APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College Forest Resources **Department:** Forestry

Contact Person: Heidi Renninger **Mail Stop:** 9681 **E-mail:** hr427@msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Modification **Date Initiated:** 3/26/24

Current Degree Program Name: Master of Science

Current Major: Forestry - Thesis and Non-thesis programs

Current Concentration(s): Not applicable

Current Campus(es): Starkville/Distance

New Degree Program Name: No change **Effective Date:**

Semester	Year
Fall	2024

Proposed Major: No change

Proposed Concentration(s): Not applicable

Proposed Campus(es): Starkville/Distance

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Forestry thesis: decreased Forestry coursework (12 to 9 hours), removed the requirement for 12 hours of 8000-level courses, added FO 8112 Graduate Seminar

Forestry non-thesis: removed requirement for graded graduate-level Forestry courses and 8000-level coursework including FO 8293 Professional paper, added FO 8803 Forestry Overview and four elective courses in forest ecology/silviculture, forest economics, forest policy, forest remote sensing/statistics, removed the requirement for pass a comprehensive oral examination, professional paper, and defense of professional paper and added completion of a written comprehensive exam on core forestry coursework taken.

Approved:	Date:
Donald L. Grebner	03/26/2024
Department Head	
Dana Pomykal Franz — Digitally signed by Dana Pomykal Franz Date: 2024.04.18 11:25:12 -05'00'	
Director of Academic Quality	
Dr. Robert K. Grala — Digitally signed by Dr. Robert K. Grala Date: 2024.04.15 09:31:37 -05'00'	04/15/2024
Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	
Steve Bullard on Behalf of Wes Burger — Digitally signed by Steve Bullard on Behalf of Wes Burger Date: 2024.04.15 12:13:53 -05'00'	
Dean of College or School	
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula	
Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)	
Chair, Deans Council	

GRADUATE DEGREE MODIFICATION OUTLINE FORM

Use the chart below to make modifications to an existing Graduate Degree. All deleted courses and information should be shown in *italics* and all new courses and information in **bold**. Please include the course prefix, number, and title in both columns. Expand rows as needed.

CURRENT Degree Description	PROPOSED Degree Description
Degree: Master of Science Major: Forestry thesis; Forestry non-thesis Concentrations: Not applicable	Degree: Master of Science Major: Forestry thesis; Forestry non-thesis Concentrations: Not applicable
Old degree description: Graduate study is offered in the Department of Forestry leading to the degrees of: • Master of Science (M.S.) in Forestry (Main Campus and Distance Campus) *and* • Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Forest Resources with a concentration in Forestry Specialized areas of study include *the following:* • *Ecohydrology* • *Forest biometrics* • *Forest business and finance* • *Forest ecology* • *Forest ecophysiology* • *Forest genetics* • *Forest harvesting and operations* • *Forest hydrology and soils* • *Forest management and economics* • *Forest recreation* • *Forest restoration* • *Silviculture* • *Spatial technologies in natural resource management* • *Urban and community forestry* • *Wildlife and other natural resource economics* Graduate teaching and research assistantships are available to qualified students.	New degree description: Graduate study is offered in the Department of Forestry leading to the degrees of: • Master of Science (M.S.) in Forestry (Main Campus and Distance Campus)**, thesis option** • **Master of Science (M.S.) in Forestry (Main Campus and Distance Campus, non-thesis option** • Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Forest Resources with a concentration in Forestry Specialized areas of study include **forest biometrics, forest resource economics and business, forest ecology and silviculture, forest ecophysiology and genetics, forest harvesting and operations, forest health and disturbance ecology, forest hydrology and soils, forest recreation and urban forestry, forest resource management, natural resource conservation and restoration, natural resource policy and law, remote sensing and geographic information systems.** Graduate teaching and research assistantships are available to qualified students.
Old concentration description: Not applicable	New concentration description: Not applicable

CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours	**PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE**	Required Hours
College Required Courses		College Required Courses	
Major Required Courses		Major Required Courses	

Master of Science in Forestry– Thesis Option: *Graded* graduate-level Forestry *courses* *Graded 8000-level coursework* FO *8000* In addition to passing all courses on the approved program of study with a GPA of 3.00 or higher, requirements include passing a comprehensive oral examination on coursework taken, completion of a thesis, passing a final comprehensive defense of the thesis, and securing final approval of the thesis. If a minor is chosen in another field, at least 9 hours in the minor area must be taken, and a committee member from the minor area is required (refer to individual departmental requirements for minors). In conjunction with the student, the student's graduate committee will determine what courses are best suited for the program of study.	 *12* 12 6	Master of Science in Forestry– Thesis Option: Graduate-level Forestry **coursework** **Graduate-level coursework** **FO 8112 Graduate Seminar** FO **9000 Research in Forestry** In addition to passing all courses on the approved program of study with a GPA of 3.00 or higher, requirements include passing a comprehensive oral examination on coursework taken, completion of a thesis, passing a final comprehensive defense of the thesis, and securing final approval of the thesis. If a minor is chosen in another field, at least 9 hours in the minor area must be taken, and a committee member from the minor area is required (refer to individual departmental requirements for minors). In conjunction with the student, the student's graduate committee will determine what courses are best suited for the program of study.	 **9** **13** **2** 6
Total Hours	30	Total Hours	30
Master of Science in Forestry – Non-thesis Option: *Graded graduate-level Forestry courses* *Graded 8000-level coursework including FO 8293 Professional Paper* In addition to passing all courses on the approved program of study with a GPA of 3.00 or higher, requirements include passing *a comprehensive oral examination on coursework taken, completion of a professional paper, passing a final comprehensive defense of the professional paper, and securing final approval of the professional paper.* If a minor is chosen in another field, at least 9 hours in the minor area must be taken, and a committee member from the minor area is required (refer to individual departmental requirements for minors). In conjunction with the student, the student's graduate	 12 18	Master of Science in Forestry – Non-thesis Option: **FO 8803: Forestry Overview** **Forest ecology/Silviculture elective[1]** **Forest economics elective[1]** **Forest policy elective[1]** **Forest remote sensing/Statistics elective[1]** **Graduate-level coursework approved by advisor** In addition to passing all courses on the approved program of study with a GPA of 3.00 or higher, requirements include passing **a comprehensive written examination on core forestry elective coursework taken**. If a minor is chosen in another field, at least 9 hours in the minor area must be taken, and a committee member from the minor area is required (refer to individual departmental requirements for minors). In conjunction with the student, the student's graduate	 **3** **3** **3** **3** **3** **15**

committee will determine what courses are best suited for the program of study.		committee will determine what courses are best suited for the program of study. [1]**See approved list of electives**	
Total Hours	30		30

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
P. O. Box 9681
Mississippi State, MS 39762
P. 662.325.2949
cfr.msstate.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Andy Perkins, Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula

FROM: Dr. Heidi Renninger, Chair, Graduate Committee, Department of Forestry

DATE: March 25, 2024

SUBJECT: Graduate Program Modifications

The Graduate Committee of the Department of Forestry has approved the proposed modifications to the Master of Science thesis and non-thesis degree programs. These changes have also been communicated to the rest of the forestry faculty who also approve.

Dept. of Forestry Graduate Committee

	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE
Dr. Esteban Galeano	Esteban Galeano Digitally signed by Esteban Galeano Date: 2024.03.25 11:43:08 -05'00'	
Dr. Stephen C. Grado	Stephen C. Grado	
Dr. Robert K. Grala	Dr. Robert K. Grala Digitally signed by Dr. Robert K. Grala Date: 2024.03.25 15:05:39 -05'00'	
Dr. Austin Himes	Austin Himes Digitally signed by Austin Himes Date: 2024.03.26 09:12:55 -05'00'	
Dr. Krishna Poudel	Krishna P. Poudel Digitally signed by Krishna P. Poudel Date: 2024.03.26 11:11:00 -05'00'	
Dr. Heidi J. Renninger	Heidi Renninger Digitally signed by Heidi Renninger Date: 2024.03.25 11:34:09 -05'00'	

Sincerely,

Dr. Heidi J. Renninger
Department of Forestry
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Heidi.Renninger@msstate.edu
662-325-0792