - Dr. Carl Mummert will provide more updates as they become available
- Distance Course
 - Regulation on the definition of a distance course.
 - New definitions require that all parts of the course is delivered remotely
 - Some things can no longer be considered distance under these new regulations
 - Online learning is putting out guidance on this new policy
 - Dr. Carl Mummert is also meeting with individual programs
 - Discussion drafts are already circulating
 - New definition is only about courses not programs
- Digital Accessibility
 - Summary of Provost email
 - The accessibility website is available with resources
 - Design Center is prepared to help faculty
 - Ambassadors are also available
 - IT can also help with specific tools
 - The deadline to be complying is April 26th
 - Fix your content day in early November
 - Working with IT to open course shells early so faculty can get everything accessible before the beginning of the semester
- Dr. Scott Davis asked a question about a new Redbook System Technology
 - Dr. Carl Mummert is hopeful that a replacement can develop a new system that is more efficient

- Dr. Sandra Stroebel asked if distance programs are being used interchangeably with online programs and will there be hybrid programming? How does that impact tuition?
 - Dr. Carl Mummert state that he uses distance as an all-encompassing term
 - Marshall can determine which programs are designated for the e-campus rates
 - Marshall online has taken the lead on this drafting, and they are not looking to eliminate distance program

Dr. Rick Gage Faculty Senate Update

- Standing committees have a liaison in place and reports are being reproduce
- Reminder to think of nominations for Spring 2027 Commencement Speaker
- Still working with University AI draft policy
 - Draft has been viewed by FTC and ATC
 - Graduate council will likely see the draft in the near future
- Dr. Rick Gage has been working with individuals across the campus to focus on eliminating discrepancies in various policies (faculty workload, sabbatical, P&T, etc).
- Work has started on the 2028 academic calendar development
 - Be on the lookout for
- Next Thursday, October 1st at 4pm in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse
 - President Smith is planning on rolling out new initiatives and discussing plan on a page initiatives
 - Please encourage colleagues to attend

Meeting adjourned at 1:52pm.

Attachment #1

Credentialling Committee Report

Graduate Council September 25, 2026

(GC-26-09-01-CRC)

Type	Faculty Member	E-mail	College/School	Department/Division	Graduate Faculty Level	Term Start	Term Expires
Add	Al-Aqtash, Raid	alaqtash@marshall.edu	COS	Mathematics & Physics	Graduate Chair	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Al-Aqtash, Raid	alaqtash@marshall.edu	COS	Mathematics & Physics	Graduate Chair	1/12/2026	5/15/2031
Add	Backus, Melinda	backus5@marshall.edu	COEPD	UTE	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
	Blough, Eric	blough@marshall.edu	SOP	Dean	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Brown, Bryn	bruney1@marshall.edu	COHP	Communication Disorders	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Burns, Katie	burns172@marshall.edu	SOP	Pharmacy Practice, Administration & Research	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Campbell, Elizabeth	campbelle@marshall.edu	COLA	Graduate Humanities	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Childers, Tiffany	childers141@marshall.edu	SOP	DPPAR	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Cole, Ashley	coleash@marshall.edu	LIB	School of Library Science	Associate	1/12/2026	5/15/2029
Add	Coleman, Shelley	colemans@marshall.edu	COEPD	Counseling	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Cummings, Deanna	cummingsdea@marshall.edu	COEPD	Curriculum and Instruction	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Dauber, James	dauber@marshall.edu	COHP	School of Physical Therapy	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031

Add	Davis, Curtis	davis1101@marshall.edu	COHP	School of Health and Movement Sciences	Graduate	1/12/2026	5/15/2031
Add	Drabish, Kerry	simmon19@marshall.edu	COHP	Nursing	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Ellison, Marc	ellison13@marshall.edu	COEPD	Curriculum and Instruction	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Garrett, William	garrett46@marshall.edu	COHP	School of Health and Movement Sciences	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Hamilton, Jennifer	gunno2@marshall.edu	COEPD	Curriculum and Instruction	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Inyang, Enobong	inyang@marshall.edu	COEPD	Counseling	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Kathman, Nicholas	kathman@marshall.edu	COS	Biological Sciences	Graduate Chair	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Koc, Hasan	kocha@marshall.edu	SOP	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Long, Linda	goldman6@marshall.edu	COEPD	Curriculum and Instruction	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Lumpkin, Britton	lumpkinb@marshall.edu	COLA	English	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Luzier, Jessica	luzier@marshall.edu	COLA	Psychology	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Mahoney, Phillip	mahoneyph@marshall.edu	COHP	Communication Disorders	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	McGinnis, Julia	mcginnisju@marshall.edu	LIB	School of Library Science	Associate	1/12/2026	5/15/2029
Add	Mellert, Megan	delong22@marshall.edu	COHP	Nursing	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Mohammad, Atif	mohammada@marshall.edu	CECS	Computer Science	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Mollette, Sarah	jenkins59@marshall.edu	LIB	School of Library Science	Associate	1/11/2027	5/15/2030
Add	Na, Suk Joon	nas@marshall.edu	CECS	Civil Engineering	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Neff, David	dneff@marshall.edu	COS	Chemistry	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Perry, Natalie	elkins80@marshall.edu	COHP	Nursing	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Quisenberry, Sean	quisenberrys@marshall.edu	COHP	School of Health and Movement Sciences	Graduate	8/16/2027	12/15/2032
Add	Ridge, Sean	ridges@marshall.edu	COEPD	Counseling	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031

Add	Riley, Brittany	warrick2@marshall.edu	SOP	Pharmacy Practice, Administration & Research	Graduate	1/10/2028	5/15/2033
Add	Riley, Brittany	warrick2@marshall.edu	SOP	Pharmacy Practice, Administration & Research	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Shepherd, Chatrawee	chatrawee.shepherd@marshall.edu	SOM	Biomedical Sciences	Graduate Chair	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Sidarala, Vaibhav	sidarala@marshall.edu	SOM	Biomedical Sciences	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Smith, Jacob	smith1233@marshall.edu	CAM	Music	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Starnes, Edmund	starnese@marshall.edu	CECS	Civil Engineering	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Stevenson, Alison	stevenson12@marshall.edu	COEPD	Curriculum and Instruction	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Stonerock, Andrew	stonerocka@marshall.edu	CAM	Music	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Stroud, Harmon	stroudh@marshall.edu	CECS	Mechanical and Industrial Engineering	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Tench, Richard	tench4@marshall.edu	COEPD	Counseling	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Thompson, Tara	farley6@marshall.edu	COEPD	Curriculum and Instruction	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Thorne, Jonathan	thorne18@marshall.edu	CAM	Music	Temporary	8/17/2026	12/11/2026
Add	Welch, Susan	welchs@marshall.edu	COHP	School of Health and Movement Sciences	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Add	Wiley, David	wiley6@marshall.edu	COEPD	Curriculum and Instruction	Graduate Chair	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Yeo, Seulki	yeos@marshall.edu	CECS	Civil Engineering	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Add	Zane, Kathryn	zane@marshall.edu	LIB	School of Library Science	Graduate	1/10/2028	5/15/2033
Edit	Anderson, Dennis	andersond@marshall.edu	COEPD	LS/ACE/SP	Graduate Chair	1/13/2025	5/15/2030
Edit	Banks, Tamara	banks5@marshall.edu	COEPD	Counseling	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Cole, Alan	cole8@marshall.edu	COEPD	Counseling	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029

Edit	Cooper, Thomas	thomas.cooper@marshall.edu	COEPD	Curriculum and Instruction	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Cyphert, Travis	cyphert@marshall.edu	COS	Biological Sciences	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Dayton, Zane	daytonz@marshall.edu	COLA	Communication Studies	Graduate	8/18/2025	12/15/2030
Edit	Dobbs, Wendell	dobbs@marshall.edu	CAM	Music	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Hall, James	hallj@marshall.edu	CAM	Music	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Hare, Christina	HARE2@marshall.edu	COEPD	LS/ACE/SP	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Hare, Christina	HARE2@marshall.edu	COEPD	LS/ACE/SP	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Hassib, Raja	hassib@marshall.edu	COLA	English	Associate	1/12/2026	5/15/2029
Edit	Hensley, Nathaniel	HENSLEY70@marshall.edu	COEPD	Counseling	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Jana, Ananya	jana@marshall.edu	CECS	Computer Science	Graduate Chair	1/13/2025	5/15/2030
Edit	Liang, Huaqing	liangh@marshall.edu	COHP	Physical Therapy	Doctoral	8/17/2026	
Edit	Mateer, Bethanie	mateer@marshall.edu	COEPD	Curriculum and Instruction	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Monk, Dalton	monk25@marshall.edu	COLA	English	Graduate	1/12/2026	5/15/2031
Edit	Mount, Mallory	evans99@marshall.edu	COHP	Nutrition and Dietetics	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Edit	OMalley, Daniel	omalleyd@marshall.edu	COLA	English	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Edit	Palaniappan, Balasubramian	palaniappan@marshall.edu	SOM	Clinical and Translational Science	Associate	1/10/2028	5/15/2031
Edit	Rorabaugh, Boyd	rorabaughb@marshall.edu	SOP	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Graduate Chair	8/19/2024	12/15/2029
Edit	Rucker, Nathan	rucker37@marshall.edu	COLA	English	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Shreve, Anna	Rubenstein9@marshall.edu	COEPD	Counseling	Associate	8/21/2023	12/15/2026
Edit	Vance, Kimberly	kimberly.vance@marshall.edu	COEPD	Counseling	Associate	8/17/2026	12/15/2029
Edit	Wehner, Andre	wehnera@marshall.edu	COS	Mathematics and Physics	Associate	1/12/2026	5/15/2029

Edit	Wehner, Andre	wehnera@marshall.edu	COS	Mathematics and Physics	Associate	1/12/2026	5/15/2029
Edit	Wesley, Jerica	davis488@marshall.edu	COEPD	Counseling	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Edit	Williams, Kelli	williamsk@marshall.edu	COHP	Nutrition and Dietetics	Graduate	8/17/2026	12/15/2031
Edit	Woart, Anthony	woarta@marshall.edu	COHP	Public Health	Graduate	1/8/2024	5/15/2029
Edit	Woart, Anthony	woarta@marshall.edu	COHP	Public Health	Graduate	1/8/2024	5/15/2029
Edit	Yoo, Wook-Sung	yoow@marshall.edu	CECS	Computer Science	Graduate	1/11/2027	5/15/2032

Feedback for Editing:

Duplicates

- Al-Aqtash, Raid (8/17/25- 12/15/31; 1/12/26 - 12/15/31)
- Hare, Cristina (8/17/26-12/15/29)
- Woart, Anthony (1/12/26-5/15/29)
- Riley, Brittany (8/17/26-5/15/33; 1/10/28-5/15/33)

No end-term expiration date:

- Liang, Huaqing

2028 Effective Date (1/10/28):

- Zane, Kathryn (1/10/28)
- Palaniappan, Balasubramian (1/10/28)

Attachment #2

Planning Committee Report

College of Arts and Media

(GC-26-09-02- PC) 987: Media Management (Graduate Certificate) Program Deletion Proposal

Department: Journalism and Mass Communications

Rationale: Program was submitted for teach out in Spring 2021. All students have gone through the program.

Effective Date: Fall 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

College of Education

(GC-26-09-03- PC) 170: MA, Leadership Studies Degree, (Degree) Program Change Request

Department: Leadership Studies MA

Rationale: The program is requesting to eliminate the teaching experience requirement as an admissions criterion for the Educational Leadership area of emphasis. Eliminating the teaching requirement for admission broadens access to candidates who possess strong leadership potential and a commitment to improving educational outcomes. This change is consistent with admissions requirements of several institutions in WV that also offer educational leadership pathways. One major goal of the change is to increase enrollment in Marshall's program. The program is requesting to add the requirement of a letter of support from a school or district-level administrator who is willing to serve as the applicant's mentor upon admission to the program. The purpose of the letter is twofold: 1) demonstration of applicant's commitment to the degree requirements and 2) endorsement of applicant's potential for leadership success by the prospective professional mentor.

Effective Date: Spring 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

171: MA, Leadership Studies (Major) Program Change Request

Department: Leadership Studies MA

Rationale: Eliminating the teaching requirement for admission broadens access to candidates who possess strong leadership potential and a commitment to improving educational outcomes. This change is consistent with admissions requirements of several institutions in WV that also offer educational leadership pathways. One major goal of the change is to increase enrollment in Marshall's program. The program is requesting to add the requirement of a letter of support from a school or district-level administrator who is willing to serve as the applicant's mentor upon admission to the program. The purpose of the letter is twofold: 1) demonstration of applicant's commitment to the degree requirements and 2) endorsement of applicant's potential for leadership success by the prospective professional mentor.

Effective Date: Spring 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

172: Educational Leadership, (Area of Emphasis) Program Change Request

Department: Leadership Studies MA

Rationale: Eliminating the teaching requirement for admission broadens access to candidates who possess strong leadership potential and a commitment to improving educational outcomes. This change is consistent with admissions requirements of several institutions in WV that also offer educational leadership pathways. One major goal of the change is to increase enrollment in Marshall's program. The program is requesting to add the requirement of a letter of support from a school or district-level administrator who is willing to serve as the applicant's mentor upon admission to the program. The purpose of the letter is twofold: 1) demonstration of applicant's commitment to the degree requirements and 2) endorsement of applicant's potential for leadership success by the prospective professional mentor.

Effective Date: Spring 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

College of Health Professions

(GC-26-09-04- PC) 286: DPT, Physical Therapy Degree P (D.P.T.) (Degree) Program Change Request

Department: Physical Therapy

Rationale: Only changing Admission Requirements to add a new pathway to the program Physical Therapist Assistant->Bachelor of Applied Science->Doctor of Physical Therapy (PTA-BAS-DPT).

Effective Date: Spring 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

287: DPT, Physical Therapy (Major) Program Change Request

Department: Physical Therapy

Rationale: Only changing Admission Requirements to add a new pathway to the program Physical Therapist Assistant->Bachelor of Applied Science->Doctor of Physical Therapy (PTA-BAS-DPT).

Effective Date: Spring 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

College: School of Medicine

(GC-26-09-05- PC) 285: MMS, Physician Assistant (Major) Program Change Request

Department: Physician Assistant

Rationale: PAS 530 was inactivated and hours adjusted for other PAS courses so the Plan of Study has been updated to reflect that. This was performed for accreditation purposes to better reflect the program and to improve workload/performance in the first semester of the program in response to increased attrition.

Effective Date: Spring 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

College of Science

(GC-26-09-06- PC) 298: MS, Chemistry Degree Program (Degree) Program Change Request

Department: Chemistry

Rationale: Entrance requirements are being changed to make the GRE optional.

Effective Date: Fall 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

299: MS, Chemistry (Major) Program Change Request

Department: Chemistry

Rationale: Entrance requirements are being changed to make the GRE optional.

Effective Date: Fall 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

(GC-26-09-07- PC) 313: MS, Cyber Forensics & Security (Degree) Program Deletion Proposal

Department: Forensic Science

Rationale: The program was merged with the MS in Cybersecurity and all students either graduated or transferred to the Cyber program. No new students have been admitted and the program was discontinued through the formal BOG process (see attached).

Effective Date: Fall 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

314: MS, Cyber Forensics & Security (Major) Program Deletion Proposal

Department: Forensic Science

Rationale: The program was merged with the MS in Cybersecurity and all students either graduated or transferred to the Cyber program. No new students have been admitted and the program was discontinued through the formal BOG process (see attached).

Effective Date: Fall 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

(GC-26-09-08- PC) 364: Digital Forensics Certificate (Graduate Certificate) Program Deletion Proposal

Department: Forensic Science

Rationale: The Graduate Certificate in Digital Forensics was discontinued for low enrollment (all recent program completers were students in the MS Forensic Science program). The program was officially approved for discontinuation through the BOG (see attached.)

Effective Date: Fall 2027

Planning Committee Recommends Approval

Graduate Council Recommends: Approved

Attachment #3

Graduate Council

September 25, 2026

(GC-26-09-09)

Proposal to Change the last submission date for GC review of new programs or majors

Proposal:

Set the last date for new program or major to reach the graduate council to March 1st.

Rationale:

This will ensure the committee can have a valid discussion and table if needed. This will give the program the opportunity to respond by the April meeting.

Attachment #4

Graduate Studies Report for Graduate Council: September 2026

To: Graduate Council
From: Carl Mummert, Assistant Provost for Graduate Studies
Date: September 25, 2026

International Student Visa Regulations: Update

The new federal regulation about international student visas that was scheduled to take effect this month has been paused indefinitely by a federal court injunction. It is not known at this time whether the new regulation will eventually take effect or what changes might occur. Graduate Studies and the International Student Office continue to monitor developments. We recommend for all international students to continue closely with the International Student Office.

The federal government is also enforcing tighter restrictions on Curricular Practical Training, and these restrictions are not affected by the injunction. CPT provides structured work authorization for international students during their program of study. The key requirement is that Marshall can only authorize CPT when it is a documented requirement for all students in the same program. We cannot approve CPT that is taken as an option or elective. Programs that offer CPT should watch for the upcoming guidance which will come out soon.

Distance Courses and Programs: Updated Policies Soon

Distance education continues to be a key area for Marshall, and 52% of graduate students are e-campus students in Fall 2026.

The federal government recently issued new regulations with an updated definition of a distance course. In particular, under the new federal definition, all required instruction in a *distance course* must use distance methods, including instruction and experiential learning like clinical experiences and internships. The regulation does not define *distance programs*, only distance courses, but the HLC does define distance programs.

The Marshall Online office is working on updated policies on distance education to reflect the federal change. In particular, the change will affect the course modalities that we can offer, and it will require us to clarify our definition of distance programs. Please watch for these policies as they follow the shared governance process.

Marshall Online is also working on our procedures for offering remote programs that lead to professional licensure. These programs must comply with many regulations and state laws. Programs that offer programs leading to licensure have been contacted by the MU Online office already, and an updated procedure is being developed.

Digital Accessibility: ADA Title II Regulations

Many resources are available for faculty to help with the new ADA Digital Accessibility regulations that go into effect during the Spring 2027 semester.

- The **Digital Accessibility Website** is the key reference for information, tools, and FAQs: <https://www.marshall.edu/online/digital-accessibility-for-faculty/>
- **Marshall's Design Center** can assist with accessibility related to Blackboard, Ally, and course design. Book a designer or email them at onlinelearning@marshall.edu.
- The **Information Technology** office can assist with accessibility related to Microsoft Office, Adobe, and Copilot. Email them at MUITTraining@marshall.edu.
- **College Accessibility Liaisons** can assist with accessibility coaching, connecting you to the right resources, and raising awareness about discipline-specific challenges. Find your liaison at the website <https://www.marshall.edu/online/college-accessibility-liaison-program/>.

Academic Affairs sent an email to all faculty on September 17 with guidance and information. The deadline for compliance with the new regulation is April 26, 2027. Course shells for the spring will open in early November to allow faculty to work on these materials sooner. Please see the email and Digital Accessibility website for more detailed guidance on the Ally tool and goals for faculty.

Schedule of Events for Fall 2026

Graduate Advising Community of Practice

Sarah Davis, Senior Director of Advising, will facilitate a number of events this semester for everyone who advises graduate students in any capacity. These events are either entirely virtual or offered with a face-to-face or virtual option. Virtual links will be sent by email, or contact graduatestudies@marshall.edu.

- **EAB Navigate AI Features, October 2, 11:00am-Noon.** Virtual only (hosted by EAB, free registration required). Curious about Navigate's new AI features? Join Courtney Bondi from EAB for a demonstration and refresher on the latest AI tools available in Navigate. Invitation details will be sent via email.
- **Virtual Resource Fair, October 5, Noon-1:00pm.** Virtual only. Meet representatives from campus offices and learn about the services and resources available to support students? This virtual resource fair is a great opportunity to build connections and strengthen your referral network.
- **Graduate Advisor Lunch & Learn, November 6, Noon-1:00pm.** Old Main 109 and Virtual. Bring your lunch and join fellow advisors for an informal conversation about what's on your mind. Whether you have questions, ideas, challenges, or successes to share, this session offers a space to connect and learn from one another.

Graduate Faculty Lunch with the Assistant Provost

This series of events provides an informal opportunity for graduate faculty to discuss everything related to graduate education. I will begin by giving a quick presentation on a topic of interest, and then move to an open discussion on topics and questions you pose. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch and join virtually or in person. Virtual links will be sent by email, or contact graduatestudies@marshall.edu.

- Wednesday, October 21, Noon – 1:00pm, MSC 2W16-B and Teams
- Thursday, November 19, Noon – 1:00pm, MSC John Spotts Room and Teams

South Charleston Office Hours

I am available to meet any time on Teams or in Huntington. I also schedule in-person office hours in South Charleston each semester in MUGC 102. The hours this semester are:

- Tuesday, September 29, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, after the staff lunch.
- Tuesday, October 27, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, after the staff lunch
- Tuesday, November 17, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Attachment #5

Faculty Senate Report

Rick Gage, Faculty Senate Chair

Faculty Senate met yesterday, September 24. I have a few brief updates to share.

- First, standing committee liaison appointments are nearly complete. I'm still working to fill a few remaining vacancies, but most of the committees now have their Senate connections in place and should be ready to begin reporting through the usual governance process.
- Nominations for the Spring 2027 Commencement Speaker and honorary degree recipients are currently open. The nomination deadline is October 1. If you have someone in mind, I encourage you to submit a nomination or share the opportunity with your colleagues.
- We also continue to work on the university's AI policy. A representative from Graduate Council (Stephen Young) has now joined that working group, and an early draft is circulating among the group and other stakeholders. There is still a fair amount of work to do, but we are getting closer to something that can provide useful guidance without being overly restrictive or becoming obsolete immediately.
- Several faculty questions have also identified places where university policies are outdated, unclear, or do not cross-reference one another effectively. Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs have begun discussing how to address some of those gaps. The Faculty Workload and Annual Review policies will both require attention following the adoption of MUBOG-AA-6, so those are likely to become significant areas of policy work this year.
- Finally, work has begun on the 2028–2032 Academic Calendar. The Calendar Committee is gathering stakeholder input early, with the goal of identifying concerns before a formal recommendation reaches BAPC, Faculty Senate, and the other approval bodies.

Those are the main updates from Faculty Senate. I'm happy to answer any questions, and I'll continue working with Richard to make sure information flows effectively between Faculty Senate and Graduate Council.