**D. Master Degree Alternative**

Students enrolled in the FSAN Ph.D. program may earn a Master of Science in FSAN in lieu of the Ph.D. from Lerner College of Business and Economics if they meet the following criteria:

1.       Apply to the master program alternative before starting the second year of the Ph.D. program. Provide a specific date as to when they need to apply.  This is particularly important as it is stated that the student will not receive funding once the master alternative is chosen.  The first pay in the fall semester is sent through the system by no later than August 31st so students need an answer as to the approval to switch to the master’s so that they are informed that they will no longer be supported for stipend and tuition.

Aug. 25.

2.       Add the procedure for how students apply to the master’s.  You and I know that you will prepare a Change of Classification form changing the student from PHD to MS and that form requires the student’s signature, but the Committee feels that you need to indicate what the student is to do to start the  “application” procedure.

A student who wish to switch from the PhD program to the MS program will

1. Send the program director a requesting letter and fill a status change request form.

2. Approved by the program director.

3. Approved by the UD graduate Program.

3.       The Committee wanted to know if there is any reason that a person would be denied the option to change to the master’s prior to the 2nd year?

As long as the student does not violate UD's academic regulation and is expected to obtain an accumulative GPA of 3.0 or above, s/he should be allowed to switch to the MS program.

4.       The Committee did not understand why a student beyond the second year who was in good standing and had passed the qualifiers was not able to leave/withdraw from the PHD program with a master’s degree.  Is there a way the student in this situation could appeal to the graduate committee for the master’s degree?

By that time, the student would have completed all MS program requirements with full financial support from the FSAN PhD program. This would not be a good use of the JPMC scholarship, which intends to fund PhD studies. The intention of the proposed MS program is to give a way-out for the student who fail the PhD qualifying exam or feel not suited for the PhD program. If we allow students to switch to the MS program at a later time, some students may take advantage of the system; MS degrees in areas related FSAN are very popular degrees, which allow students to obtain highly-paid industry jobs. These MS programs all require students to pay full tuition.

5.       Successfully complete the 6 core courses of the FSAN Ph.D. program, the required ethics class BUAD 840, and 3 additional elective classes from the list of elective classes specified in the FSAN Ph.D. program.

6.       Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

The FSAN master program alternative is only open to students who enrolled in the FSAN Ph.D. program and decide not to continue to pursue the Ph.D. degree. Students may not apply directly into the FSAN M.S. program, nor will students be permitted to transfer into this program from another major. Students will not receive funding from the FSAN Ph.D. program once they choose the master Alternative