

**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 current policy of the Counseling Program is for students have a minimum grade of 3.0 in all classes as well as a minimum overall GPA of a 3.0. These policies are redundant. We propose to keep the minimum GPA of 3.0 for each class, and raise the overall GPA requirement to a 3.25. In addition, we would like there to be additional clarity in the catalog about the requirements.

Note: This change would apply to the M.S. Counseling program for Clinical Mental Health, the M.S. Counseling program for School Counseling, and the IDIS Counseling/Psychology Concentration CAGS.

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

Contact Person:

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):

The current catalog lists the requirements as:

Candidacy is awarded by the Behavioral Sciences Committee on Graduate Programs based on:

The successful completion of the undergraduate prerequisites

The successful completion of the experiential and theoretical aspects of counseling (Stage I course work)

The successful completion of the Communication and Literacy portion of the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) if applicable.

The demonstration of competent personal and appropriate ethical behavior

The demonstration of competent interpersonal skills

The demonstration of effective written and oral communication skills

Eligibility for Internship or Practicum

Eligibility for COUN 9062 - Internship in Counseling (3 cr.); COUN 9075 - Internship in Counseling (6 cr.), COUN 9085 - Practicum in School Counseling or COUN 9090 - Internship in Mental Health Counseling—Stage III of the program is determined by the Behavioral Science Committee on Graduate Programs based on:

Candidacy

A grade point average of at least 3.0 in Stage I and Stage II courses

All Stage I and Stage II courses completed

Demonstration of effective written and oral communication skills

Demonstration of competent interpersonal skills

Demonstration of competent personal and appropriate ethical behavior

The new version in the catalog will:

1) Delete the first section above regarding Candidacy

2) Under the section for Program Requirements include the following:

Stage 1 Review (Candidacy) is awarded based on:

1. Completion of the Stage 1 required courses (COUN 7010: Counseling Theories and COUN 7030: Introduction to Professional Counseling). If a CAGS student does not need to take one or both of these courses, appropriate course substitutions will be made by the advisor.
2. Minimum overall cumulative average of 3.25 in all courses taken
3. Minimum 3.0 final grades in each Stage I course.
4. The demonstration of appropriate ethical behavior.
5. The demonstration of competent interpersonal behaviors.

6. The demonstration of effective writing and oral communications skills.

Stage 2 Review (Approval for Internship/Candidacy) is awarded based on

1. Completion or in the process of completion of all Stage 2 courses required for Internship/Practicum
2. Minimum overall cumulative average of 3.25 in all courses taken
3. Minimum 3.0 final grades in each Stage II course.
4. The demonstration of appropriate ethical behavior.
5. The demonstration of competent interpersonal behaviors.
6. The demonstration of effective writing and oral communications skills.

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

As noted above, the two GPA requirements overlap in their content. It would not be possible for students to receive an overall grade less than 3.0 if each individual grade met the 3.0 requirement. We believe that these new requirements better match with our expectations for student academic success. The proposed catalog content also better matches with our internal forms and procedures.

Implementation plan (what semester will new policy/policy change begin; will change be phased in; attach suggested execution)
These changes would be reflected in the 2018-2019 catalog.

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

☒ Reviewed by Dean: Barricelli & Hicks

Print Form

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

New/Changed Policy Initiator: _____ Date: _____

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

President: _____ Date: _____