

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 0618F  
Date of Senate Approval 11/01/18

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 2 (MLAS): **Add new courses, CCS 681, ECS 681 and ENG 681 to the MLAS curriculum**

**Effective Date: Fall 2019**

**1. Add:** On page 231, new course **CCS 681, Capstone Project:**

**681 Capstone Project (3-6)**

An independent, interdisciplinary project under the direction of a faculty supervisor. The graduate project reflects an emphasis or interest that the student has discovered in the MLAS program. The Capstone Project includes, but is not limited to, a work of written analysis, and may involve academic research, applied research or creative work. The Capstone Project is a formal process that requires the development and submission of a proposal, structured study with a faculty supervisor, and exit interview with the faculty supervisor and the MLAS advisor (who serves as the second reader of the project). The completed project is retained in the MLAS archive in Ramsey Library. (Grading S/U/IP). *Students who receive an IP grade for MLAS 681 will have two (2) additional semesters in which to complete and defend their projects.* Course may be repeated once for a total of 6 hours of credit. Fall and Spring.

**2. Add:** On page 231, new course **ECS 681, Capstone Project:**

**681 Capstone Project (3-6)**

An independent, interdisciplinary project under the direction of a faculty supervisor. The graduate project reflects an emphasis or interest that the student has discovered in the MLAS program. The Capstone Project includes, but is not limited to, a work of written analysis, and may involve academic research, applied research or creative work. The Capstone Project is a formal process that requires the development and submission of a proposal, structured study with a faculty supervisor, and exit interview with the faculty supervisor and the MLAS advisor (who serves as the second reader of the project). The completed project is retained in the MLAS archive in Ramsey Library. (Grading S/U/IP). *Students who receive an IP grade for MLAS 681 will have two (2) additional semesters in which to complete and defend their projects.* Course may be repeated once for a total of 6 hours of credit. Fall and Spring.

3. **Add:** On page 232, new course **ENG 681, Capstone Project:**

**681 Capstone Project (3-6)**

An independent, interdisciplinary project under the direction of a faculty supervisor. The graduate project reflects an emphasis or interest that the student has discovered in the MLAS program. The Capstone Project includes, but is not limited to, a work of written analysis, and may involve academic research, applied research or creative work. The Capstone Project is a formal process that requires the development and submission of a proposal, structured study with a faculty supervisor, and exit interview with the faculty supervisor and the MLAS advisor (who serves as the second reader of the project). The completed project is retained in the MLAS archive in Ramsey Library. (Grading S/U/IP). *Students who receive an IP grade for MLAS 681 will have two (2) additional semesters in which to complete and defend their projects.* Course may be repeated once for a total of 6 hours of credit. Fall and Spring.

**Impact:** There is no negative impact expected from this action. MLAS 681 (for six total credits) is designated for use by those students who have been approved to do an original research or creative project towards their graduation requirements. All the prefixes mentioned above are currently used by the MLAS program. The ENG prefix is used for writing, poetry, and literature courses. The ECS prefix is used for courses in the Environmental and Cultural Sustainability certificate curriculum. And, the CCS prefix is used for those courses associated with the Climate Change and Society certificate program.

The only differences the suggested changes will cause are an increase in the way the current entry (MLAS 681) is listed in the Catalog, and a possible increase in student credit hour (SCH) reimbursement to the university. The latter results from the use of course prefixes that rank higher in the Categories of Instruction provided by the UNC System Office. The ENG prefix is listed in category I (see Table 1 below) and the Master of Liberal Arts & Sciences is included in category II. The CCS and ECS prefixes are included in category III. Of the four prefixes currently used by the MLAS Program, the MLAS prefix requires more SCHs per faculty member (303.93) than the ENG prefix (169.52) and the CCS and ECS prefixes (186.23). This means that more MLAS-related SCHs are required to justify a faculty position than when using the ENG, ECS, and CCS prefixes.

Table 1. Number of Credit Hours per Faculty Member

Category	Undergrad	Masters	Doctoral
I	708.64	169.52	115.56
II	535.74	303.93	110.16
III	406.24	186.23	109.86
IV	232.25	90.17	80.91

Source: <http://www.northcarolina.edu/apps/bog/doc.php?id=57624&code=bog>

<p><u>Category I</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications &amp; Journalism</li> <li>• Psychology</li> <li>• Social Sciences</li> <li>• Mathematics &amp; Statistics</li> <li>• English Language &amp; Literature</li> <li>• Philosophy &amp; Related Studies</li> <li>• Security &amp; Protective Services</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<p><u>Category II</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education (not Student Teaching)</li> <li>• Area, Ethnic, Cultural &amp; Gender Studies</li> <li>• Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies</li> <li>• Business Management &amp; Marketing</li> <li>• Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences, General Studies, &amp; Humanities</li> <li>• Parks, Recreation, Leisure &amp; Fitness</li> <li>• Family &amp; Consumer &amp; Human Sciences</li> <li>• Foreign Languages &amp; Literature</li> </ul>
<p><u>Category III</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural Business &amp; Production</li> <li>• Agricultural Science</li> <li>• Natural Resources &amp; Conservation</li> <li>• Architecture and Related Programs</li> <li>• Public Admin. &amp; Social Service</li> <li>• Physical Sciences</li> <li>• Biological &amp; Biomedical Sciences</li> <li>• Visual &amp; Performing Arts</li> <li>• Allied Health</li> <li>• Computer &amp; Information Sciences</li> <li>• Library Science</li> </ul>	<p><u>Category IV</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering</li> <li>• Nursing</li> </ul>

**Rationale:** Our rationale for requesting the expanded use of the ENG, ECS, and CCS prefixes is based on helping our students. Many MLAS students wish to use their degree to teach at a community college or four-year college/university. A basic requirement to teach at the post-secondary level is 18 graduate credits in a particular discipline or one very closely associated to it. Prior to the establishment of the ENG prefix, MLAS faculty and staff helped graduates map the courses they completed. Oftentimes, when they applied for a teaching position or to the next level of graduate education, they were also required to submit course syllabi and a detailed narrative describing how their coursework met the 18-hour requirement.

Numerous students enter the program not sure of their focus, so they sample the MLAS Program curriculum. This means they may accumulate nine or twelve credits before they hit on the area that inspires them. Once they do find that academic niche and a faculty member to work with, they usually complete one or two independent study courses that can be taught as special topics using the appropriate prefix. If they and their advisor think it would be of benefit to them, they may also spend their last semester or two performing research, and writing their thesis or developing a creative capstone project (681).

Currently, the ENG, ECS, and CCS prefixes are used for several MLAS Program courses; both classroom-based and independent study courses. Expanding their use to the 681 Capstone/Thesis will assist in the explanation of how the student's curriculum meets the 18-hour stipulation. By listing 18 credits of coursework with the same prefix on the transcript, students can more effectively show the sum of their work. Since MLAS 681 is assigned six credits (taken during one or two semesters), the use of alternative prefixes for 681 is especially important. This can represent a significant number of credits on the student's transcript. The capstone project is the primary example they have to illustrate their work in the MLAS Program.