



University of
Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

**University Council on Graduate Study Minutes
Tuesday, October 8, 2024**

The September meeting minutes were edited to note that Yousra Bensouda was incorrectly marked absent from the September meeting. The minutes were approved with 20 in favor, 5 abstentions.

Academic Planning Proposals

School of Education to modify the Reading Education M.Ed. to be offered fully online

The goal of the modified program proposal is to broaden the reach of their program and increase enrollment. The School proposes revising their Reading Specialist Certification and M.Ed. program to be offered fully online, with the goal of expanding their recruitment area to the entire state of Pennsylvania and nationwide, as well as to offer students flexibility in course modality, which will attract current teaching professionals as well as those new to the field.

Presenter Michelle Sobolak noted that the certificate and related M.Ed program is currently on an enrollment hiatus; Council requests that the proposal be updated to reflect that the 2024-2025 enrollment is 0, not 10. Projected enrollment for the first fully online cohort is 10.

Discussion among members raised questions about how the program will stand out in a crowded market; School response was that their internship is unique and they would seek more rural districts to recruit new online students as well as work on marketing strategies.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved as amended. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval (21 in favor and 8 abstentions).

School of Education to modify the Reading Specialist Certificate of Advanced Study (PK-12) to be offered fully online

Presenter Michelle Sobolak indicated that the two proposals are connected, in that students complete the Certificate as part of the M.Ed. program, which required XX additional credits in addition to those required by the Certificate. The Council discussion addressed both proposals in tandem, however they were voted on separately.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved as amended to reflect current enrollment numbers. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval (22 in favor, 8 abstain)



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School of Education to modify the Infant Mental Health Certificate to reduce the number of required credits from 18 to 12 and create a pathway for retroactive credit for students who meet specific requirements.

The Infant Mental Health Certificate is aligned with the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health set of core theoretical principles of infant and early childhood development and mental health practice.

The IMH Certificate proposal includes a reduction from 18 to 12 credits. Additionally, students who complete an online non-credit bearing course may be rewarded 3 academic credits for that course by credit by examination. The IMH Certificate is stackable with Applied Developmental Psychology core coursework (24 credits) toward the MS in ADP in the SOE.

Discussion asked for the proposal to provide additional clarity about the process for ‘credit by examination’ for Pitt Professional non-credit courses, and for the School to review the budget impact of this change on the existing MA program, as students in the MA program will likely opt to take the online non-credit course rather than more costly 3-credit course equivalent that they currently take.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved as amended. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval (22 in favor, 8 abstain) .

VP Godley suggested that once these program changes are complete and launched that we invite IMH back to present their progress. This program could be a model for other programs who want to explore creating pathways through non-credit online courses and stackable credentials VP Godley called on other program representatives who have explored innovation to share their experiences with Council and the Graduate Studies team.

Announcements

VP Godley announced that the student enrollment census would soon be available and that next month UCGS would hear reports on admissions, enrollments and yield rates for fall 2024.

VP Godley reminded the committee that The Provost’s Awards for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring is now accepting nominations. Please encourage people in your school to nominate someone: <https://www.provost.pitt.edu/doctoral-mentoring-awards>



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Attendance

School	Title 1	First	Last
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Student	Abdulmohsen	Alroumi
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Grad Faculty	Chris	Nygren
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Grad Faculty	Peng	Liu
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Grad Faculty	Jonathan	Woon
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Grad Faculty	Luke	Condra
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Grad Student	Michaela	Cushing Daniels
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Grad Student	Zena	Kesselman
Katz Graduate School of Business	Grad Student	Denise	Bergdolt
Katz Graduate School of Business	Grad Faculty	Sara	Moeller
Office of the Provost	Chair	Amanda	Godley
Office of the Provost	Staff	Courtney	Syskowski
Office of the Registrar, Observer	Staff	Jonathan	Helm
School of Computing and Information	Grad Faculty	James	Joshi
School of Computing and Information	Grad Student	Sai Vivek	Chava
School of Dental Medicine	Grad Faculty	Dobrawa	Napierala
School of Education	Grad Faculty	Michael	Gunzenhauser
School of Education	Grad Faculty	Linda	DeAngelo
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Faculty	Mark	DeRuiter
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Faculty	Michael	Dickey
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Faculty	Ketki	Raina
School of Law	Grad Faculty	Joshua	Ash
School of Medicine	Grad Student	Brooke	Dresden
School of Medicine	Grad Faculty	Arjumand	Ghazi (sub Patrick Pagano)
School of Nursing	Grad Student	Myeong-ga	Cho
School of Nursing	Grad Faculty	Elizabeth	Schlenk
School of Pharmacy	Grad Faculty	Kerry	Empey
School of Pharmacy	Grad Student	Christina	Kazarov
School of Public Health	Grad Faculty	Ying	Ding
School of Social Work	Grad Faculty	Sara	Goodkind
School of Social Work	Grad Student	Bianca	DeBellis
SEPC	Grad Faculty	Michelle	Schein
Swanson School of Engineering	Grad Student	Yousra	Bensouda
Swanson School of Engineering	Grad Faculty	Bryan	Brown
Swanson School of Engineering	Grad Faculty	Bob	Parker

Presenters:

School of Education: Michelle Sobolak and Richard Gallan