Draft Proposal for Presentation to Graduate Council, August 28, 2019

The following criteria come from the Higher Learning Commission regarding the articulation and assessment of graduate student outcomes:

Criteria 3A

2. The institution articulates and differentiates learning goals for its undergraduate, graduate, post-baccalaureate, post-graduate, and certificate programs.

Criteria 4B

1. The institution has clearly stated goals for student learning and effective processes for assessment of student learning and achievement of learning goals.
2. The institution assesses achievement of the learning outcomes that it claims for its curricular and co-curricular programs.
3. The institution uses the information gained from assessment to improve student learning

The Graduate College proposes that a set of learning goals should be developed for each graduate major or closely related group of majors (e.g., within a department). A method for assessing the outcomes of these learning goals should be clearly stated. This method should include any assessment instruments to be used (e.g., competency ratings), who will complete the assessments (typically, the Program of Study Committee) and the timing of the assessments (e.g., at the Preliminary Oral Exam, at the Final Exam, bi-yearly). The method for compiling and using the results of these assessments should be clearly described as well. Results should be used not only to provide feedback to individual students, but to inform the program on specific ways it can improve to promote attainment of its learning goals.

The learning goals should be included in the program’s Graduate Handbook and posted on its website. The outcomes of the assessments will be part of the data requested in self-studies prepared by each major for their regular external program reviews.

The proposed deadline for these materials is May, 2020.