

Graduate Council Meeting No. 576 March 2, 2026 via Zoom | Minutes

Council Members Present: Araceli Bonifant, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Hans Saint-Eloi Cadely, Denise Coppa, Emilijia Djurdjevic, Brett Still, Ami Vyas, Minsuk Shim, Ashlea Rundlett, Valerie Karno, Kathy Donohue, Joanna Burkhardt

Council Members Absent: Stephen Licht, Bailey Miller, Nausad Miyan, Justin Watkins, Karolina Wojcik

Graduate School Present: Colleen Mouw, Stacy Carrasco, Eric Beretta

I. Call to order

★ *The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by Chair Saint-Eloi Cadely.*

II. Approval of Minutes - [Meeting No. 575, February 9, 2026](#)

★ *Motion to approve the minutes for meeting no. 575*

- *Approved*
- *1 Abstained*

III. Announcements

A. Graduate Faculty Summit - March 9, 2-4 pm - please register (Mouw)

1. Dr. Mouw reminds the council about the Grad Faculty Summit being held on Monday, March 9, from 2–4 p.m. via Zoom. This event will mark the first official day for the new Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, who plans to offer introductory remarks and listen to faculty as she begins her role. In addition to her participation as the guest of honor, the summit includes a full agenda of planned topics.

B. Three-Minute Thesis Reminder - March 26 at 6 pm (Mouw)

1. Dr. Mouw provided a reminder about the upcoming 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, scheduled for March 26 at 6 p.m. in 170 Avedisian Hall. Dr. Mouw shared event details and finalist information from Kara Mitnick, who has led much of the organizational work with support from additional staff. Students will compete for three prizes: 1st place – \$1,000; Runner-up – \$500; People's Choice – \$500. The event will feature President Parlange, Provost Wolf, and three deans as judges. Attendance is encouraged, as the competition is typically energetic and uplifting, with strong student participation and program support. Approximately half of the ~22 submissions were selected as finalists, and faculty are invited to attend to support their students and enjoy the showcase of diverse research across campus.

C. Program Learning and Success Report - due March 25 for cohort 3 (BUS, CELS, Edu, INP, MPS) (Mouw)

1. Dr. Mouw provided an update on the Program and Learning Success Reports, which run on a three-year cycle. The cohort with reports due on March 25 includes programs in Business, the College of Environment and Life Sciences, Education, the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program, and the Master's of Professional Studies. Corinne has been coordinating with program leads, including alignment with NETCHI reporting efforts. These

reports continue to provide valuable insight into program operations and contribute to college-wide understanding of what is happening within each academic area. The cycle will reset next year with the first cohort.

D. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty (*Mouw*)

Meg Simone, Assistant Professor, CHS

Marc Maffei, Assistant Professor, CHS

Kavitha Arur, Outside Scholar, CAS

Derek Davis, Assistant Professor, CAS

Deborah Ferguson, Assistant Professor, CAS

V. **New Business**

A. Grad Manual Changes (*Mouw*)

Section 4.21- Semester Credit Hours

The proposed change removes the sentence about a normal workload of 12 credit hours to avoid confusion with financial aid offices regarding full-time status. *Approved*

B. Nominations for new Graduate Council Chair (Saint-Eloi Cadely)

Dr. Saint-Eloi Cadely announced that nominations are being accepted for a new Graduate Council Chair, due March 20, and provided an overview of the duties and responsibilities for the position.

VI. **Graduate Curriculum (Kuali Agenda) (*Mouw*)**

COURSE CHANGES (vote by college)

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

PHL 452G | Philosophy Of Science, Effective Fall 2026

Change 400-level course to qualify for graduate credit

(3 crs.) Analysis of the nature and structure of scientific thought. Consideration of issues such as structure and types of scientific explanation, verification and falsification, and unity of the sciences. (Seminar) Pre: PHLPHL101 101, or 215, PHL215 or 451 PHL451, and one 300-level PHL course, and 6 credits of natural science; or permission of instructor. (D1) (C2) (GC)

★ *Approved*

PSC 542 | Labor Relations And Collective Bargaining, Effective Fall 2026

Change course title and/or course description, change method of instruction, change modality, change College

(3 crs.) Collective bargaining literature, theories, and practice. Emphasis on the institutional features of public service-related bargaining, sectors as well as techniques, and dynamics of the bargaining process. (Lec. 3/Accelerated Online Program) Pre: Graduate standing, or by permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

[TABLED] EDC 420 | Second Language Acquisition and Assessment, Effective Fall 2026

Change course title and/or course description, change modality, change college

(3 crs.) This course explores the theories, research and practice of second language acquisition (SLA) and critically examines assessment for/of language learners. (Lec. 3/ Online)

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

[TABLED] ELE 506 | Digital Signal Processing, Effective Fall 2026

Change course title and/or course description, change prerequisites, change method of instruction

(4 crs.) Continuous-time Fourier transform and Laplace transform; discrete-time Fourier z-transform and linear constant coefficient difference equations; sampling theorem and re-sampling techniques; digital filter design principles; DFT or FFT windowing and periodogram. (Lec. 4) Pre: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

MCE 569 | Shockwaves & Structures, Effective Fall 2026

Change course title and/or course description, change course number

(3 crs.) Explores the shockwave mechanics from high-energy sources such as explosives and supersonic flight, as well as the fluid-structure interaction during shock events. Topics covered include shockwave propagation in air, water, and elastic solids, as well as structural deformation and modeling. (Lec. 3) Pre: MCE354 and CVE220 or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES

BIO 425G | Marine Biodiversity: A Larval Perspective, Effective Fall 2026

Change prerequisites

(3 crs.) Almost all marine life has a biphasic life cycle. This course explores the diversity of marine reproduction and larval forms, and how humans interact with species from a larval perspective. (Lec. 3) Pre: BIO260 or BIO360, and BIO262 or BIO272. (D1) (B2) (GC)

★ *Approved*

BIO 437 (CMB437) | Fundamentals of Molecular Biology, Effective Fall 2027

Change prerequisites

(3 crs.) Cross-listed as (BIO), CMB437. Biochemical basis of heredity as seen through the structure and function of nucleic acids. Includes DNA replication, transcription, translation, gene regulation, and gene organization in prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Current methods emphasized. (Lec. 3) Pre: CMB211 and CMB311, and BIO232 or BIO 352, or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

BIO 465 | Coral Reef Ecology, Effective Fall 2026

Change prerequisites

(3 crs.) An introduction to coral reefs, the processes generating their exuberant biodiversity, the effects of human activities on them and the promising ways to restore and preserve these unique ecosystems. (Lec. 3) Pre: BIO260 or BIO360 or BIO262 or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

BIO 467 | Animal Behavior, Effective Fall 2026

Change prerequisites, change method of instruction

(3 crs.) Roles of natural selection, individual learning, and cultural transmission in shaping animal behavior. (Lec. 3) Pre: BIO262 or BIO272

★ *Approved*

CPL 510 | Community Revitalization, Effective Spring 2027

Change course title and/or course description, change method of instruction

(3 crs.) Introduction to systems and central theories of determinants for social and planned change in urban and urbanizing communities. Focus on methodologies for political and social assessments in 3 spatial

typologies: coastal, post-industrial and urban communities. (Accelerated Online Program/Lec.) Pre: CPL523 or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

CPL 522 | Planning Law, Effective Spring 2027

Change course title and/or course description, change method of instruction, change modality

(3 crs.) Overview of the legal foundations of community planning practice in the United States. Examines the historical development of land use planning law, the constitutional and statutory basis for local planning authority, and the role of planners within evolving legal frameworks governing land regulation and development. Emphasis is placed on zoning, subdivision control, eminent domain, regulatory takings, due process, equal protection, exclusionary zoning, and growth management. Students analyze significant court decisions shaping contemporary planning practice and apply legal precedent to real-world planning scenarios. (Lec. 3/Online/Accelerated Online Program)

★ *Approved*

EEC 440 | Benefit-Cost Analysis, Effective Fall 2026

Change general education requirements

(3 crs.) Basic concepts in benefit-cost analysis. Measurement, comparison of benefits and costs over time, and criteria for evaluation of projects and public policies. Problems and case studies in evaluation of current natural resources issues. (Lec. 3) Pre: EEC105 or permission of instructor. (B2) (D1)

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

CMD 504 Evidence-Based Practice in Communicative Disorders, Effective Spring 2027

Change course title and/or course description, change prerequisites, change method of instruction

(3 crs.) Examination of different types of research underlying evidence-based practice in speech-language pathology, audiology, and communication sciences; promotion of critical analysis of research and the application of scientific thinking to clinical practice. (Lec. 3) Pre: Graduate standing in CMD or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

NEW COURSES (vote by college)

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

COM 443 | Politicized Health Communication, Effective Fall 2026

(3 crs.) This course examines how health communication is shaped by political context and dynamics, how various health issues have been politicized, and how these forces affect both individuals and society. (Seminar) Pre: COM100 and COM320 and junior standing, or by permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

ISD 458 | Capstone in International Studies & Diplomacy, Effective Fall 2026

(4 crs.) Capstone course for the International Studies & Diplomacy program where students develop a research project focused on international affairs. Analysis of research related to global politics, international economics, and diplomacy. (Seminar) Pre: PSC211 or PSC310 or ECN201, junior standing, or by permission of instructor. (D1).

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

BAI 512 | Applied Artificial Intelligence for Business Decision-Making, Effective Fall 2026

(3 crs.) A practical, hands-on introduction to AI for business students, focusing on applications of LLMs, prompt engineering, workflow automation, and data-driven decision-making through real-world applications and an AI-enhanced final project. (Online/Lec. 3)

★ *Approved*

BAI 557 | Visualizing Data for Business Intelligence, Effective Fall 2026

(3 crs.) Concepts, methods and techniques in creating business intelligence through descriptive analytics and data visualization techniques, as defined in business settings, used to develop business insights from real-world dataset. (Lec. 3/Online)

★ *Approved*

BAI 576 | Machine Learning for Business Intelligence, Effective Fall 2026

(3 crs.) This course provides a hands-on introduction to machine learning for business applications. Students learn Python-based implementation of core models, explore case studies in predictive analytics, HR, marketing, and finance, and develop skills to interpret results and make data-driven managerial decisions. (Lec. 3/Online) Pre: BAI210 or STA308; and MBA500 or one of the following: CSC310(DSP310), BAI356, BAI312

★ *Approved*

BUS 570 | Sports Marketing, Effective Summer 2026

(3 crs.) Examines strategic marketing principles as applied within the sports industry, spanning sport properties, teams, athletes, sponsors, and fans. Emphasizes digital platforms, analytics, brand management, sponsorships, consumer behavior, and strategic planning. (Online/Lec. 3)

★ *Approved*

BUS 577 | Sports Analytics, Effective Fall 2026

(3 crs.) Explore fundamental principles, key methodologies, and analyses relevant to sports analytics problems. Quantify relationships present in data and utilize analytics as an entrepreneurial tool. The use of data-driven decision making for managers is an essential component of the sports industry's future. During this course, students will examine the use of analytical techniques and quantitative methods in the areas of marketing, ticket sales, and business operations. Skills such as critical thinking, mathematical modeling, statistical analysis, predictive analytics, and optimization are crucial skills needed by sport managers. The course seeks to develop and refine these skills in the business application area of sport management. (Lec. 3/Online) Pre: Graduate standing or by permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

BUS 580X | Special Topics in Sports Management, Effective Summer 2026

(3 crs.) Provides an in-depth exploration of emerging and timely issues in the sports industry through case studies, guest lectures, and applied research. Topics vary by semester to reflect current developments in the field. (Lec. 3/Online) (Temporary course)

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

PHP 571 | Methods in Epidemiology, Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, Effective Fall 2026

(3 crs.) Introduction to epidemiology, the study of health and disease in populations. It emphasizes epidemiologic methods and research design for conducting and interpreting health research. Additionally, the course details the systematic review process, discusses the strengths and limitations of the method, and provides step-by-step guidance on how to perform a systematic review and meta-analysis using statistical software. (Lec. 3) Pre: 2nd or 3rd year PharmD student in good standing, or undergraduate student with credit in PHP308 or PHP405, or Graduate student status. Or by permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

PHP 572 | Measuring Outcomes and Identifying Causal Effects, Effective Spring 2027

(3 crs.) Introduction to the foundations of health outcomes measurement and causal inference. We will examine how clinical, humanistic, and patient-reported outcomes are defined, measured, and validated. Students will also learn the potential outcomes framework for assessing whether interventions cause changes in health outcomes in both randomized trials and observational studies. Examples from epidemiology and medical research will illustrate how accurate outcome measurement and rigorous causal reasoning support evidence-based decision-making in health care. (Lec. 3) Pre: PHP405, STA411, STA412, or equivalent; permission of the instructor. A basic knowledge of statistics and familiarity with linear and logistic regression is required.

★ *Approved*

PHP 670 | Advanced Epidemiologic/Economic Methods in Health Sciences, Effective Spring 2027

(3 crs.) Advanced training in pharmacoepidemiologic and pharmaco-economic research methods and statistical analyses for evaluating health and cost outcomes, with emphasis on applied exercises utilizing contemporary approaches in the field. Key aspects of the course include multivariable methods for common study designs, addressing bias, deriving and interpreting measures of effect, and economic modeling for assessing cost effectiveness. Course exercises utilize SAS and MS Excel to provide students with hands-on experience with various statistical models. (Lec. 3) Pre: STA411 or STA412, and PHP550 and PHP580. Or by permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**MCE 539 | Chemical Rocket Propulsion**, Effective Fall 2026

(3 crs.) Explores the application of thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to chemical rocket engines, including thrust, propellants, combustion, and basic liquid, solid, and hybrid designs for space missions. (Lec. 3) Pre: MCE341 and MCE354, or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

★ *1 Abstained*

PROGRAMS MODIFICATIONS (vote by program)**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS****Business Administration - MBA**, Effective Summer 2026

Taking out Feinstein campus. One MBA program; more start date options for one-year students. Classes available online. Change in admission requirements for PharmD students. Admission requirements: Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE), a statement of purpose, application fee, a résumé, two letters of recommendation, and transcripts of all previous undergraduate or post-baccalaureate work are required. The GMAT/GRE application requirement will be waived for candidates who meet one of the criteria listed on our website. A minimum of three years of work experience or concurrent enrollment in another graduate program is expected for admission to the Flex MBA. Work experience is valued but not required for the One-Year MBA. Applicants for whom English is not the native language are required to score 91 or above on the TOEFL (or 6.5 on the IELTS) and to meet the University minimum on each of the four sections of the TOEFL exam; see web.uri.edu/graduate-school/apply/international-applicants/. The GMAT or GRE score and undergraduate grade point average are not the sole criteria for admission. However, those with undergraduate grade point averages of less than B or those with less than 50th percentile scores on the GMAT or GRE have a low probability of admission. Applications from well-qualified individuals who can contribute to the cultural and ethnic diversity of the College of Business and the University are welcome. Flex M.B.A. applications are due

June 30 for September admission, October 31 for January admission, and March 31 for summer admission. One Year M.B.A. applications are due April 15 for early admission or for summer start; and final deadline of June 30 for September admission.

The Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program prepares students for the rapidly changing economy. Businesses expect you to be not only critical thinkers and problem-solvers, but also to possess the practical knowledge and experience necessary to succeed. Our non-thesis M.B.A. programs prepare you to be leaders to rise to those expectations within an environment that fosters knowledge acquisition, retention, and practical learning.

One-Year M.B.A students can begin the program in the spring semester of their senior year; in the summer; or in the fall semester and will complete the program full-time in one calendar year. Flex M.B.A students can begin the program in the fall, spring, or summer semester. The M.B.A. program has been accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB) since 1972.

Program requirements: Students are required to take the following eight core courses: ECN590, MBA500, MBA502, MBA503, MBA504, MBA505, MBA560, and MBA565. Students will then complete an additional six electives (18 credits) to complete the program. Two of the six elective courses must be M.B.A. designated courses. The remaining four elective courses can be taken from other URI graduate level courses or pre-approved 400-level URI undergraduate courses for graduate credit, per approval from the MBA Coordinator.

ECN 590 may be waived with permission of the program director based on successful completion of recent equivalent advanced college-level courses at an AACSB-accredited institution within the past five years or substituted with an equivalent course. See our website for details.

The One-Year, full-time M.B.A program, based out of the Kingston Campus, consists of 40 or 43 credits. (The difference is whether they waive ECN 590) A one credit career course is required for one-year, full-time M.B.A students. Students begin taking coursework in the summer, or in their Senior year if the credits are not applied to their 120 undergraduate credits.

Students take day classes in Kingston during the fall and spring semesters. Students who begin the One-year program by participating in summer, can complete the program in May.

For the One-Year M.B.A., completed application packages must be received by April 15 (early decision) with a final deadline of June 30 for U.S. residents and February 15 for international applicants;. Applications received after those dates are reviewed on a space-available basis.

To matriculate in Summer, where full-time study will allow program completion in May, completed application packages must be received by April 15.

Blue Specialization

The University of Rhode Island Colleges of Environment and Life Sciences, Business, and the Graduate School of Oceanography offer a Blue MBA. Building from the legacy as the first Blue MBA, the program serves working professionals who are ready to lead in the Blue Economy. Students gain access to cutting-edge research, real-world partnerships, and tools to lead in industries including marine industries like offshore energy and fisheries; climate technology; defense/naval contracting; sustainable finance; and ocean-related entrepreneurship and blue technology.

Joint Doctor of Pharmacy/Master of Business Administration Program

The University of Rhode Island Colleges of Pharmacy and Business offer a joint program that allows students the opportunity to develop management and administrative skills as they study for the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree. This program qualifies individuals to assume leadership and management roles in the

health care industry. A unique combination of management and pharmacy coursework, coupled with innovative practicum experiences, provides students with a knowledge base of theoretical and applied information. The joint program requires the student to complete a total of 226 credits.

Students enrolled in the Doctor of Pharmacy program are eligible to apply for admission to the joint program after their second professional year (by July 15). The following are required at that time: GMAT or GRE, statement of purpose, résumé, and two letters of recommendation.

The GMAT/GRE requirement will be waived for candidates who have a 3.30 GPA or above from the URI PharmD program at the time of application submission.

★ *Approved*

Management - MSM, Effective Winter 2026

The change edited BUS506, which is now BUS501. Before, the courses in the specializations were open-ended. This was a function of a challenge that took place in the curriculum process. The program was on hold with the Graduate Council for four curriculum approval sessions (submitted May 2023; rejected October, November, December 2023; approved January 2024 after requested changes were made). We were asked to change the way things were laid out in the proposal. We moved from pathways to specializations, which you are seeing. But, the base was not accurate and did not necessarily accommodate the pathways or specializations, as previously voted on or as voted on since. It was done for the catalog as opposed to being done for the market. Specifically, there was a question about the Financial Fundamentals for Innovation course (MBA518, moved to BUS518). It was previously approved. The request was made to move it online and to take away the MBA prefix (since it was meant to be foundational and not overlap with MBA504). However, there is a challenge associated with differentiating that course (BUS518) from MBA504 right now. The Finance area will work on it. In the meantime, we did not want the lack of approval for BUS518 to hold up the ability to offer the MSM fully online. The current version keeps the Finance course as an option, but also lists other options, which match different specializations. The initial plan was as we moved forward with the umbrella program and the electives, the offerings would become more robust. The current version also adds MBA500 as an alternative to the BUS501 course. This is in line with the Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence specialization, which is currently being reviewed. Courses may be offered in Providence. The current Providence campus courses meet in the RI Nursing Education Center. It is not updated in Quali. However, it is accurately described in the description. The program requirements involve a management core and specialized tracks, certificates, or a general strategy pathway.

Program Description

URI's Master of Science in Management (MSM) allows students to develop professional skills to become a more effective and innovative leader who can then make data-informed decisions and have strategic expertise in business integration. The program is designed for professional growth, building business knowledge and skills, insights, confidence, and interpersonal skills that can be used immediately to differentiate our graduates on the job market and in their careers. The program will continue to help professionals and aspiring professionals upskill and prepare for advanced organizational leadership positions.

Our MSM program encourages applications from recent graduates or those early in their careers. Our MSM program will offer specialized tracks (including sports management) for students wishing to pursue varied interests. Graduates will benefit through our flexible curriculum.

Program Requirements: All students must take at least 30 credits including the four core courses listed below:

BUS501 Mathematical Models for Management

MBA507 Critical Business Skills

BUS579 International Business Management or Global Immersion

BUS536 Operations and Project Management

The remaining 18 credits are selected in consultation with the program director. Students may choose one of the following specializations:

Business Analytics

Artificial Intelligence; Marketing

FinTech; Sports

Management. Additionally, students may pursue the Human Resources Graduate Certificate.

They are also encouraged to take the following:

BUS 509 Law and Ethics

BUS 522 Business Integration I

BUS 528 Business Integration II

Undergraduate students from non-business majors; students from undergraduate business majors who want to pursue another specialization (course alternatives will be provided); industry professionals who want to improve professional skills and advance from a variety of industries are encouraged to apply. Students who have not taken managerial economics, financial accounting, and statistics will be given the opportunity to engage in coursework in advance of matriculation.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Doctor of Nursing Practice, Effective Summer 2026

Admission to the Post-BS D.N.P. track was suspended in 2021 and there are no active students in that track. In addition, with the launch of the online Post-M.S. D.N.P in Fall 2025, we want to suspend admission to the in-person Post M.S. D.N.P. track. We will teach out current students.

Specialization Description

Specializations

For the Post M.S. – D.N.P.: the concentration is on health care systems innovation.

Admission requirements

Admission to Post M.S. D.N.P is suspended.

For the Post-M.S. entry into the D.N.P., admission requirements include: a master's degree in nursing (GPA minimum 3.30); eligibility for R.N. licensure in Rhode Island; completion of a 300- to 500-level statistics course; completion of a master's level introduction to research course (NUR 505 or equivalent); completion of a master's level nursing theory course (NUR 507 or equivalent); completed application package with all transcripts; three letters of reference attesting to the applicant's capability for doctoral study (academic and professional, at least one from a doctorally prepared nurse); one scholarly paper or a master's thesis or equivalent; a statement of purpose indicating goals that are congruent with those of the program and institution and a curriculum vitae/resume. All materials must be received by February 15th for fall admission. Acceptance is based on a full review of the applicant's record and not any single component.

M.S. – D.N.P. Program Requirements

Program requirements include a minimum of 42 credits. Program pre-requisites include a master's degree in nursing, completion of a 300- to 500-level statistics course, a master's level introduction to research course

(NUR 505 or equivalent), and a master's level nursing theory course (NUR 507 or equivalent). D.N.P. required first level course work (9 credits) includes NUR 681, 683, and HDF 527. Remaining D.N.P. courses (20 credits) include NUR 549, 551, 680, PHP 540, MBA 540 and 5 elective credits. Elective credits may be taken in the Colleges of Nursing, Health Sciences, Pharmacy and/or Business. The program culminates with the clinical immersion practicum and practice improvement project associated with NUR 686 (6 credits) and NUR 688 (7 credits).

★ *Approved*

NEW CERTIFICATES OR SPECIALIZATIONS (*vote by program*)

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

[TABLED] English Language Development - Graduate Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in English Language Development is designed to meet the needs of non-English language speakers who are:

- International undergraduate and graduate students who have either been conditionally admitted into a graduate degree program OR are considering graduate level study but lack the English proficiency to matriculate into a U.S. higher education institution;
- International undergraduate and graduate students who are already matriculated in a U.S. college or university who are interested in enhancing their English communication skills for personal and professional growth.

Multilingual or non-English-speaking people in Rhode Island, across the country or abroad interested in enhancing their English communication skills for personal and professional growth.

- The program provides advanced English language skills training, including academic writing, reading and vocabulary, oral communication, and a seminar course tailored to a specific field of graduate study.

Through a combination of intensive coursework and applied learning experiences, participants develop the ability to communicate effectively in academic and professional settings. Our specialized seminar—ELS 453 English for Specific Purposes —allows students to refine language skills relevant to their disciplines.

Requirements

The following 12 credits are required to earn this graduate certificate:

ELS450, Academic Grammar and Writing for International Students

ELS451, Academic Reading and Vocabulary for International Students:

ELS452, Academic Oral Communication Skills and Practices for International Students

ELS453, Seminar in English for Specific Purposes

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Applied Artificial Intelligence and Business Analytics - Graduate Certificate

The Applied Artificial Intelligence and Business Analytics certificate program focuses on the use of data, analytics, and AI technologies to support managerial decision making and improve organizational performance. The program concentrates on how analytics and AI are applied within business functions to inform strategy, optimize operations, manage risk, and enhance customer value. Students develop the ability to frame business problems analytically, select appropriate models and tools, and translate results into actionable recommendations for decision makers.

The curriculum emphasizes practical business applications of analytics and AI, including forecasting, customer and market analysis, process optimization, fraud and risk detection, and AI-supported decision systems. Through applied projects and business-focused case studies, students gain experience interpreting analytical outputs, assessing business impact, and communicating insights effectively to managers and stakeholders.

Designed for professionals seeking rapid skill development or career advancement, this program requires less time and fewer resources than a full master's degree and serves as a focused pathway into analytics- and AI-enabled business roles.

Program Requirements

A total of 4 courses are required to complete the certificate (12 credits).

Required courses:

MBA500: Statistical Methods for Management (3 credits)

BAI512: Applied Artificial Intelligence for Business Decision-Making (3 credits)

BAI557: Visualizing Data for Business Intelligence (3 credits)

BAI576: Machine Learning for Business Intelligence (3 credits)

★ *Approved*

Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence

Specialization Description

The STEM-designated Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence specialization prepares graduates for careers in business analytics with advanced business analytics skills, strong communication and teamwork skills, and the ability to apply skills to business decisions.

The Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence specialization requires the following courses:

BUS509 Law and Ethics

MBA519 (BUS519) Marketing Decision-Making

BUS512 Applied AI for Business Decision Making

BAI455 Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Applications

BAI557 Data Visualization for Business Intelligence

BAI576 Machine Learning for Business Intelligence

★ *Approved*

NEW PROGRAMS (vote by program)

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Applied Science Communication - MA

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Applied Science Communication provides a comprehensive foundation in the principles and practices of science communication, focusing on effectively conveying scientific knowledge to diverse audiences. This interdisciplinary program examines key topics such as message framing, perception, and persuasion; political ideologies and communicating with policymakers; disability studies and accessible design; health and/or environmental communication; and the ethics of public engagement with science.

The program emphasizes the social dimensions of science and the importance of fostering meaningful connections among scientists, communities, and the public to address issues of social justice and equity. Students develop skills in inclusive science communication, including storytelling methods, rhetorical techniques, and digital tools, enabling them to create accessible and engaging science communication materials. Coursework, projects, and internships provide opportunities to design and evaluate public engagement strategies that are inclusive and responsive to specific audiences.

Graduates of the MA in Applied Science Communication are prepared for a wide range of positions across diverse fields. These include roles in science communication and outreach for research institutions, museums,

and nonprofit organizations; public information or media relations for government agencies, environmental organizations, or healthcare entities; and policy advising for advocacy groups and legislative offices. With an ability to craft inclusive, ethical, and audience-tailored strategies, students can address the communication challenges in fields such as climate change, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence, ensuring informed decision-making and engagement across industries.

Students in the MA in Applied Science Communication complete the Foundations of Science Communication Graduate Certificate and the Practices of Science Communication Certificate, in addition to one elective and the culminating portfolio course for a total 30 credits.

Required courses for the Master's consist of WRT534(NRS530), COM525(MAF525), WRT565, WRT533, NRS543, BES593, and COM585(WRT585) (21 credits).

Students also select 9 credits of elective courses from the following: COM460, COM455, COM523, BES521, NRS509, NRS542, HLT504, HLT505, HLT506, HLT508, BES533, SCM545, PHL553, COM522(MAF522), BES505(MAF505), NRS509, ART504

Students pursuing the MA in Applied Science Communication may but are not required to pursue a professional concentration in either Environment or Health. To complete a concentration, students complete 9 credits from among the following:

Environment: COM460, BES533, SCM545, NRS542, BES521, COM522(MAF522), ART504, NRS509, BES505(MAF505)

Health: COM523, HLT504, HLT505, HLT506, HLT508, WRT565, BES505(MAF505), BES523

★ *Approved*

VII. Adjournment

★ *Chair Saint-Eloi Cadely asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.*