University-Wide Graduate Courses

A university-wide graduate course represents a certain type of graduate activity with the same course number and title across all academic units. University-wide graduate courses 591 Project, 592 Portfolio, 593 Thesis, 690 Master’s Comprehensive Examination, 692 Capstone Course, and 693 Dissertation represent work done on graduate culminating activities and are therefore known as culminating activity courses; some graduate programs have culminating activity courses that are numbered differently than these university-wide courses.

553 PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (Variable Credit). Available at special fee rate (approximately one-third of part-time fee rate). Credit is awarded for professional development only and cannot be applied to a graduate degree program by policy of the State Board of Education. Either graded or pass/fail.

580-589 SELECTED TOPICS (Variable Credit). Subjects normally offered and studied in one department can be divided into as many as 10 areas. Each area will be assigned one number of the 580-589 group. Although the topics considered in the courses in any one area may vary from semester to semester, repeated use of any one number implies that the topics continue to be selected from the same area. Either graded or pass/fail.

590 PRACTICUM/INTERNSHIP (Variable Credit). To earn graduate credit you must have a 3.00 cumulative GPA and no more than 12 credits may be applied toward a graduate degree or second undergraduate degree. Some graduate programs, however, accept only 3 internship credits. Practicum/Internship cannot be repeated to improve a grade. Either graded or pass/fail.

Note: An undergraduate internship is an entry level employment experience related to the discipline. The graduate intern already has an undergraduate degree and is expected to perform with a higher level of responsibility, decision-making authority, and accomplishment.

591 PROJECT (Variable Credit). Execution of a substantial exercise that demonstrates the ability to successfully and independently carry out a professional activity similar to what is encountered in the professional workplace; archival of the results of the project is required according to standards approved by the Graduate College. Pass/fail only.

592 PORTFOLIO (Variable Credit). A broad-based selection of significant student work that is used to appraise student performance and professional development. A portfolio reflects the depth and breadth of a student’s educational growth since entering the graduate program. Portfolios may include, but are not limited to, classroom examinations, journals, writing samples, publishable scholarship, professional projects, annotated bibliographies, and artistic endeavors. Pass/fail only.

593 THESIS (Variable Credit). Independent research or creative activity at the master’s level resulting in a thesis that must be defended at a final oral examination and archived in the university library. The thesis must be written in clear and effective English and presented in a format that conforms to the standards of the Graduate College. Pass/fail only.

594 CONFERENCE OR WORKSHOP (Variable Credit). Intensive daily instruction by a recognized expert in a specialized topic over a period of time considerably shorter than a semester. Workshop credits may not transfer. Either graded or pass/fail.

595 READING AND CONFERENCE (Variable Credit). The conduct of topical research, assigned readings or literature review. The faculty advisor and the student prepare and sign an agreement describing the amount and type of work to be accomplished. Either graded or pass/fail.

596 INDEPENDENT STUDY (Variable Credit). Advanced study of a specialized topic; design and completion of a project may be included in the study. The student works with a high degree of independence to meet well-defined goals under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty. Requires submission of a completed Application for Graduate Independent Study prior to the deadline specified in the academic calendar. An independent study cannot be substituted for a course regularly offered at Boise State, nor can independent study credits be used to improve a grade in a course the student has already taken. Either graded or pass/fail.

597 SPECIAL TOPICS [Required Modifier] (Variable Credit). Instruction on a topic that is not included in the catalog of regular graduate courses; the topic is indicated by the required modifier. Descriptions for these courses are given in the Schedule of Classes published each semester. Either graded or pass/fail.

598 SEMINAR (Variable Credit). Small group meetings for the exchange of ideas, debate of issues, or presentation of research. Format, conduct, and purpose of seminars vary widely among disciplines. Either graded or pass/fail.

686 MASTER’S PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (Variable Credit). An early assessment of a student’s potential to complete a master’s program satisfactorily. Considerable autonomy is granted to the academic unit in the design, administration, and evaluation of the preliminary examination. Pass/fail only.

687 DOCTORAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (Variable Credit). An early assessment of a student’s potential to complete a doctoral program satisfactorily. Considerable autonomy is granted to the academic unit in the design, administration, and evaluation of the preliminary examination. Pass/fail only.

688 THESIS PROPOSAL (Variable Credit). Presentation of the background, objectives, scope, methods, and timeline of the dissertation research. Must be approved in advance by the supervisory committee. Considerable autonomy is granted to the academic unit in the design, administration, and evaluation of the dissertation proposal. Pass/fail only.

689 DISSERTATION PROPOSAL (Variable Credit). Presentation of the background, objectives, scope, methods, and timeline of the dissertation research. Must be approved in advance by the supervisory committee. Considerable autonomy is granted to the academic unit in the design, administration, and evaluation of the comprehensive examination. May be attempted only after completion of all required core courses and admission to candidacy. Other conditions may be imposed by the academic unit responsible for the program. May not be used for a master’s thesis defense. Pass/fail only.

690 MASTER’S COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (Variable Credit). The culminating activity (or part of the culminating activity) for a non-thesis master’s program. Considerable autonomy is granted to the academic unit in the design, administration, and evaluation of the comprehensive examination. May be attempted only after completion of all required core courses and admission to candidacy. Other conditions may be imposed by the academic unit responsible for the program. May not be used for a master’s thesis defense. Pass/fail only.

691 DOCTORAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (Variable Credit). Taken when the doctoral student is in Regular Status and has completed a significant number of course credits applicable to the degree requirements. Considerable autonomy is granted to the academic unit in the design, administration, and evaluation of the comprehensive examination. Pass/fail only.

692 CAPSTONE COURSE (Variable Credit). A final comprehensive assessment of the knowledge and skills of a master’s student in the major field of study. A culminating activity taken in the last semester of a master’s program. Either graded or pass/fail.

693 DISSERTATION (Variable Credit). Independent research at the doctoral level resulting in a dissertation that must be defended at a final oral examination and archived in the university library and with UMI. The dissertation must be written in clear and effective English and presented in a format that conforms to the standards of the Graduate College. Pass/fail only.

694 DIRECTED RESEARCH (Variable Credit). Research conducted by a graduate student under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty. Requires the clear statement of a hypothesis or proposition, a review of the relevant literature, analysis and synthesis of data or scholarly evidence, and the inference of conclusions. The results must be stated in a report written in clear and effective English. Requires submission of an Application for Directed Research prior to the deadline specified in the academic calendar. Either graded or pass/fail.

695 SPECIAL TOPICS [Required Modifier] (Variable Credit). Instruction on a topic that is not included in the catalog of regular graduate courses; the topic is indicated by the required modifier. Descriptions for these courses are given in the Schedule of Classes published each semester. Either graded or pass/fail.