



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Xiaoxia Newton, Faculty President
FROM: Dr. Concepcion Godev, Graduate Council Chair
CC: Mr. Matt Wyse
DATE: September 8, 2023
RE: New Requirement for Thesis and Dissertation Students

Appendix

New Requirement for Thesis and Dissertation Students

Motion

At the September 5 meeting, the Graduate Council voted unanimously to recommend the proposed New Requirement for Thesis and Dissertation Students (see memo from Dr. Katherine Hall-Hertel).

Justification

The proposed requirement will encourage graduate students and their thesis or dissertation committee to engage in conversations about authorship and authorship agreement before students begin to write their thesis or dissertation. These conversations may avert potential authorship disagreements that may arise once the student's work is ready to be submitted for publication.





MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Concepcion Godev, Chair, Graduate Council
From: Dr. Katherine Hall-Hertel, Associate Dean
Date: July 27, 2023
RE: New requirement for thesis and dissertation students

We have surveyed faculty and students about the nature of the research climate at UNC Charlotte. In doing so, we discovered that issues around authorship frequently arise between students and their faculty. As part of our study, we instituted training interventions to see if we could increase students' confidence around authorship issues and reduce their stress when conflicts did arise. All students in the study indicated that the authorship policy and the corresponding authorship agreement were helpful and increased transparency for everyone involved.

Based on these results, the Graduate School proposes to add a "check box" to the proposal defense form for thesis and dissertation students, which would indicate that the committee reviewed the authorship policy and discussed the authorship agreement. We are not proposing that agreements be filed with the Graduate School – only that committees attest to having discussed the agreement.

The mere act of talking about authorship increases transparency and alignment among collaborators. We believe that doing so earlier in the process will help students and faculty as publications are generated. This should be a relatively easy addition to the process. We would work to implement this over the fall semester.

Attachments:

1. [Authorship policy](#)
2. [Authorship Agreement](#)