Graduate Course Numbering Guidelines

Purpose:

The application of 500 and 600 level course numbers has been inconsistently applied within Montana State's Graduate Programs. Many departments have not taken full advantage of the dual numbering system for example that a 600 level course is more advanced than a 500 level course. The application of the dual numbering system when properly applied will provide outside evaluators with a greater sense of the depth and breadth of coursework available to our graduate students as well as provide current students with a better indication of the level of instruction involved.

Proposed Guidelines:

All 500 and 600 level coursework is restricted to graduate courses at MSU. Those without this focus are to be renumbered among the 100-400 level courses. This is not intended to prevent exceptional undergraduate students from enrolling in 500 and 600 level courses but is to limit focus of these courses to those enrolled either at the masters or doctoral levels. Application of the 500 and 600 course numbers are to reflect levels of instruction. Courses at the 500 level are to be considered Foundational Courses in graduate studies. These courses have broader graduate topic focus than 600 level courses and have more basic learning objectives as well. Generally this is expected to result in greater enrollment numbers for these 500 level classes. Courses at the 600 level are to be considered Advance Courses in graduate studies and involve narrower and more in-depth topic foci and very specific learning objectives. Advance 600 level courses may follow broad introductory 500 level courses or be stand-alone courses that explore important subjects in depth.

Date of Implementation:

Application of the guidelines is to begin on .........

Revised 4/21/15