FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

These top fields will be completed by the SGOCE office.

Academic Year * 25-26 SGOCE #: * 47

Graduate Program Change Proposal

Form Procedure
To share the form with others prior to Submitting choose the **Save Progress** option at the bottom.
Create a PDF of the saved form go to Print and choose Save as PDF copy rather than print.
To access the saved form for editing or to finalize submission visit forms.fitchburgstate.edu to log in and view your Pending/Drafts under My Forms.

Department/Committee Information

The main contact person for the Graduate Curriculum Committee should fill out this form.

Requestor Name: * Nirajan Mani

Members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee: Abdel Gabar Mustafa, Hong Yu, Ana Emlinger, Soumitra Basu, Wayne Whitfield, Student Representatives (Mark Izbicki, Miles Ford)

Department / Unit Developing: * Engineering Technology

Department Chair: * Dr. Nirajan Mani * nmani@fitchburgstate.edu

Academic Dean : Dr. Mahmoud Al-Odeh malodeh@fitchburgstate.edu

Program Chair

The Program Chair for this request is among the people listed above.
* ◉ Yes
○ No

Program Information

This proposal refers to a (check all that apply): ☐ Certificate Program ☐ Teacher Licensure Program ☐ Degree Program

Does the program run on a cohort model? ○ Yes ○ No

Will additional faculty be needed, day/adjunct? ○ Yes ○ No

Briefly describe program change to the existing program as it will appear in university catalog:

Existing Plan of study on Catalog for MS in Construction Management Program
Advanced Curriculum Requirements for M.S. in Construction Management

Plan 1: Thesis Option (30 credits)
- Core Curriculum: 6 courses (21 credits)
- CMGT 7000 Construction Cost Analysis & Estimating
- CMGT 7100 Construction Scheduling & Resource Optimization
- CMGT 8000Improvement in Productivity in Construction
- CMGT 8100 Building Information Modeling Applications in CM
- CMGT 8200 Research Methodology for CM
- CMGT 9000 Construction Management Thesis
- Suggested Elective Courses: 3 courses (9 Credits)

Plan 2: Special Project Option (30 credits)
- Core Curriculum: 6 courses (18 credits)
- CMGT 7000 Construction Cost Analysis & Estimating
- CMGT 7100 Construction Scheduling & Resource Optimization
- CMGT 8000 Improvement in Productivity in Construction
- CMGT 8100 Building Information Modeling Applications in CM
- CMGT 8200 Research Methodology for CM
- CMGT 9100 Special Project in Construction Management
- Suggested Elective Courses: 4 courses (12 credits)

Elective course will be suggested by program chair as per students' interests.

Courses
- CMGT 7000 - Construction Cost Analysis & Estimating
- CMGT 7100 - Construction Scheduling & Resource Optimization
- CMGT 7200 - Construction Safety
- CMGT 7300 - Construction Law & Contracts
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Plan 3: Course Option (30 credits)
- Core Curriculum: 5 courses (15 credits)
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Population/anticipated enrollment/staffing plan (i.e., Who/how many will program serve?)

*The MS in Construction Management program currently serves graduate students pursuing advanced technical expertise, leadership, and research competencies through two established pathways: the Thesis Option and the Special Project Option. The addition of the third pathway, the Course Option, is designed to expand program accessibility while maintaining academic rigor and quality.

Population served: The new "Course Option" specifically addresses the needs of students who:
- Prefer structured coursework instead of thesis research or applied project development.
- Seek faster degree completion aligned with professional advancement.
- Intend to enhance technical and managerial competencies without a research commitment.
- Plan to pursue industry leadership roles rather than doctoral study.

Students will select one of the suggested elective courses in lieu of completing a Thesis or Special Project, ensuring academic flexibility while preserving program depth and graduate-level expectations.

Anticipated Enrollment: Based on historical enrollment patterns and industry demand trends, the addition of the Course Option is expected to:
- Increase overall enrollment
- Improve retention rates by offering a flexible completion pathway.
- Attract working professionals who may otherwise not enroll due to thesis or project requirements.
- Support stable annual cohort sizes across all three options.

Staffing Plan: The addition of the "Course Option" does not require new faculty positions. The program will leverage:
- Existing graduate faculty
- Currently offered elective courses within faculty teaching loads.
- Rotational scheduling of electives based on demand.
- Strategic use of adjunct or industry professionals if enrollment increases beyond projects.

The program has sufficient resources and administrative support to implement the third pathway without additional infrastructure investment.

Rationale and expected outcomes for program change:

*Rationale: The addition of the "Course Option" to the MS in Construction Management program is a strategic enhancement designed to increase flexibility, accessibility, and responsiveness to evolving student and industry needs. While the existing Thesis and Special Project options provide strong pathways for research-oriented and applied professional experiences, some students seek an academically rigorous yet course-focused completion pathway aligned with immediate career advancement. This pathway is particularly beneficial for:
- Working professionals balancing academic and professional responsibilities.
- Industry practitioners seeking technical depth without research commitments.
- International students with time-sensitive program goals.
- Students focused on leadership, operations, and industry practice rather than research.

Expected outcomes:
The implementation of the "Course Option" is expected to yield the following outcomes:
1. Increase enrollment and retention
2. Enhance program flexibility
3. Improve industry alignment
4. Broader student access

How does this change affect the departments Learning Outcomes for the program? List any changes that need to be made.

This addition of "Course Option" does not alter the program's core learning outcomes, rather, it provides an alternative mechanism for achieving them while accommodating diverse academic goals and career trajectories.

Implementation plan (what semester will new policy/policy change begin; will change be phased in)

*Fall 2026

An old and new plan of study must be included with this proposal (Please use template for program revision).

If new courses are proposed or major changes are made to existing courses, submit a Graduate Council New Course Approval form.

Old Plan of Study Attached here.

New Plan of Study Attached here Catalog_Changes_MSCM_program.odt

Attach any letter(s) of support from professional agencies or others within or outside the university.

Signatures

* ...3937323231		* ...3132353334	
Nirajan Mavi	03/13/2026	Mahmoud Al-Odeh	03/16/2026
Requester Signature:	Date	Academic Dean Signature:	Date

* ...3332323331

Niraj Mani 03/13/2026

Department Chair Approval: Date

*

SGOCE Dean Signature: 4/13/26

Date

Graduate Council

The Graduate Council Chair Signature indicates that the Council has discussed this proposal and has decided it should move forward.

*

Graduate Council Chair Signature Date

Notifications

*

Approval of the President Date

SGOCE Dean Initials Date

*

Reviewed by the Registrar: Date

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