Graduate Courses Rigor

Master’s and doctoral courses and programs at Texas A&M-Kingsville are progressively more advanced in academic content and rigor than undergraduate courses and programs. The advanced content and rigor in each graduate course and each graduate program is assured through the Graduate Council (elected and delegate body of the graduate faculty) policies and processes on graduate curriculum approval, periodic graduate program reviews and approval, and the graduate faculty membership approval regarding qualifications of graduate faculty. Graduate Faculty conduct research in their area of expertise and are qualified to supervise student research in their specific areas. In addition, no undergraduate credits are accepted toward any master’s/doctoral degree. Also, the qualifications of graduate faculty are continuously reviewed.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee of the Graduate Council reviews and evaluates every graduate course and program submitted for approval and makes recommendation to the Graduate Council. This evaluation process takes the following into account to make sure all university post-baccalaureate master’s and doctoral degree courses and programs are progressively more advanced in academic content and rigor than undergraduate courses and programs.

For Master’s-Level (5000-Level) Courses

Instructor:
The instructor for the 5000-level courses must be broadly and deeply conversant with the field of study and be knowledgeable in the state-of-the-art information available in textbooks and scholarly articles or electronic networks, and must hold a terminal degree in the teaching field.

Course Content:
5000-level courses should:
- provide content knowledge beyond the undergraduate level,
- make maximum use of modern technology and other available resources,
- emphasize the analysis and synthesis of information and should expand the student's knowledge base and prepare the student for the job market at a more advanced level than those with baccalaureate degree.
- provide knowledge of scholarly writing techniques and of research methodologies appropriate to the discipline, and
- prepare the student for pursuing more advanced degrees.

The 6000-Level Courses

Instructor:
The instructor for the doctoral level course must have prior scholarly activity experience and be broadly and deeply conversant with the field of study and be knowledgeable in the state-of-the-art information available in textbooks and scholarly articles or electronic networks, and must hold a terminal degree in the teaching field.

Course Content:
6000-level courses will provide knowledge beyond the undergraduate level and be manageable by a graduate student who has completed a BS or MS in an appropriate field of study. These courses will:
- present theoretical basis for topics covered and demand a higher level of critical thinking with more intellectual rigor beyond that of 5000-level courses,
- address advanced knowledge of the major research methodologies of the discipline,
- build on the current research available in the field of study, and
- provide a profound knowledge of scholarly writing techniques.