

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 3717S

Date of Senate Approval 04/13/17

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 34 (MLAS): Delete MLAS 690 and remove it as an optional degree requirement

Effective Date: Fall 2017

1. Delete: On page 229, the entry for MLAS 690: Master's Thesis:

690 Master's Thesis (3-6)

The Master's Thesis is intended for students who plan to continue their studies at the graduate level. It is a substantial academic research project with resulting original thesis. The topic is chosen in consultation with the faculty member who will serve as the thesis director, and is approved by the Graduate Council. The student must establish a Thesis Committee that consists of the thesis director, a second faculty reader, and either the MLAS Director, Associate Director, or a member of the Graduate Council. The thesis must be publicly defended by the candidate and accepted by the Thesis Committee and full Graduate Council. The completed project is retained in the MLAS archive in Ramsey Library. (Grading S/U/IP). *Students who receive an IP grade for MLAS 690 will have two (2) additional semesters in which to complete and defend their theses.* Course may be repeated once for a total of 6 hours of credit. Fall and Spring.

2. Delete: On page 226, item II under **Degree Requirements:**

II. Other degree requirements—Students will choose one of three capstone options as the final requirement for the degree: a) completion of 6 credit hours in MLAS 681; b) completion of 6 credit hours in MLAS 690; or c) completion of a non-credit bearing MLAS Portfolio and 6 additional hours of 500-600 level program electives. Oral competency will be demonstrated through a formal presentation at the MLAS Program Forum.

Add: On page 226, in place of deleted entry:

II. Other degree requirements—Students will choose one of two capstone options as the final requirement for the degree: a) completion of 6 credit hours in MLAS 681 or b) completion of a non-credit bearing MLAS Portfolio and 6 additional hours of 500-600 level program electives. Oral competency will be demonstrated through a formal presentation at the MLAS Program Forum.

Impact: There is no negative impact expected from this action. MLAS 690 has not been used by any student in over six years. The MLAS degree has two active capstone choices that provide students with a broad range of projects and graduation options. Positive impacts from the deletion of MLAS 690 from the UNC Asheville catalogue include decreasing confusion regarding capstone options, reducing redundancy among MLAS course listings, and lessening faculty resource requirements.

Rationale: The MLAS degree currently has three capstone options listed in the UNC Asheville catalogue: MLAS 681, MLAS 690, and a portfolio with 6 additional hours. MLAS 690 was developed prior to the creation of the MLAS 681 and portfolio options, but was retained to allow for the possibility of a traditional thesis. However, MLAS 690 has not been used for the capstone in more than six years. MLAS 681 includes a thesis or creative project; therefore, MLAS 690 has become redundant with MLAS 681 and causes confusion among students and faculty advisors. MLAS 690 also is more resource intensive than MLAS 681. For MLAS 690, a student had to identify a thesis committee of three faculty members rather than one content advisor, as is the case with MLAS 681.