

Report of the Graduate Council
Academic Year 2008-09
May 1, 2009

Program Approvals

M.S. in School Counseling (295)

M.S. in Communications Disorders, Speech Language Pathology Concentration (090S)

M.S. in Communications Disorders, Disabilities Concentration (090I)

Course Approvals

GLG509 Water Resources Management

SPE 798 Young Children with Disabilities

COU590 Thesis

COU781 Ethics and Professional Orientation: SC Internship 1

COU782 Ethics and Professional Orientation: SC Internship 2

SPE753 Practicum in Early Childhood Special Education

SED565 World History Institute

COU585 Contemporary Issues in Counseling (online course)

EDS549 Issues in Literacy for Diverse Learners (online course)

XXX599 Comprehensive Exam Workshop

CMD520 Augmentative Communication Systems

CMD525 Advanced Diagnosis Speech-Language Disorders

CMD526 Diagnostic Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology

CMD534 Foundations of Language 2

CMD553 Research Practicum

Events

Graduate Coordinators and Advisors Brunch: November 12, 2008

Graduate School Open House: February 19, 2009

Graduate Student Issues/Grading Policies

- The Graduate Students' Association is now an officially recognized campus club with by-laws. Mert Sanivar, Chris Vivas, and Kierstin Egge are the officers.
- Replace Course Grading Option
The replace course grading option will be in effect and will be calculated into the GPA. All courses will still appear on the transcript. A written request must be made to the Dean of the Graduate School for the Replace Course Grading Option. The second grade will always replace the original grade regardless of whether it is higher or lower, if a graduate student requests to use the replace option. The policy will allow only one course replacement. More than one course can be repeated, but only one can be replaced.
- Satisfactory/Fail Grading Option
The S/F option (formerly listed as the S/U Option) may be granted once for graduate students who wish to take an undergraduate course outside of their discipline, but only with the permission of the Dean of the Graduate School. Graduate students may not elect the S/F Option for graduate classes.

General Thesis Guidelines

After considerable work during the 2007-08 academic year, in Sept. 2008 the Council approved a set of general guidelines for the completion of a master's thesis. These guidelines are consistent with all departments that currently require/offer thesis credit.

Transfer Credit Policy

Change in policy to the following:

Graduate students are only eligible to receive transfer credits for courses in which they earned a grade of "B" or better.

This policy is consistent with other institutions and insures that students who enter with transfer courses start with the status of "good standing." This policy prevents students, particularly those who have taken courses at New

Paltz as non-matriculated graduate students, from being penalized. When a student matriculates into New Paltz with credits taken as a non-matriculated student, the credits are considered transfer credits. For these students, the grade is transferred along with the credit.

Graduate School General Admissions Policy

The graduate faculty met on November 21, 2008 to discuss some general standards for admission to New Paltz graduate programs. Currently standardized tests, such as the GRE, GMAT, and MAT, are used to supplement the applications of those with undergraduate GPAs that are marginal (2.8-2.99).

No students should be admitted to graduate programs, if they do not meet stated program requirements. If we ever got audited, we would have to show documented rationales for exceptions. This policy is consistent with other college policies. At New Paltz, if a student wants to return for another undergraduate degree, undergraduate admissions require a GPA of 2.75 and will accept 90 credits in transfer. Departments, schools, and programs have been asked to develop policies for the review of marginal applicants. Continuation of the discussion will be held on Friday, May 8, 2009, 1:00-2:30 pm in CSB110. Please encourage interested parties to attend this meeting. If anyone wishes to submit ideas/proposals and is unable to attend, submissions may be made to Karen Bell at bellk@newpaltz.edu and she will read the comments to the group and they will be included in the notes from the meeting.

Comprehensive Exam Policy

Students in master's programs requiring a Comprehensive Exam must obtain approval from their graduate program director or department chair to take the exam. If approval is granted, they must register for the Comprehensive Exam Workshop (XXX599), a zero-credit (no fee) course. Students are permitted to register for this course only once, and those who do not pass the exam on the first attempt must register for one credit of Continued Registration (XXX799) in each subsequent semester until the exam is passed, they are prevented from registering, or have maximized the seven years they are allowed for the completion of their master's degree.

Research and Creative Projects Award

Application documents have been updated and simplified by adding a check list to insure that all applications are complete. The Council agreed to have two subcommittees, one to review applications in fall and the other to review applications in spring. The annual review process previously completed in fall was a problem for students who wished to attend conferences during the spring or summer.

Online and Blended Course Guidelines for Approval and Assessment

A consulting group was established to provide input to the Council about online course offerings. Using the Curriculum Committee's assessment form as a basis, the Council is in the process of developing a set of guidelines for the assessment and delivery of online and blended courses. Some of the highlights of these new guidelines are the inclusion of multimedia as a requirement, a definition of blended courses and their contact hours, and assessment rubrics for the evaluation of online discussions.

Frequently Asked Questions Web Page

The Council is currently in the process of creating a FAQ page to be added to the Graduate School website. Program coordinators are requested to submit questions and their answers to Vika Shock for inclusion on this website.

New Graduate School Forms

The Council approved a number of new forms for the Graduate School which are available online (www.newpaltz.edu/graduate/forms.html) and in the Graduate School office.

- Deferral of Matriculation
- Graduate School Leave of Absence/Withdrawal from College
- Graduate Transfer Credit Request
- Non-matriculated Student Waiver
- Request for Extension of Time
- Waiver for the Release of Information