

Memorandum

To: Dr. Kent Neely, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

From: Dr. Linda Stonecipher, Graduate Studies Director

Date: February 9, 2009

Re: Graduate policy revision: proposal to eliminate the *Application for Admission to Graduate Candidacy*

Current practice:

The university has two different processes for admitting students to candidacy (see attached form):

- Several programs (MAT, Special Education, Rehabilitation Counseling) have an extensive admission process beyond university requirements. Based on that process, faculty recommend students directly to candidacy as soon as they have completed 12 credits of coursework (first box on the white form).
- Students in other graduate programs are required to have a recommendation to candidacy from three faculty members as a post-admission recommendation (see attached green form).

Proposal

Members of the Graduate Studies Committee voted unanimously during the December meeting to eliminate the *Application for Admission to Graduate Candidacy* policy, and I support the recommendation.

Rationale:

The purpose of the candidacy process is to assess each graduate student's ability to successfully complete a graduate program. Members of the Graduate Studies Committee believe that the candidacy process is unnecessary for the following reasons:

- Graduate students are required to maintain a 3.0 grade point average.
- Students receiving a "D" or "F" are required to repeat the coursework.
- Students receiving more than 8 credits of "C" are required to repeat the coursework.

Because those requirements are enforced, graduate students who cannot meet one or more of the criteria are removed from graduate studies. The candidacy process seems unnecessary for students who have met the above requirements.

Policy review process:

I sent a memo to Mark Girod asking to place this item on the Faculty Senate Agenda. During the Faculty Senate Executive meeting, the group decided that procedural issues like this one did not need to be reviewed by the Senate and could be sent directly to you from the Graduate Studies Committee. If approved, this policy would be effective immediately.

