I. Objectives of Graduate Study and Guidelines for Evaluating Graduate Curricula (Revised)

Objective of Graduate Study

The objective of graduate study at San Francisco State University is to develop scholars who have the following qualifications:

1. Appropriate mastery in a particular area of knowledge.

2. Ability to relate the specialized area of knowledge to the spectrum of human knowledge.

3. Ability to study and deal systematically with concepts, theory, and principles, and to relate them to new situations.
Ability to formulate a problem and to deal systematically with it on an advanced level.

4.

Competence in independent investigation and research.

5.

Skills, knowledge, and insights which are requisite to effective professional performance.

6.

Attitudes and skills conducive to continuous intellectual and professional development.

7.

Guidelines for Evaluating Graduate Curricula

The curriculum will meet a need as indicated by the University's Academic Master Plan and by factors such as student inquiries, placement opportunities, professional requirements, and manifestations of learning in new fields or a combination of fields.

1.

The college has programs of graduate instruction which will complement the area of specialization.

2.

The potential enrollment in the curriculum likely will provide a suitable economic base, in relation to need, for offering the program.

3.
Opportunities will be available to qualified students who seek scholarships, fellowships, graduate assistantships, and other professionally developmental experience.

Note concerning the joint doctorate:

Professional opportunities and experience for qualified students are an integral feature of graduate study. Sufficient teaching assistantships and fellowships should be available to attract qualified students to the program and to ensure a stimulating association among students engaged in research. Regular budgeting of graduate assistantships and fellowships is necessary as an item separate from faculty staffing. An adequate State Graduate Fellowship Program should be introduced in accord with one of the recommendations of the Master Plan.

Offerings and frequency of scheduling will provide a sequence and distribution conducive to completing the curriculum within a reasonable period.

Curriculum

The objectives of the curriculum clearly will be consistent with the functions and objectives of the college.

The curriculum will be based upon principles of careful selection of students who have a sound preparation of undergraduate study and have demonstrated scholarship and other creative attributes which augur well for success in graduate study. (The required undergraduate foundation normally is a major in the same field, or equivalent study in one or more allied fields.)
The curriculum will call for and will provide full opportunity for individuality of thought, freedom of inquiry, and unrestricted exchange of ideas.

The curriculum will be organized to provide ample opportunities for students and professors to participate in independent study, research seminars, and group experience, which might well include students and professors from other areas of the graduate program.

The requirements of the curriculum will have a basic pattern which will permit reasonable flexibility without sacrificing the structure necessary to accomplish stated objectives.

Offerings in the curriculum will be consistent with the characteristics of a graduate course as approved by the Graduate Council.

Opportunities will be available within the community for internships and field experience in specializations which demand such experience.

The curriculum will include a demonstration of proficiency in writing English.

A curriculum leading to a master’s degree will be in compliance with policies of the college and will have the following characteristics:

The required curriculum will be a minimum of 30 semester units, including at least 18 units in a major, and 12 units in work at the 200 level. A maximum of 6 units will be allowed for thesis research and presentation and a maximum of 6 units for special studies under the 199 or 299 listing. A related field of 12 units may be included as a complement to the major.
The curriculum will include a demonstration of reading competence in foreign languages appropriate to the field of study, provided the academic unit deems such competence to be an important asset in work for the degree.

14.2

The curriculum will include a culminating demonstration by the candidate of competence in his field. Such a demonstration may be a comprehensive examination, a creative work, a thesis, comparable experiences approved by the Graduate Council, or any combination of the foregoing items.

14.3

The curriculum normally will require more than two semesters of full-time graduate study (but normally not more than four semesters), or an equivalent in part-time study.

14.4

A curriculum leading to a joint doctoral degree, under current legislation, will be in accord with policies and procedures approved by the Trustees and implemented by San Francisco State University (see “Organization and Procedures for the Joint Doctoral Program” and also “Criteria for Evaluation of the Readiness of Institutions and Units to Participate in the Joint Doctoral Program”). A joint doctoral curriculum will be in compliance with the policies of the university and will have also the following additional characteristics:

15.1

The curriculum will provide for a cooperative and complementary relationship with the cooperating academic unit of the University of California.

15.2

The curriculum for the Ph.D. will include a demonstration of competence in one or more foreign languages appropriate to the field of study.

15.3

The curriculum will include qualifying and final examinations, written and/or oral, and also a dissertation.
The curriculum will require at least three years of full-time graduate study, or an equivalent, including at least one year of residence on the San Francisco State University campus. (1) The period of study required for the degree ultimately will depend in individual cases upon the time necessary to master the subject field and complete a satisfactory dissertation.

15.4

Resources

The organizational unit offering the curriculum will have a faculty of demonstrated competence in teaching, scholarship, research, and creative activity, sufficient for the purpose of offering graduate courses and seminars appropriate to the field and of supervising research consistent with the objectives of students in the program. Furthermore, the number of participating faculty members will be sufficient to provide the instruction and individual guidance demanded by the curriculum.

16.

Note concerning the joint doctorate:

The organizational unit will include the cooperating faculties of San Francisco State University and the University of California.

The staffing plan will reflect the requirements of graduate instruction, the importance of research and creative work, and the necessity of securing a teaching load commensurate with the demands of advising, instruction, and research supervision at the graduate level. The following level of support is seen as minimal for an effective graduate program:
Staff support for departments offering a graduate course shall be determined by multiplying the credit units of all graduate courses by a K factor of 1.5.

17.1

As many Research Assistants or fraction thereof shall be assigned to a department each semester as is equal to the number of graduate courses offered during that semester divided by four.

17.2

Thesis supervision shall be classified on the supervision formula S-12.

17.3

A college research fund shall be established for supporting research related to departmental graduate offerings. A fund shall be distributed as determined by the Faculty Research Committee with highest priority going to staff engaged in doctoral programs.

17.4

The plan of graduate advising will give assurance of academic guidance for graduate students, with particular regard for diagnosis of gaps and strengths in the student's competence in his field, and for program planning, advancement to candidacy, thesis or dissertation development and supervision, the organization and characteristics of examinations, and in the case of a joint doctoral program, also minimizing or solving problems which arise under cooperative guidance.

18.

Library resources will be satisfactory or will be minimally adequate to introduce the curriculum. If resources are only minimally adequate, a specific and realistic plan for suitable development should have been completed.

19.

Note concerning the joint doctorate:

The library should provide material in sufficient depth to make possible serious scholarship in all departments in which instruction is given. It should be both general in scope and specialized in the content of its holdings, providing opportunity for directed study.
The library -- its scope and character -- should reflect the requirements of the program and the special needs of the users by steadily taking steps to provide the following specialized resources: complete holdings of abstracts, indices, foreign and technical journals, monographs, manuscripts, newspapers, proceedings, primary and standard treatises and texts, results of past and current research, recent bibliographies, basic reference works, government publications, and maps. Appraisal of the basic collection should be made by checks against standard bibliographies in the area offering the degree.

Sufficient funds should be allocated to procure the needed resources and to acquire additional and necessary staff and equipment. It is necessary to have a substantial and adequate allocation for a book budget each year for each area in which a joint doctorate is given. An explicit and realistic estimate of these needs should be part of any proposal for a joint doctoral program. Faculty and graduate student carrels, and adequate photocopying equipment, should be provided.

The graduate students and faculty should have access to other major libraries in the area to supplement the local collection. Stack privileges would be a necessity.

The total number of volumes and journals is not a definitive criterion with which to judge a library's collection. Of course, the total plant or collection is important; however, the adequacy of the collection should be determined by the particular field of study and the specialized interests of the faculty.

Appropriate building space, laboratories, facilities, equipment, and services will be available for engagement in graduate level scholarship, research, and other creative activity, or these resources and services will be realized in accord with a detailed and realistic plan.

20.

Note concerning the joint doctorate:
It is essential that adequate laboratories, work rooms and related facilities be available to those areas in which they constitute an integral part of the joint doctoral program. Such resources should include sufficient space for laboratory instruction in upper division and graduate courses as well as adequate space for the proper execution of independent research and other study which might be required. The provision of such space and facilities should be complemented by adequate support budgets for proper staffing and for the provision of necessary supplies and equipment.

Sources of Support for Joint Doctoral Program

II.

A joint doctoral program must be supported by funds adequate to meet the need. Such funds should not be drawn from support which any existing program requires. A joint doctoral program should be financed substantially by the State through especially budgeted funds. Used in introducing a joint doctoral program, its continuance should depend on State funds.

Order of Precedence for Joint Doctoral Programs

III.

Joint doctoral programs should emerge slowly and selectively, with due regard for the unusual and variable strengths of departments. In view of the procedures which have been prescribed for the launching of a joint doctoral curriculum, only strong and determined departments are likely to propose participation in joint doctoral programs. A single order of precedence for doctoral work hardly can be established reasonably for the entire college. But preferably the limited number of joint doctoral programs should be distributed among the various colleges and departments of the university.

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