College of Education (COE) Graduate Programs Committee (GPC)

Meeting Minutes

September 16 2026

Call to order: The COE-GPC meeting was called to order via Zoom videoconference at 1:02 p.m. on September 16, 2026.

In Attendance: Melissa Antonelli (DCI), Maysaa Barakat (ELRM), Rina Bousalis (DCI), Hannah Bowers Parker (CE), Sharon Darling (DSE), Lisa Finnegan (DSE), Katie Friesen (ELRM), Deborah Shepherd (Dean's Representative), Victoria Siegel (CE), and Christy Timm Fulkerson (CSD).

1. **Welcome.** Lisa F, COE GPC Chair, welcomed committee representatives.
2. **Minutes Approval.** The August 2026 minutes were presented for review. Sharon D. moved to approve the minutes with an amendment to reflect that both Lisa Finnegan and Melissa Antonelli were UGC representatives. Motion was seconded by Lisa and carried.
3. **Recorder for Minutes.** The minutes recorder role rotates among COE GPC members. Maysaa Barakat volunteered to record the meeting minutes.
4. **Curriculum Subcommittee Report.** Presented by Lisa F, Curriculum Subcommittee Chair. The Curriculum Subcommittee reviewed a bundled proposal from Counselor Education for new Marriage and Family Therapy programs (MED, EDS, and MED to EDS) and associated new courses to meet new licensure requirements for marriage and family therapy students. The subcommittee also reviewed a course swap for two existing courses from the Special Education department due to changes in BCBA requirements. The Subcommittee Chair moved (and seconded) to accept the subcommittee's recommendation for approval. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Student Petitions Subcommittee Report** (presented by Sharon D.). The Petitions Subcommittee reviewed nine petitions from two departments:

    - DCI submitted one petition to extend leave of absence by one semester to return in spring 2027.
    - EDLRM submitted eight petitions: one to waive continuous enrollment; two to request dropping a course with a W; two requesting formal leave of absence; three to work more than 20 hours as a GTA (up to 29 hours);

    The committee recommended approval of all petitions, with the caveat that the leave of absences are approved for up to one year and that the committee cannot rule on the "fee-liable" waiver requests.
    Motion (& second) to accept the subcommittee's recommendations for approval of both, made by Sharon D. (Subcommittee Chair). Motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. **University Graduate Council (UGC)/University Graduate Programs Committee (UGPC) Updates**
    Melissa Antonelli provided updates from UGPC and UGC. UGPC reviewed and approved various curriculum proposals from different colleges. UGC Student Representative shared that a graduate student social mixer is being planned for December 3rd. Discussion arose on how to best share information on the Mixer for students at different colleges. UGC suggested

social media as the best way for GPSA to share the Mixer. Let your COE Department Graduate Program Coordinators know so they can inform their graduate students. Ed.S. on the way was approved. Last year GPC members questioned this degree pathway due to a previous denial. Lisa emphasized the importance of uploading curriculum documents to the database to ensure proper tracking: COE GPC Proposal Submission link
The group discussed the impact of retired faculty on dissertation committees, clarifying that they can serve as members but not as chairs, and there is a one-year waiting period before they can volunteer so that it does not impact State pension.

7. **Other Business.** Maysaa suggested inviting representatives from Graduate Academic Services to discuss the implementation of the new EdVision system and its impact on petitions, which Dr. Lisa agreed to follow up on.
8. **Adjourn:** Melissa moved to adjourn, seconded by Sharon. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.