
Graduate Executive Committee Actions

Guidance on developing 5XXX syllabi for 3XXX/5XXX pairs

- These are separate courses at separate levels – use “students will” rather than “undergraduate students will” or “graduate students will” in the text.
- There will be graduate and PACE students in 3XXX courses; expectations for them are the same as for the undergraduate students as it is an undergraduate level course.
- There will be undergraduate and PACE students in the 5XXX courses. They will have the same expectations in the course as the graduate students as it is a graduate level course.
- For paired syllabus review, highlight the differences from the 3XXX course in the 5XXX syllabus.

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There must be clear evidence for 3XXX/5XXX pairs that the levels are different in the **objectives, assignments and assessment**.

There must be specific course objectives, with clear differences at level and/or specific content for the graduate course -- and evidence that the differential assignments and assessments support those specific graduate objectives.

See <https://www.uvm.edu/ctl/learning-objectives/> for a discussion of writing objectives at different levels.

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Example of objectives at different levels:

UG: Describe the components of a particular process.

GRAD: Predict the outcome of a perturbation in a particular process.

Both of these objectives require knowledge of the process, but a different assessment is needed to determine whether the student has knowledge at the appropriate level.

Instead of just adding questions to the UG exams, there would be a separate exam with questions written at a higher level.

These courses will be in separate Brightspace locations as they are two separate courses, not one course approved for both levels. Thus, grade books won't be co-mingled.

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There can be additional objectives in the 5XXX course – but the difference cannot be simply additional work for the grad students.

Both the 3XXX and 5XXX courses must meet the definition of a credit hour. So if that is true for a 3XXX then it can't also be true for the 5XXX version with extra work for grad students. Significant additions in assignments should be accompanied by a reduction in effort related to the UG level assignments.

All additions must be reflected in the objectives. Note that we recognize grad students will be more efficient writers so somewhat longer written assignments are not an issue, though these should also have a higher level of critical analysis or synthesis than the UG version.