



Graduate Program & Research Activities Annual Report 2016-2017 Academic Year

1. Facts

Academic Year	Number of Students			Number of Students Enrolled in Graduate-Level Courses*			SCH Generated			Number of Courses and Sections Taught**			
	2015/16	2016/17	% Change	2015/16	2016/17	% Change	2015/16	2016/17	% Change	2015/16		2016/17	
										# Courses	# Sections	# Courses	# Sections
Fall	68	37	-45.6%	185	138	-25.4%	476	357	-25.0%	8	8	6	6
Spring	58	35	-39.7%	156	55	-64.7%	408	168	-58.8%	5	5	3	3
Summer	15	18	16.7%	14	16	12.5%	33	42***	21.4%***	1	1	1	1
Total	141	90	-36.2%	355	209	-41.1%	917	567***	-38.2%***	14	14	10	10

* Includes COSC 685, 691, or 693

** Does NOT Include COSC 685, 691, or 693

*** Preliminary data for Summer 2017 SCH Generated received September 28, 2017 from Texas A&M University Data and Research Services. Summer 2017 and Total SCH data may be subject to change when final data are available.



2. Strategic Plan Progress

- a. Progress made in the past academic year to meet our SP goals
- b. During AY2015/16 a new strategic plan, to guide the program through 2021, was developed and approved by faculty.
 - i. **Goal 3, Objective 1:** In Fall 2016, 42 students were admitted to the Graduate program, 35 of the 42 students accepted admission, and only 18 of the 35 students accepting admission actually arrived and enrolled in the program. All of these students are required to complete a thesis as part of their degree program and also have an obligation to submit their research for publication in a peer-reviewed conference or journal.
 - ii. **Goal 3, Objective 2:** The GIC defined 5 topic areas on which to focus. Because the Department was conducting faculty searches during AY2016/17 in order to add 4-5 tenure track faculty members, the GIC determined it would be best to wait until AY 2017/18 to continue the refining of specialization “tracks” and curriculum alignment in order to maximize faculty research expertise. During AY 2016/17 the COSC department added four tenure-on-arrival and one tenure-track faculty member whose appointments started in Fall 2017. The GIC will resume work to identify appropriate coursework and curriculum mapping during AY2017/18.
 - iii. **Goal 3, Objective 3:** This is a long term objective. Fall 2016 enrollment appears to have increased diversity with a broad array of ethnic groups represented and was composed of 56% ($n = 10$) female and 44% ($n = 8$) males.
 - iv. **Goal 3, Objective 4:** The graduate coordinator met with the Center for Executive Development at the May’s School, however the Center is more of a continuing education approach. The objective is currently under on-going discussion by the GIC.
 - v. **Goal 3, Objective 5:** The GIC is currently investigating the potential of pursuing a Department of Construction Science administered PhD program.
- c. Areas where progress was not made or failed to achieve goals
 - i. Due to faculty searches, further action on Goal, Objective 2 was placed on hold until AY2017/18. During AY 2016/17 the COSC department added four tenure-on-arrival and one tenure-track faculty member whose appointments started in Fall 2017. In order to maximize Graduate faculty expertise, the GIC will resume work to identify appropriate coursework and curriculum mapping during AY2017/18.
- d. Changes needed to the SP
 - i. At this time no changes are needed.



3. Academic Quality Plan

- a. Progress made in the past academic year to meet our AQP goals
 - i. Student learning outcomes, as listed in the AQP, are in compliance with the ACCE SLOs to maintain the graduate program's accreditation.
 - 1. According to the graduate assessment plan, three SLOs are evaluated and reported each year. In 2016/2017 SLOs #2, 5, & 9 were assessed. This system seems to be working well.
- b. Areas where progress was not made or failed to achieve goals
 - i. SLO #2 did not meet one of its three measurement targets. The measurement that was not met was on the thesis evaluation, this measurement is expected to be met in the next cycle. We expect these will improve as all students are required to complete them.
 - ii. SLO #5 did not meet one of its three measurement targets. The measurement that was not met was on the thesis evaluation, this measurement is expected to be met in the next cycle. We expect thesis results will improve as all students are required to complete them.
 - iii. SLO #9 did not meet one of its three measurement targets. The measurement that was not met was on the Graduate Exit Survey. The overall target was only partially met due to the percentage of students scoring this outcome as 3 or above was below the target of 70% even though the average response score of students was above the target of 3.25.

We expect SLO 9 scores to improve in future due to implementation of a 2-week intensive "Boot Camp" for all new Master of Science in Construction Management (MSCM) students. The intent of the Boot Camp is to address the weakness in construction management knowledge of new MSCM students by increasing students' baseline knowledge at the beginning of their degree program. Thereby enabling the MSCM program to decrease the amount of instructional time on fundamental principles in order to provide students a foundation for more advanced topics and more instructional time for advanced project management principles and practices.

- c. Changes needed to the AQP
 - i. The AQP is adequate in its current state.

4. Action 2016

- a. Progress made in the past academic year
 - i. Action 2016 is reflected in our SP and AQP. Actions taken are discussed above.
- b. Areas where progress was not made or failed to achieve goals
 - i. How we will proceed is discussed above for each item.



5. Diversity Plan

- a. Progress made in the past academic year
 - i. The GIC worked to recruit a more diverse body of students for this year's new admits.
 - ii. Increasing diversity relative to itself is an objective on the newly approved strategic plan.

6. Important changes needed in your unit during the next year and your suggestions on how to achieve them

- a. With the recent spike in strong research faculty, we need to respond to University and Industry demand for strong master's graduates, publications, and ultimately a dedicated PhD program. The College of Architecture officially submitted notification to the Dean of Faculty that we are pursuing the program for launching in 2019 or 2020.
- b. Currently **6** specialization topic areas have been proposed. The proposed topic areas are:
 - i. Smart Construction Systems (SCS)
 - ii. Resilient Infrastructure Systems (RIS)
 - iii. Energy and Sustainability Nexus (ESN)
 - iv. Innovative Materials and Methods (IMM)
 - v. Education, Diversity, and Outreach (EDO)
 - vi. Industry Needs and Partnerships (INP)

Once topic areas are formalized and approved, the GIC will identify curricula for each approved topic area.

7. Main concerns of your unit's performance in the next year and how you plan to address them

- a. The Department has increased the number of Graduate Faculty, but has a declining number of graduate students. There is a need to ensure an adequate number of graduate students enrolled in the program with appropriate knowledge and research backgrounds to assist faculty research efforts.

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