

GRADUATE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

DENA KNISS, CHAIR

MEETING AGENDA for

DATE/Time: – **FEBRUARY 9, 2022 at 2:00 PM via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://westga-edu.zoom.us/j/84788846501?pwd=WkxjWlVRTEtaTXVVO0EyL3FTWXpFZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 8884 6501

Passcode: 997091

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Find your local number: <https://westga-edu.zoom.us/u/kb1La9mkk3>

I) Call to Order

II) Charge to Committee per Faculty Senate President for 2021-22

- Work closely with the Graduate Advisory Council and consult regularly with the Graduate School Dean - review curriculum proposals, but also be proactive in policy development
- Recommend a policy on standardizing the credentials required for faculty to be designated as graduate faculty
- Ensure faculty initiative in the creation and/or termination of graduate programs
- Examine the relocation of GRAs from individual departments to the Graduate School

III) Program and Course Proposals

A) College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

i) Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology

(a) Psychology, M.A.

REQUEST: Revise Program

Rationale: The Master's Program in Psychology is updating the admissions requirements to broaden the pool of applicants to consider for admission. We are removing the GRE requirement and raising the required GPA to 2.7 as research

suggests that a higher GPA is a better predictor of graduate success than GRE scores. Our previous requirements were: 2.5 GPA Personal Statement Along with general Graduate School requirements, we require a minimum GPA of 2.5, and GRE Quantitative score of 140, and a Verbal score of 146. Following an initial screening, we invite selected applicants for graduate study in psychology to have an interview as part of the admission process. Considering the humanistic orientation of this program, the potential for self-awareness, exploratory research, and some knowledge of the humanistic tradition in psychology is given considerable weight in the selection of applicants and program planning. The new admission requirements should include: Minimum of a 2.7 undergraduate GPA A written personal statement explicating the reasons for applying to the program. Interview with faculty.

(b) Sociology, M.A.

REQUEST: Revise Program

Rationale: The Sociology faculty passed a policy (In October 2020) to waive the internship requirement for the applied track for students employed in a setting comparable to where some might do an internship. We have since implemented this for two students – one working at the Department of Juvenile Justice and one working at the Juvenile Court/Carroll County Board of Commissions. We would now like to make this option into a separate track for students in the MA program. Creating a separate track (rather than a modification of the current Applied Track) will enhance our ability to advertise this option to potential MA students. We anticipate that this will assist us in attracting MA students who are already employed in relevant careers. The catalog language describing this new track is included as an attachment.

IV)New Business

A) Comprehensive Program Review

- i) M.A. Criminology
- ii) M.A. Sociology
- iii) M.A. Psychology
- iv) MPA Public Administration
- v) Ph.D. Psychology

B) Graduate Catalog Change Requests – International Admissions - Paul Sargent (attachment)

- i) Allowing for in-house credential evaluation to be conducted for international university transcripts

- ii) Removal of the discontinued MELAB English Examination
- iii) Addition of “All official documents” requirement for the release of the I-20 (the document students use to apply for their visa)

V) Old Business

- A) GA Guidelines for Assistantships within Academic Affairs - update
- B) Next Meeting: March 9th from 2 – 3:30 p.m. via Zoom