**Course Work Option for Master’s Students**

(Approved by Provost, Dr. Carolyn Kapinus on March 30, 2021)

Each academic unit may determine whether to offer their master's students a coursework option (i.e. non-thesis, non-professional paper) for degree completion in lieu of a thesis or professional paper. At each academic unit's discretion, the coursework option may include a project or written assignment. The writing requirement should represent a class of achievement which involves a capstone effort in the discipline involved. This effort should be appropriate to the degree being sought (doctorate or master's). Programs should engage in creative consideration of the formats which can provide the framework for this capstone effort. Programs should clearly delineate their criteria for distinguishing between a dissertation, a thesis, a professional paper and a professional project to avoid confusion on the part of both faculty and students.