

## ASSESSMENT WEBSITE INFORMATION

**College: Education**

**Degree Program: Exercise Science MS**

**Chair/Director: Jim Stillwell**

### **DATA SAY:**

**The Department of HPESS Graduate Curriculum Committee found we needed to make the thesis and internship experiences 6 hour credit in all our degree tracts to better reflect the credit a student earns for completed course work relative to the amount of work required for the course.**

**The additional curriculum requirement of ESPE 6543, Cellular Physiology of Exercise course into the thesis degree tract was based on the belief that knowledge of cellular and subcellular adaptations to exercise is valuable and consistent with existing curriculum expectations of students graduating with an advanced degree in Exercise Science. We found this particularly true in situations where our graduates were hoping to continue their education and seek the Doctorate level degree.**

**Based on student interest and feedback, the Department Graduate Curriculum Committee anticipates the majority of non-thesis tract students will elect the internship experience as their elective. In part, this finding was determined from feedback provided during exit interviews with students and/or student requests during enrollment periods.**

### **SO WHAT:**

**The program needed to bring consistency in the number of required hours between the thesis and non-thesis options for this specific degree and with all other Departmental degree tracts. In addition, this change also helps the department degree tract to be more consistent with other programs in the university structure. Finally, this change was initiated in part, from feedback from the Graduate School. The Department of HPESS Graduate Curriculum committee determined all MS in Exercise Science students needed this valuable content.**

**The addition of the 3 hour restricted elective to the non-thesis tract was necessary to allow for a 6 credit hour internship experience**



## ASSESSMENT WEBSITE INFORMATION

**College: Education**

**Degree Program: Exercise Science BS**

**Chair/Director: Jim Stillwell/Marla Graves**

### **HOW WE CHANGED:**

**For the MS degree in Exercise Science the total degree requirement hours for both the non-thesis and thesis degree tract options was changed from 30 hours to 33 hours.**

**For the MS Degree in Exercise Science: thesis tract option, the Department of HPESS Graduate Curriculum Committee added to the curriculum the requirement of ESPE 6543, Cellular Physiology of Exercise. This course was approved Spring 2011. The course was removed from being an optional course to a required course for both the thesis tract and non-thesis tract students.**

**For the MS degree in Exercise Science non-thesis tract option we added three hours of restricted elective bringing the total restricted elective hour requirement to 6 hours and total degree credit hour requirement to 33 hours.**

### **WHAT WE GOT:**

**These changes represent an ongoing review process but specifically address needs identified since 2008. These changes are scheduled to be implemented beginning January of 2012, so at this time no follow-ups have been conducted. The Department will continue to offer the Independent Study and Graduate Project courses as alternatives. We do not however, expect big interest in these courses. Our students appear to be more interested in gaining “real world” experiences that can be acquired through the internship option.**

**The program is currently employing a number of evaluation and assessment procedures designed to assess the effectiveness of the recent changes. These procedures in part, and/or in entirety, will help the Department Graduate Curriculum Committee to identify additional needs and make informed changes to the degree tract curriculums as we move forward. We believe the recent changes made will serve to improve existing degree curriculum offerings. As a result, we are currently gathering data to determine their effectiveness.**

**Our current evaluation procedures include, but are not limited to, 1) exit interviews, 2) comprehensive examinations, 3) normal or traditional classroom examination and assessment, including but not limited to tests, comprehensive examinations, and written and oral papers, 4) internship agency and internship agency supervisor assessment, 5) University Internship Supervisor Assessment, 6) post-graduation survey and questionnaire, 7) teacher and course evaluations, 8) thesis defenses and 9) unique written contracts for every graduate level Independent Study and/or Graduate Projects. These contracts specifically detail Independent Study or Graduate Project work, tasks and/or course expectations, time lines, evaluation procedures and any consequences for failure to satisfactorily meet the Independent Study or Graduate Project expectations.**

