

BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

DIRECTORY OF POLICY STATEMENTS

Policy Number: IV: 15: 01

Date: February 2019

Subject: Upper Division Criteria for Graduate Level Courses

Guidelines listed below have been established for the designation of upper-division graduate courses. The guidelines should be used when creating new courses and when revising existing courses. The College Senate Curriculum Committee will use the guidelines in the approval process for graduate courses.

A course that has upper-division designation (600 or 700 level) reflects evidence of at least two of the following criteria:

1. Prerequisite course or instructor permission
2. Course content, assessment, and learning outcomes demonstrating evidence of greater focus or depth in the content than 500-level graduate courses
3. Course content, assessment, and learning outcomes targeting a higher order of critical thinking (greater application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of subject) than 500-level graduate courses

Course numbers indicate the level of the course and restrictions as follows:

500–599: Introductory or survey graduate courses (knowledge, understanding, and application of subject)

600–699: Courses that go beyond introductory level and involve in-depth study of a subject at the graduate level and that usually have prerequisites

700–799: Courses designed for and restricted to students matriculated in the departments' degree or certificate programs

Note: The catalog provides that all master's degree programs require completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours of 600- or 700-level coursework.