### **DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE** FORM C

Form Number: C1569

Fields marked with \* are required Phone Number: 505 277-7609 Name of Initiator: Robben Baca Email: rbaca@unm.edu Date: 11-05-2014 Initiator's Title Graduate Academic Affairs Specialist Associated Forms exist? No Faculty Contact Tim Lowrey Administrative Contact Robben Baca Department Graduate Studies Admin Email rbaca@unm.edu Branch Admin Phone 505-277-7398 Proposed effective term Year 2015 Semester Fall **Course Information** Select Appropriate Program | Graduate Degree Program

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog. If there is a change, upload current and proposed requirements.

See current catalog for format within the respective college (upload a doc/pdf file)

Degree Type Plan II

Name of New or Existing Program Masters Program Requirements

Graduate Catalog current and proposed .pdf

Degree

Does this change affect other departmental program/branch campuses? If yes, indicate below.

Reason(s) for Request (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file) See attached pdf.

Revision in Plan II Masters.pdf

Select Category

Select Action Revision

Upload a document that inleudes justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications.(upload a doc/pdf file)

Are you proposing a new undergraduate degree or new undergraduate certificate? If yes, upload the following documents.

Upload a two-page Executive Summary authorized by Associate Provost. (upload a doc/pdf file)

Upload memo from Associate Provost authorizing go-ahead to full proposal. (upload a doc/pdf file)

## Plans I (Thesis) and II (Non-Thesis) Options

Master's degree programs at the University of New Mexico are completed under one of two plans, as described below. These are referred to as Plans I and II. Some programs offer students the option of following either of these two plans, while others offer only one. In addition to the general requirements listed above, the following specific requirements apply:

### Plan I Requirements

- 1 A minimum of 24 credit hours of course work, with a minimum of 15 credit hours in the major field.
- 2 A minimum of 6 credit hours of 500-level course work.
- 3 A maximum of 6 credit hours in "problems" courses and a maximum of 5 credit hours of workshop credit.
- 4 Six credit hours of Thesis (599) credit.
- 5 Completion of a master's thesis.

#### Plan II Requirements

- 1 A minimum of 32 credit hours of course work, with a minimum of 18 credit hours in the major field.
- 2 A minimum of 12 credit hours of 500-level courses.
- 3 A maximum of 12 credit hours in "problems" courses and a maximum of 8 credit hours of workshop credit.

# Plans I (Thesis) and II (Non-Thesis) Options

Master's degree programs at the University of New Mexico are completed under one of two plans, as described below. These are referred to as Plans I and II. Some programs offer students the option of following either of these two plans, while others offer only one. In addition to the general requirements listed above, the following specific requirements apply:

### Plan I Requirements

- 6 A minimum of 24 credit hours of course work, with a minimum of 15 credit hours in the major field.
- 7 A minimum of 6 credit hours of 500-level course work.
- 8 A maximum of 6 credit hours in "problems" courses and a maximum of 5 credit hours of workshop credit.
- 9 Six credit hours of Thesis (599) credit.
- 10 Completion of a master's thesis.

#### Plan II Requirements

- 4 A minimum of 30 credit hours of course work, with a minimum of 18 credit hours in the major field.
- 5 A minimum of 12 credit hours of 500-level courses.
- 6 A maximum of 12 credit hours in "problems" courses and a maximum of 8 credit hours of workshop credit.

### Revision of Masters Plan II Requirements

It is proposed that the minimum course work requirement for the Plan II Masters be reduced from 32 credit hours to 30 credit hours. There are two compelling reasons for this change. First, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association, which is our accrediting body, requires a minimum of 30 semester credits beyond the Bachelor's degree for the degree (Assumed Practices Number: CRRT.B.10.020 in the HLC Policies). Second, a survey of a number of universities revealed that all of them required 30 credit hours or less for their Master's degrees with the exception of a few programs such as medicine. These universities included: U.T.-Austin, Arizona State University, C.U.-Boulder, U.C. Berkeley, Univ. of Virginia, Texas Tech, and U.S.C.

There appears to be no reason beyond tradition for there to be a 32 hour requirement for the Plan II Master's degree at UNM. This will reduce the number of credits needed to complete the Plan II Master's degree, which will help our students graduate sooner. This change will bring us into alignment with other universities in our region and across the country.

Most importantly, it will bring us into alignment with the HLC requirement for the Master's Degree.