

Graduate Studies Committee Report to SENATE April 2012

Policies passed during the SPRING 2012 Academic Year

University Policy Changes

1. New English Language Proficiency Requirement

English Language Proficiency Requirement for Acceptance

To ensure maximum benefit from academic study, all applicants who have not earned a minimum of a bachelor's degree at an institution where English is the medium of instruction must provide evidence of English language proficiency before acceptance to a graduate program at the University.

Evidence of English language proficiency is evaluated based on factors such as:

- the amount and type of formal U.S. education, and/or
- official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores.
(TOEFL and IELTS scores must be valid within the most recent two years as evaluated by the CCSU office of the Intensive English Language Program (IELP). Proof of competency in English is indicated by the TOEFL with a score of no less than 550 on the paper based test (or 213 on the computer based test or 79 on the iBT) or an IELTS overall band score of 6.5).

English Proficiency Score Exemptions:

Graduate applicants may be exempt from providing TOEFL or IELTS scores if one of the following criteria is met:

1. Completion of a four year undergraduate academic program at a non-United States institution in a country where English is the primary language and in which English is the primary medium of instruction, within five years of the proposed semester of initial enrollment at CCSU. (A list of countries will be provided on the graduate website.)
2. Completion of a graduate degree at a non-United States institution of Higher Education in a country where English is the primary language and where English is the primary medium of instruction, within five years of the proposed semester of initial enrollment at CCSU. (A list of countries will be provided on the graduate website.)
3. Completion of an undergraduate or graduate academic program from an accredited U.S. institution of higher education.

Official documentation must be submitted from the overseas institution verifying that the applicant's undergraduate or graduate study is from an institution where all instruction is in English. The Graduate School reserves the right to require additional testing or evidence of competency, and may require study in the Intensive English Language Program.

2. *Revision of Transfer Graduate Credits Policy*

Previous Title: Transfer of Graduate Credit in Degree Programs

NEW TITLE: Transfer Policy for Graduate Credits Earned at Regionally Accredited Institutions of Higher Education in the US and Non-Affiliated International Institutions of Higher Education.

Revision to First Paragraph:

Students may request transfer credit for graduate courses completed at another regionally accredited institution of higher education or a college/university of equivalent status **outside of the U.S. that is not a CCSU Partner and Affiliate Institution of Higher Education.**

3. *New Graduate Studies Policy:*

Credits Earned During Study Abroad at CCSU Partner and Affiliate Institutions of Higher Education

Coursework completed while studying abroad at one of CCSU's approved study abroad partner and affiliate institutions (as identified on the Center for International Education's website) shall be treated in the same manner as coursework undertaken on the CCSU Campus. (As a result, these courses will not fall under the transfer policy.) Course equivalencies shall be identified by the faculty advisor prior to study abroad and the actual grade earned abroad will be posted to the student's transcript, with the grade earned calculating into the overall GPA. Students may not select which courses are brought onto their CCSU academic record; all grades (A through F) will be recorded and made part of the student's academic record at CCSU.

This policy is particularly relevant to the MA Modern Language: HNAIU Specialization, given that courses taken at the University of Salamanca are required for the MA Modern Languages, HNAIU Specialization, degree. The Modern Language department has stipulated that the 9 credits of graduate coursework taken at the University of Salamanca will be the only credits accepted outside CCSU.

Department Policy Changes: Policy changes for **Admission** to the following programs are recommended for the Departments of Physical Education and Human Performance, Geography, Modern Language, and English.

1. Department of Physical Education and Human Performance

Admissions Criteria for Proposed MS Physical Education: Specialization in Exercise Science

The Department is submitting a proposal to the Board of Regents to create two specializations: Physical Education for Teaching and Exercise Science. Once approved the department will create a two year cohort experience for the specialization in Exercise Science

Rationale for recommended change

Applicants to the specialization in Exercise Science are expected to enhance knowledge and clinical skills needed for the professions of certified (state of CT licensed) athletic trainers, certified strength and conditioning specialists and certified health fitness specialists. To begin serving the need, the department began offering courses in 2010 to address the needs of students that were interested in exercise science and sport medicine courses to provide specific content. The increased interest in Exercise Science has led to a justification for a two year cohort that will allow the students to begin the program during the summer session since some graduate exercise science courses are only offered during the odd or even summer years.

Admission Policy

Admission Requirements for Two-Year Cohort Master's in Physical Education with a Specialization in Exercise Science.

The Department of Physical Education and Human Performance offers a two-year cohort Program beginning each summer for the Master's in Physical Education with a Specialization in Exercise Science. All applications and supporting materials for admission to the program must be received by March 1 for summer matriculation. Applicants who do not meet the March 1 deadline may enroll in courses on a non-matriculated basis, subject to course availability and will be considered for fall admission. Candidates for admission will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Grade point average: undergraduate or cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher (based on a 4.00 point scale where A is 4.00), or its equivalent, and good standing (3.00 GPA) in all post-baccalaureate course work. Applicants who do not meet these admissions standards, but who have an undergraduate or cumulative GPA between 2.70 and 2.99, may be considered for conditional admission.
2. Two letters of recommendation sent directly to the Department: one academic reference and one reference from a professional able to attest to the student's professional skills.
3. Essay (two-three pages, computer printed, double spaced), sent directly to the Department focusing on personal and professional experiences that influenced reasons for pursuing graduate studies and future professional goals.

Date new policy will go into effect is Spring 2013, pending approval from the Board of Regents

2. Department of Geography

Revision to Admissions Process for the MS in Geography Program,

- 1) Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Applicants must also have an undergraduate GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 point scale (where A is 4.00) or its equivalent, with the understanding that a student may be considered for Conditional Admission with an undergraduate GPA of 2.40 to 2.99. Applicants must also be in good standing (3.00 GPA) in all post-baccalaureate course work.
- 2) Additional Material:
Applicants must also submit an Academic Autobiography/Statement of Purpose, of approximately 500 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 Graduate Advisor.
- 3) The M.S. degree programs are available to all individuals who meet the admissions requirements. The Graduate Record Examination is not an admission requirement. An undergraduate major or minor in geography is desirable but not required of applicants. However, those with deficient academic preparation may be asked to complete up to three courses of remedial work at the undergraduate level. Details are available from the Department of Geography.

3. **Department of Modern Languages**

Modern Languages Post-baccalaureate Teacher Certification

Rationale: The proposed revision will allow students with sufficient proficiency in the language to fulfill requirements in a timely fashion. This revision is based on the Connecticut State Department of Education regulations and is subject to change without notice if the regulations change.

CURRENT Policy

Certification in French, German, Italian, and Spanish

Students seeking certification to teach a foreign language must:

- apply to the Graduate Admission Office as a non-degree graduate student seeking certification. Once accepted to the School of Graduate Studies, determination is made for a plan of study;
- have an interview with the departmental committee to assess oral competency and gain acceptance into Professional Program; recommendations are made by committee to the School of Education and Professional Studies;
- complete the equivalent of an undergraduate major (36 credits), professional core requirements and student teaching block. Students with insufficient undergraduate preparation must make up deficiencies by taking at least two courses at the graduate level. These courses do not count toward a graduate degree.

PROPOSED Policy

Post-baccalaureate Teacher Certification in French, German, Italian, and Spanish

Students seeking certification to teach a foreign language must:

- apply to the Graduate Admission Office as a non-degree graduate student seeking certification. Once accepted to the School of Graduate Studies, determination is made for a plan of study;
- have an interview with the departmental committee to assess oral competency and gain acceptance into Professional Program; recommendations are made by committee to the School of Education and Professional Studies;
- complete the equivalent of an undergraduate major (36 credits), professional core requirements and student teaching block. Students with insufficient undergraduate preparation must make up deficiencies by taking additional courses as required by the Department.

New Language Added for Admission: To fulfill the language requirements, students also may take the ACTFL OPI and WPT tests to receive 24 credits in the target language provided they score Advanced Mid or higher in each of these tests. These 24 credits correspond to ML 111, 112, 125, 126, 225, 226, 335, and 336. Students will complete the remaining 12 credits by taking literature and culture courses as stated in the program requirements.

4. **Department of English**

Master of Science in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

Rationale for changes include:

- 1) Inclusion of program's newly adopted outcomes;
- 2) Inclusion of new topics course (Ling. 530) in list of program electives.
- 3) Changes also provide faculty more control of admission process and allows for better initial advising and entry processes.)

PROPOSED Changes to the program's admission policies and procedures

1. Minimum GPA for automatic admission increased from 2.70 to 3.00 (consideration of conditional admission between 2.40 and 2.99)
2. Application letter and 2 references sent directly to department

Report on Scholarships

- Pending approval by the University Scholarship Committee, The Graduate Student Association Scholarship was awarded to Michaela Fissel: M.A. Psychology
- Department of Physical Education and Human Performance was awarded the Graduate Community of Scholars Tribute for 2012-2013.