



University Graduate Council Records

UA.14.8

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Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

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Summary Information

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Repository: | Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections |
| Creator: | Michigan State University. Graduate Council |
| Title: | Graduate Council records |
| ID: | UA.14.8 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1892-1988 |
| Physical Description: | 2 Cubic Feet |
| Language of the Material: | English . |

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information:
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Historical Note

Michigan State University has been empowered to grant graduate degrees since 1861. As was common at schools during that period, requirements for the degrees were vague. Generally, three years of practical experience and "serious scientific study" would earn an applicant a Master of Science in agriculture degree. As a result, almost one out of every three graduates obtained M.S. degrees three years after graduating. In 1879, the faculty began to change the requirements. First, two years of study and a written thesis became the criteria. In 1881, the requirements were made even more specific: one year of study at the college, a written thesis and a final examination. The Committee of the M.S. Degree was responsible for all graduate education. The committee reviewed applicants, approved theses, considered waiver requests, and granted degrees.

On April 17, 1908, due to the granting of professional engineering degrees, the committee's name was changed to the Committee on Advanced Degrees. The duties of the members were the same, though the committee was also responsible for administering a new element of

graduate education – assistantships. During the 1920s the committee finalized the criteria for granting doctoral degrees, the first of which was granted in 1925.

In response to the growing number of students, the graduate program was revised in 1929. A dean of the Graduate School was appointed, a graduate faculty was established, and the Committee on Advanced Degrees became the Graduate Council. Responsibility for administering the graduate programs was given jointly to the dean and the Graduate Council.

During the 1950s, the graduate program was again revised. The responsibility for administering master's level degrees was taken from the Graduate Council and given to the individual colleges. The Graduate School and the Graduate Council were charged with the central planning, program implementation, and degree approval at the doctoral level. The names were changed to the School for Advanced Graduate Studies and the University Graduate Council. The relationship between the dean and the council remained the same.

The role of the University Graduate Council has changed little since then, though its position has. In 1957, the council had status equal to the Academic Council and reported directly to the Provost. In 1972, its reporting lines were routed through the Academic Council, though it technically still had equal status. The Graduate Council became a standing committee of the Academic Council in 1978.

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Scope and Contents

Records of the University Graduate Council consist of meeting minutes which provide a history of graduate programs Michigan State University, a topical index to the Council minutes, an index to correspondence providing names and graduation dates of degree recipients, and four editions of "Graduate Students' Rights and Responsibilities." Annual reports are also included in the collection.

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Arrangement Note

Arranged into 5 series: 1. Index to meeting minutes. 2. Meeting Minutes. 3. Index to Correspondence. 4. Reports. 5. Annual Reports.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Conditions Governing Access

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Controlled Access Headings

- Universities and colleges -- Administration
- Universities and colleges -- Graduate work
- Annual reports
- Minutes (administrative records)
- Reports
- Michigan State University. Academic Council
- Michigan State University. Graduate Council

Collection Inventory

Index to Meeting Minutes, 1917-1981

box 362

folder 1

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| Meeting Minutes | box 361 | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Title/Description | Instances | |
| 1892-1902 | box 361 | volume 1 |
| 1903-1914 | box 361 | volume 2 |
| 1915 | box 361 | volume 3 |
| 1915-1917 | box 361 | volume 4 |
| 1917-1921 | box 361 | volume 5 |
| 1922-1925 | box 361 | volume 6 |
| 1926-1928 | box 361 | volume 7 |
| 1928-1930 | box 361 | volume 8 |
| 1930-1931 | box 361 | volume 9 |
| 1931-1932 | box 361 | volume 10 |
| 1932-1933 | box 361 | volume 11 |
| 1933-1934 | box 361 | volume 12 |
| 1934-1935 | box 361 | volume 13 |
| 1935-1936 | box 361 | volume 14 |
| 1936-1937 | box 361 | volume 15 |
| 1937-1938 | box 361 | volume 16 |
| 1938-1939 | box 361 | volume 17 |
| 1939-1940 | box 361 | volume 18 |
| 1940-1941 | box 362 | volume 19 |
| 1941-1942 | box 362 | volume 20 |
| 1942-1943 | box 362 | volume 21 |
| 1943-1944 | box 362 | volume 22 |

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|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1944-1950 | box 362 | volume 23 |
| 1950-1955 | box 362 | volume 24 |
| 1955-1957 | box 362 | volume 25 |
| (Minutes not in volume), 1949-1957 | box 362 | folder 2 |
| 1958 | box 362 | folder 3 |
| 1958-1959 | box 362 | folder 4 |
| 1959-1960 | box 362 | folder 5 |
| 1960-1961 | box 362 | folder 6 |
| 1961-1962 | box 362 | folder 7 |
| 1962-1963 | box 362 | folder 8 |
| 1963-1964 | box 362 | folder 9 |
| 1964-1965 | box 362 | folder 10 |
| 1965-1966 | box 362 | folder 11 |
| 1966-1967 | box 362 | folder 12 |
| 1967-1968 | box 362 | folder 13 |
| 1968-1969 | box 362 | folder 14 |
| 1969-1970 | box 362 | folder 15 |
| 1970-1971 | box 362 | folder 16 |
| 1971-1972 | box 362 | folder 17 |
| 1972-1973 | box 362 | folder 18 |
| 1973-1974 | box 362 | folder 19 |
| 1974-1975 | box 362 | folder 20 |
| 1975-1976 | box 362 | folder 21 |
| 1976-1977 | box 362 | folder 22 |
| 1977-1978 | box 362 | folder 23 |
| 1978-1979 | box 362 | folder 24 |
| 1979-1980 | box 362 | folder 25 |
| 1980-1981 | box 362 | folder 26 |
| 1982-1985 | drawer F.D. | folder 1 |
| 1986-1989 | drawer F.D. | folder 2 |
| 1990-1992 | drawer F.D. | folder 3 |

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|--|-----------|
| Index to Correspondence [title on volume - "Records of Committee on M. S. Degree, 1896"], 1896 | volume 26 |
|--|-----------|

| | | |
|---|---------|-----------|
| Reports: Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities , 1950, 1960, 1971, 1973 | box 362 | folder 27 |
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|---|---------|-----------|
| Glassblowing, Fabrication and Repair Facilities, 1963 | box 362 | folder 28 |
|---|---------|-----------|

Committees

| | | |
|---|---------|-----------|
| Purchasing and Stores Committee Memos. , 1964 | box 362 | folder 29 |
|---|---------|-----------|

| | | |
|--|---------|-----------|
| Purchasing and Stores Committee , 1963 | box 362 | folder 30 |
|--|---------|-----------|

Annual Reports

| Title/Description | Instances |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Unpublished | box Annual Reports |
| 1986 | |
| 1986-1987 | |
| 1987-1988 | |

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