

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
NEW/CHANGE POLICY PROPOSAL**

**It is required that you follow this format when presenting a new Graduate Policy or change in a Graduate Policy for review and approval by the Graduate Council.
Please submit the typed original with all required signatures to the Graduate Council.**

Form functionality most compatible using Adobe Acrobat 9 and newer.

New Policy/Policy Change:

The Counseling program would like to explicitly document in the catalog that the two Counseling Stage 1 courses, COUN 7010: Counseling Theories and COUN 7030: Introduction to Professional Counseling, cannot be transferred into the M.S. program from another institution.

Department or other unit proposing the new policy/policy change: Counseling

Contact Person: Daneen Deptula

This policy is: ☒ New ☐ Change to a current policy

Briefly describe new policy or change to existing policy as it will appear in university catalog (if a policy change please provide current and proposed versions):

We propose the following wording:

OLD:

Program Requirements

For all programs, students together with their advisors, must plan a program to meet the candidate's career goals. All courses must have advisor approval prior to registration. Please note that all counseling courses now have COUN for a course prefix, rather than the formerly used PSY prefix, to better reflect the nature of this program as a preparation for professional counseling careers.

NEW:

Program Requirements

For all programs, students together with their advisors, must plan a program to meet the candidate's career goals. All courses must have advisor approval prior to registration. Please note that all counseling courses now have COUN for a course prefix, rather than the formerly used PSY prefix, to better reflect the nature of this program as a preparation for professional counseling careers. Transfer credits cannot be applied to meet the requirements of COUN 7010 and COUN 7030.

Rationale and expected outcomes for new policy or change to existing policy:

One of the responsibilities of the Counseling program is to evaluate students for appropriateness for the field, as they will be working with vulnerable populations. As one part of this process, the Counseling program utilizes a review system at three distinct stages of the program. The first student stage review is after the completion of two courses: COUN 7010 and COUN 7030. Faculty for these courses complete disposition assessments, rating the students' professionalism, ethical behavior, and interpersonal competence. These two courses are also designed to evaluate students in terms of their academic competence as well as motivation for the field. Students complete assignments (i.e., a candidacy paper in COUN 7010) that is submitted as part of their Stage 1 review that presents their motivation for working in this field, their ability to form relationships with others, etc.

This process is compromised when students do not take these courses at Fitchburg State. As the chair of the program makes transfer recommendations, we have not accepted transfer courses for 7030 or 7010 in recent years. However, it would be beneficial to students to have this policy clearly outlined in the catalog.

It should also be noted that this requirement would not apply to the CAGS program as we believe that students would have already demonstrated their academic and interpersonal competence.

Implementation plan (what semester will new policy/policy change begin; will change be phased in; attach suggested execution)
Fall 2021.

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Attach any letter (s) of support from professional agencies or others within or outside the university.

☒ Reviewed by Dean: Franca Barricelli

Print Form

Required Signatures—Graduate and Continuing Education New Policy/Policy Change Approval

New/Changed Policy Initiator: *Daren Deptule* Date: 2/11/21

Graduate Council Chair: _____ Date: _____
(Indicates Graduate Council approval)

President: _____ Date: _____

