

**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 require a minimum grade of 2.5 (or a B-) in the two prerequisite courses (a developmental psychology course and a statistics) for admission.

We also propose moving the reference to the prerequisites from the program requirement section to the admissions standards section in the catalog to aid in clarity.

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):

Old wording (under program requirements):

Undergraduate Prerequisites 6 cr.

A course in Developmental Psychology (e.g., Human Growth & Development) 3 cr.

A course in Statistics (e.g., Applied Statistics) 3 cr.

We propose the following wording (under admissions requirements, between personal statement and MTEL requirements):

Minimum grades of at least a 2.5 (or B-) in a 3-credit course in Developmental Psychology (e.g., Human Growth and Development) and a 3-credit course in Statistics (e.g., Applied Statistics).

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

With the removal of the GRE requirement, the counseling program has been considering ways to better evaluate student potential for success. The process of preparing materials for the MA ESE report also highlighted, for the school counseling program, that grade minimums in prerequisite courses may be a possible mechanism to ensure academic preparedness.

A review of the chair's informal admissions records was conducted; this data was admittedly incomplete because courses that met transfer requirements were assumed to have met the existing academic requirements of the counseling program. However, of those with grade information, 25% of applicants (93 of 371) had below a 2.5 in either prerequisite. Of those, 38 were denied due to overall GPA or other admissions requirements. No information was available for 15, likely due to non-enrollment in the program. Of the remaining applicants, 24 (60%) experienced difficulties in the program including low/failing grades, problematic disposition ratings, and failure to complete the program. The remaining 16 (40%) were judged to be making good progress in the program or had successfully graduated. This success rate of 40% is markedly lower than our overall retention rate (78.67% in our latest program review).

As a result of this analysis, the program is proposing to raise the minimum prerequisite requirement (which currently is unofficially a 1.7) to a 2.5/B-. Applicants who do not meet these requirements can retake the undergraduate courses, which may better prepare them for success at the graduate level.

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 ApprovalNew/Changed Policy Initiator: Daren Deptula Date: 2/11/21Graduate Council Chair: _____ Date: _____
(Indicates Graduate Council approval)

President: _____ Date: _____

