

## **Graduate Studies Committee Report to SENATE**

### **Policies passed during the 2010-2011 Academic Year**

#### **University Policy Changes**

##### **1. Admissions Appeals below 2.40.**

- To respond to faculty and student requests for acceptance when applicant demonstrates exemplary professional experiences and accomplishments without the required curricular GPA for conditional admission

Applicants who are denied admission to graduate programs at Central Connecticut State University may request reviews of these decisions through an appeal process. In most cases, a minimum GPA of 2.40 is required to be eligible to appeal. However, in rare cases programs may consider Conditional Admission for students whose cumulative GPA is lower than 2.40. Such consideration is at the discretion of individual departments and the Dean, provided the applicant demonstrates exemplary professional experiences and accomplishments or other relevant evidence in recent years.

Such appeals must be made in writing to the dean of the School of Graduate Studies with written justification supporting the applicant's current readiness. This may include additional academic information (such as scores from standardized tests, grades in very recent courses, or letters of recommendation from instructors, etc.) which was not submitted with the original application. The dean will first consult the department offering the program for reconsideration of the applicant. Depending on the nature of the appeal, further consultation may be made with an appropriate designee of the academic school or the department chair of the relevant program before making a decision. The dean of the School of Graduate Studies will notify the student of the decision in writing.

##### **2. Time Expectation for Student Course Equivalent Work**

- To comply with federal regulations and NEASC, policy change passed regarding *Time Expectations for Student Course Equivalent Work* for addition to graduate catalog:

"Graduate students are expected to invest a minimum of three hours of out-of-class student work for every one credit hour of classroom or one hour of direct faculty instruction each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester. At least an equivalent amount of student work time applies to lab work, internships, practica, studio work, as well as other academic work that leads to the award of credit hour."

##### **3. Department Policy Changes for Admissions**

- ###### **a. Revision of Geography Department admission policy to increase the department's ability to determine suitability and appropriateness of students admitted into the program.**

Admission criteria were changed to increase the minimum GPA, require an essay and to require the completion of a pre-admission content assessment.

- 1) A 3.00 GPA with the understanding that a student may be considered for Conditional Admission with an undergraduate GPA of 2.40 to 2.99
- 2) An Academic Autobiography/Statement of Purpose, of approximately 1000 words, describing the student's interest in graduate study of geography at CCSU, and the role the degree will play in his/her current and future career. The writing is expected to demonstrate skills adequate for coursework at the graduate level. This essay must be submitted directly to the Geography Department Chair.
- 3) A twenty question assessment of the student's geographic knowledge, taken as an online assessment. Applicants should contact the Geography Department Chair for further details.

**b. Revision of Admission Requirements for MS Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Program.**

Admissions to the Master's program in Marriage and Family Therapy are made on a competitive basis two times per year (Fall and Spring). All applications must be completed and received by May 1 for fall admission of the following academic year and by December 1 for admission the following Spring semester. Approximately twenty (20) students are accepted per academic semester (Fall and Spring).

The admission standard for this program requires a minimum of **2.70** combined undergraduate and previous graduate GPA (of at least a 3.00 for graduate work) based on a 4.00 point scale where A is 4.00. Students with grade point averages between 2.40 and 2.69 may appeal their denials for admission. Conditional admission may be considered on a space-available basis. **Candidates for initial admission will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:**

1. **Grade point average:** Minimum **2.70** grade point average (GPA) and previous graduate GPA if applicable (of at least a 3.00 for graduate work) based on a 4.00 point scale where A is 4.00.
2. **Three recommendations** from individuals able to attest to the student's suitability as a prospective Marriage and Family Therapist
3. **Personal essay** regarding the applicant's motivation and readiness to pursue a degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. Candidates will be asked to respond to the following questions (three to five pages maximum, double-spaced):
  - a. Personal and professional experiences and reasons that influenced you to pursue the field of Marriage and Family Therapy.
  - b. Personal characteristics you believe will contribute to your success as a Marriage and Family Therapist.
  - c. Attitudes and beliefs regarding the importance of engaging in a therapy experience as part of becoming a marriage and family therapist.

**c. Educational Leadership policy for admissions was approved.**

The changes that were passed have a different requirement for each specialization.

- For the Specialization in Instructional Leadership:

The admission standard for the Educational Leadership M.S. program specialization in Instructional Leadership includes either a 3.00 undergraduate GPA or a 2.70 GPA and good standing (3.00 GPA) in all post-baccalaureate coursework.

- For the Specialization in Teacher Leadership:

The admission requirements for the Educational Leadership M.S. program specialization in Teacher Leadership include either a 3.00 undergraduate GPA or a 2.70 GPA and good standing (3.00 GPA) in all post-baccalaureate course work. In addition, applicants must submit to the Department two current letters of reference from educational leaders and provide evidence that they hold, or are eligible for, a Connecticut teaching certificate."

Report on Scholarships

**The Scholarship Committee deliberated on GRADUATE ACADEMIC AWARDS and OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR AWARDS and recommended three students for Outstanding Scholar:**

- *Emily Gifford M.A. History,*
- *Krista Perrella M.A. Biomolecular Sciences,*
- *Macdara MacColl M.S. Marriage and Family Therapy*

The following students received **department academic awards**:

NAME	MAJOR
Michael Karnas	M.S. Engineering Technology
Jocelyn Alia	M.S. Elementary Education
Gregory Morrone	M.S. Physical Education
Catherine Stebinger	MAT: English
Katie Wolosz	M.A. Psychology
Erin Sullivan	M.A. English
Christina Rossi	M.S. Construction Management
Adam Clements	M.S. Technology Management
Jeffrey Allard	M.S. Data Mining
Steven Giori	M.A. Mathematics
John Lacy	M.S. Mathematics
Mary Lundquist	6 <sup>th</sup> Yr. Mathematics Education Leadership
Mary Grace Joyce	M.S. Biological Sciences: Anesthesia
Nathalie Cooney	M.S. Special Education
Sarah Cutler	M.S. Art Education
Katherine Lopez	M.S. Early Childhood Education
Nils McGee	M.S. Educational Technology
Richelle Pinette	M.S. TESOL
Maureen Furey	M.S. Counseling
Kristie Bourdoulous	6 <sup>th</sup> Yr. Reading & Language Arts
Juan Jose Vazquez-Caballero	M.A. Modern Language
Elizabeth Robertson	M.S. Communication
Nancy Wasserman	M.S. Natural Sciences
Shannon Karlowicz	M.S. Reading & Language Arts
Bryan Pavlik	M.S. Geography

No GSA Scholarships were awarded to students due to the fact that there were few students who applied for the Graduate Student Association scholarship; those who did apply did not meet the stated criteria.

Graduate Community of Scholars Tribute Departmental Recipient: Biomolecular Sciences