

---

---

# Graduate College

Graduate Faculty Meeting  
4-26-22

Presented by:  
Cindy Forehand  
Dean of the Graduate College  
University of Vermont Graduate College

---

---

## Agenda

- Welcome
- Approval of the November 11, 2021 Minutes
- Research and R1 update – Kirk Dombrowski
- Dean’s Report – Cindy Forehand
  - Outcome of Post-doctoral Position committee work
  - Outcome of Graduate Stipend and Benefits Committee work
  - Managing the transition of 200 level courses approved for graduate credit (200AGC) for the renumbering project
- Admissions Report
- Activities of the Graduate Executive Committee – Cindy Forehand
- New business
- Adjourn



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT  
**GRADUATE COLLEGE**

## Research and R1 update

Presented by  
**Kirk Dombrowski**  
Vice President for Research

---

---

# Dean's Report

Outcome of Post-doctoral Position committee work

## Approved:

- Minimum salary now set at level of NIH National Research Service Award, which depends on year of appointment
- Length of maximum appointment changed from 3 to 5 years
- Increased personal days from 6 to 12 (in addition to 6 days medical leave)
- Added Bereavement Leave

## Still under consideration:

- Parental Leave
- Establishing an Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

---

---

# Dean's Report

## Outcome of Graduate Stipend and Benefits Committee work

- FY23 minimum doctoral Stipends will be set at the Vermont Basic Needs Budget level for a single person sharing a 2-bedroom apartment with a second person (represents 7% increase to \$29, 658)
  - Student VBNB calculation adjusted from the community number for FICA, health insurance and comprehensive fees
- FY 23 minimum master's stipends raised 6% to \$23,802
  - Multi-year goal of getting closer to, or the same as, the doctoral level

---

# Dean's Report

Managing the transition of 200 level courses approved for graduate credit (200AGC) for the renumbering project

200AGC courses will become either an undergraduate (3/4XXX) course or a graduate course (5XXX)



## Why the course renumbering now?

- It was a long-standing request that finally made it to the top of the list.
- We finally have the resources to do it.
- There were several other projects that were higher priority, such as the Banner INB upgrade, Navigate implementation, DegreeWorks implementation, response to COVID, and many smaller projects.
- Though not originally linked to accreditation, fortuitous timing allows us to use this renumbering project to address a significant issue identified in the 2019 NECHE Accreditation report: our use of the 200AGC course construct to provide graduate curriculum.

[https://www.neche.org/resources/standards-for-accreditation#standard\\_four](https://www.neche.org/resources/standards-for-accreditation#standard_four)

- **Graduate Degree Programs**

- 4.20 Graduate degree programs are designed to give students a mastery of a complex field of study or professional area. Programs have an appropriate rationale; their clarity and order are visible in stated requirements, in relevant official publications, and in the learning outcomes of graduates. Learning objectives reflect the high level of complexity, specialization, and generalization inherent in advanced academic study.
- 4.21 Graduate programs are not offered unless resources and expectations exceed those required for an undergraduate program in a similar field.



## Last accreditation visit March 2019

- [https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/UVM-Accreditation/Final\\_NECHE\\_Report\\_062519.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/UVM-Accreditation/Final_NECHE_Report_062519.pdf)
- NECHE accreditors were concerned with the number of credits in graduate programs that were 200 level courses approved for graduate credit – noting specifically that not all course syllabi for these courses had the required clearly defined graduate level expectations exceeding those for undergraduates in the courses. (asked for syllabi at visit – random look)
- The NECHE team met with ~25 graduate students from across the university and noted graduate students were quite dissatisfied with the lack of graduate curriculum. The students noted that in their 200 level AGC courses they felt like they were there to baby sit undergraduates. (last minute request – not planned as part of the visit preparation)

## UVM response to plan for the 5-year interim report in 2024

- Address this issue by ensuring all newly approved 200 level courses with a graduate option clearly differentiate graduate from undergraduate expectations.
- Review all existing syllabi for all courses in this category (200AGC) to ensure compliance (or remove the approval of the grad credit option for the course).
- Problem: enforcement of the use of the graduate standard for 200AGC is cumbersome, labor intensive and results in a course not recognized by other institutions as graduate level.
- Now, the renumbering project allows us to instead insert an entry graduate level to segregate 200AGC to its own truly graduate level. (This was a direct suggestion of the NECHE reviewers noting it is standard at other universities while the 200AGC approach is not.)

## Frequent Questions

Will advanced undergraduate students be able to take 6xxx courses as electives?

Yes, with instructor permission (which isn't required for 5XXX)

Which course levels will count toward the graduate degree for AMP students?

5XXX or 6XXX

Will a graduate student be able to take a 3xxx/4xxx level course that is outside of their program for credit? For example, could a Math graduate student take a 3xxx in CS and have it count toward their degree?

Yes – under same policy as now for 200 not AGC: 3 credits for master's, 6 credits for doctoral

Is there a limit to the number of 5XXX or higher courses that an undergraduate student will be able to take? For example, rules are currently in place limiting the number of graduate credits that can be taken by AMP students, and it's unclear how this will work as we move forward.

Nothing currently limits the number of graduate level courses an undergraduate can take. What is limited is how many credits can double count towards both UG and G transcript. So they can take whatever number of graduate courses, but they get undergraduate credit on their transcript.

AMP rules won't change- its just the courses taken as a UG to count towards both degrees will be 5XXX or 6XXXX rather than graduate version of 200AGC or 3XX.

Can we offer 3/4XXX courses at the same time in the same room with 5XXX courses?

Yes, but discouraged given the NECHE accreditation report.

Can we offer 3/4XXX courses at the same time in the same room with 6XXX or 7XXX courses?

No.

Can we offer 1XXX or 2XXX courses at the same time in the same room with 5XXX courses (or 6XXX)?

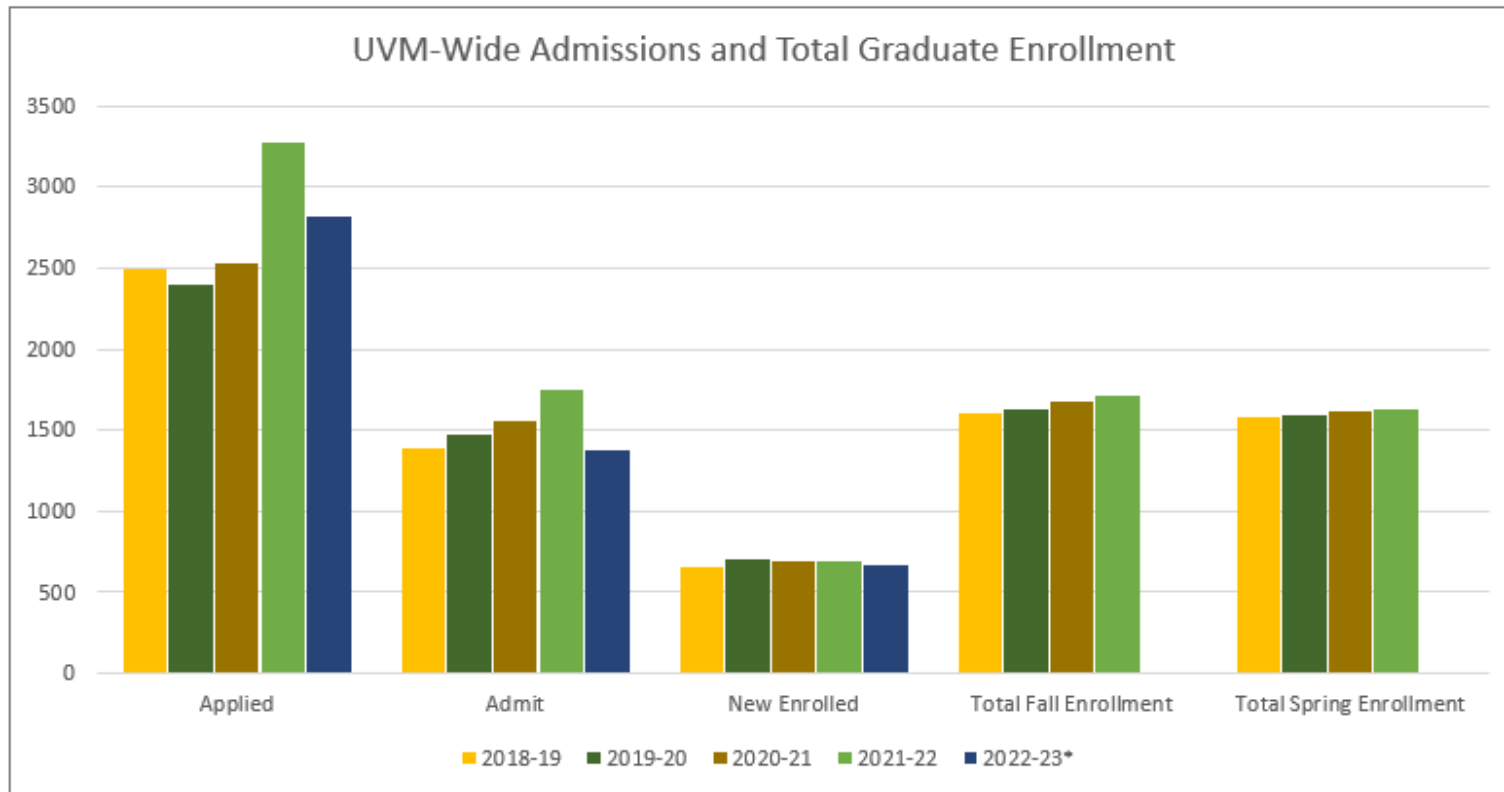
No.



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT  
**GRADUATE COLLEGE**

Admissions & Enrollment  
Management Update  
Spring 2022

# Graduate Admissions and Enrollment AY Comparison



As compared to AY 20-21, for AY 21-22 this represents:

30% Increase in Applications

13% Increase in # Admitted

1% Decrease in New Enrollment

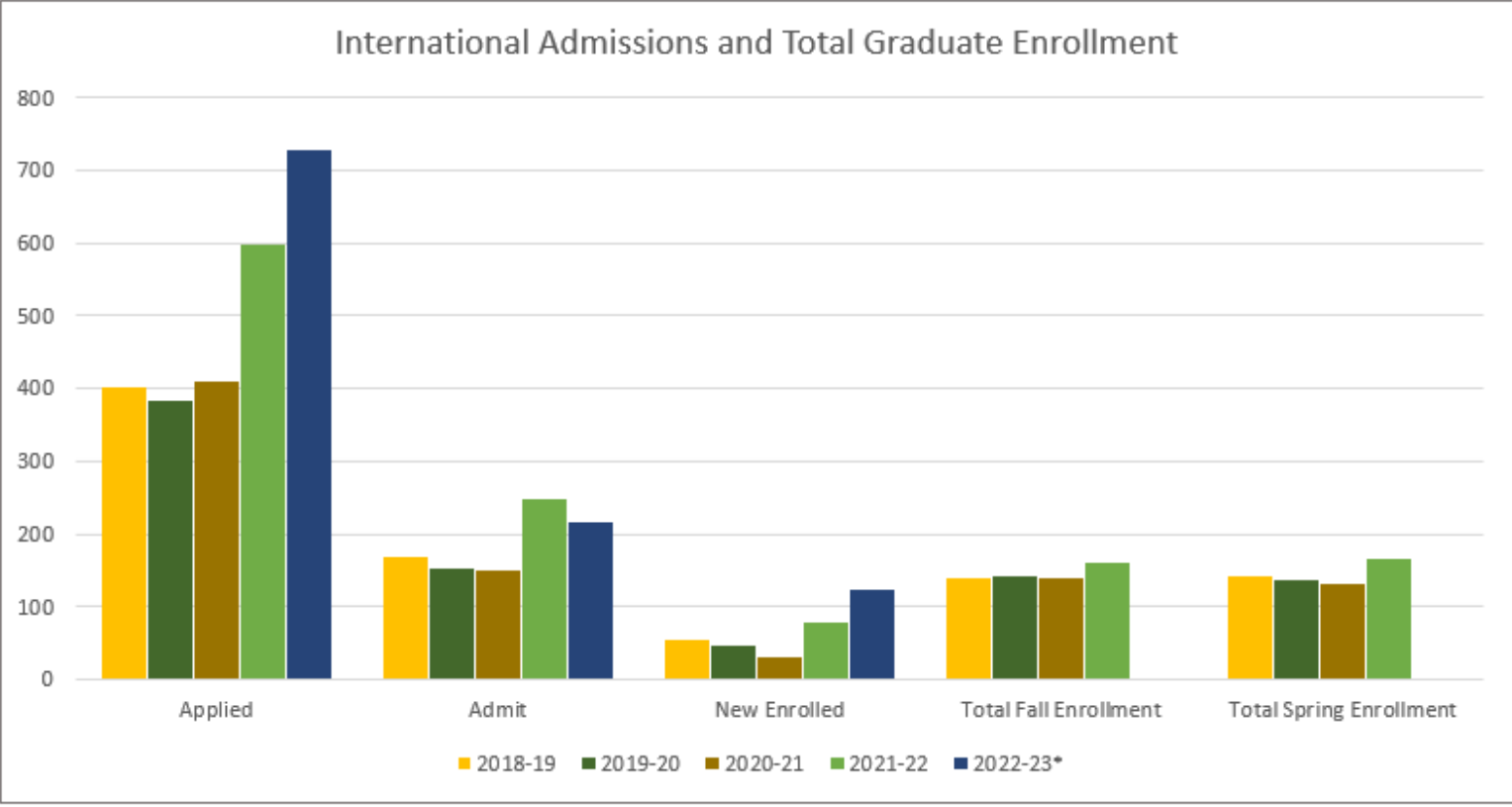
Much of the increase in applications was in programs without capacity.

8% point lower Admit Rate

6% point lower Yield Rate

\*2022-23 values are for admissions cycle in progress as of 4/25/22: applications are still arriving, not all programs have made admit decisions, nor all students made enrollment decisions.

# International Graduate Admissions and Enrollment AY Comparison



As compared to AY 20-21, for AY 21-22 this represents:

- 46% Increase in Applications
- 66% Increase in # Admitted
- 155% Increase in New Enrollment

- 5% point higher Admit Rate
- 11% point higher Yield Rate

\*2022-23 values are for admissions cycle in progress through 4/25/22.

2022-23 139 countries – 6 new Largest increases: Iran, Nigeria, India, Ghana

Smaller increases: Brazil, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Jordan



---

---

# Graduate Executive Committee Actions

- Eight meetings since the Fall Graduate faculty meeting
- Reviewed 10 Graduate Faculty membership requests
- Reviewed 30 new courses and 300 course changes
- Reviewed nominations/applications for student awards
  - Votta and Fialho Awards
  - Sustainable Research Fund grants
  - Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award
  - Thesis and Dissertation of the Year Awards

---

# Graduate Executive Committee Actions

- Approved new PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision
- Approved new PhD in Social-Emotional-Behavioral Health and Inclusive Education
- Approved minor changes in curriculum:
  - Materials Science
  - Medical Science
- Approved change in time to degree limits for professional doctoral programs from 9 years to 7 years
- Approved requirement that Emeriti faculty accepting new student advisees have a co-advisor for the student

---

# Other

- **New Business**
- **Adjourn**