

Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) Course Renumbering and Credit Load Changes

Chris Leighton (DUGS), 9/13/2012

Two agenda items relate to provisionally approved changes to MSE classes. The first is a renumbering of certain classes in order to simplify the MSE four year plan. The second is a change in credit load for four MSE classes in order to more accurately reflect the required student time commitment. These two changes are discussed in turn below.

1. Renumbering of MatS 4013, 4001, and 4002

By renumbering MatS 4013, 4001 and 4002 to MatS 3013, 3001 and 3002, respectively, we are able to simplify the four year plan such that all junior level classes are 3xxx and all senior level classes are 4xxx. This actually rectifies inconsistencies dating back to the conversion from quarters to semesters.

2. Credit load changes for MatS 4001 (3001), 4002 (3002), 3801 and 3851W

These proposed changes result from a discussion of the MSE teaching faculty designed to review whether the credit loads for our classes are completely consistent with the University policy. We believe that, as shown below, the time commitments involved in 4001 (3001) and 4002 (3002) are actually commensurate with University expectations for 3 credits as opposed to 4. We also believe that the time commitments involved in our two junior lab classes, MatS 3801 and 3851W, are actually commensurate with University expectations for 4 credits as opposed to 3. This results in a situation where all of our lab classes are 4 credits, and all of our standard lecture classes are 3, an additional simplification. The total number of credits required to graduate in MSE is unchanged, as all four of these classes are required. An approximate analysis is shown below.

Course	Time commitment (est.)	Current	Policy	Proposed
3001	4+5.5 = 9.5 hrs	4	3.2	3
3002	4+5.5 = 9.5 hrs	4	3.2	3
3801	5+7 = 12 hrs	3	4.0	4
3851W	5+7 = 12 hrs	3	4.0	4

Note that we have considered various scenarios for individual students that could present short term problems arising due to these credit changes. They do not seem to be likely or serious. It is in theory possible that a student could have taken 3801 and/or 3851 for 3 credits and now take 3001 and/or 4001 for only 3, thus arriving at 2 fewer credits. This is unlikely but can be dealt with on a case by case basis in the event that they have less than 127/128 credits.