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Graduate Council Members

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Barbara Cormier Registrar	Administrative Representative
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Daniel Sarefield Economics, History & Political Science	Faculty Representative
David Weiss Behavioral Sciences	Faculty Representative

New Courses

GCE-22-23-04 – Seminar and Field Experience –
Department: Education

Course Description:
The teacher candidate completes a 150-hour field experience in an education setting under the direction of a supervising practitioner who is certified in the area of the licensure sought by the candidate, and under the guidance of a program supervisor. The purpose of the field experiences is to provide candidates with the necessary targeted feedback to ensure they are ready to teach and make a positive impact with students associated with the licensure being sought.
Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 7, 2023

GCE-22-23-05 – History, Sociology and Politics of United States Education
Department: Education

Course Description:
This course focuses on past and current trends in the United States education system. Students will study major historical events, including legislation, that has shaped the version of public education as we see it today. Theories, research, and implications for all education levels will be emphasized. Students will be expected to examine educational policy through a sociological lens, which will allow for a deeper understanding of the educational process. Candidates will report on implications of policy decisions at both the state and federal levels. Candidates will explore historical research, current sociological theories, and specific policies that impact our current education system. Candidates will be expected to complete comprehensive assignments that will require them to make recommendations regarding the structure of the education system.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 7, 2023

GCE-22-23-06 – Assessment Led Instruction -
Department: Education

Course Description:
This course will address the vital role of classroom-based formative and summative assessment to maximize student learning aligned to state and national standards. Candidates will see assessments as part of the learning process, where information can be gathered, analyzed and shared with students and families and instruction can be adjusted to meet student needs. Candidates will leave with a better understanding of the curriculum and assessment process in order to assist them in creating a viable Understanding By Design curriculum unit, which combines instruction and assessment to promote student learning. Candidates will also develop a deeper understanding of the principles and elements of Universal Design for Learning. UDL is a research based approach to developing lessons and assessments to enhance learning for all students. Through this focus on UBD and UDL elements, candidates will learn how to use various informal and formal assessment methods to measure student learning, growth and understanding, develop differentiated and enhanced learning experiences and improve future instruction, centered around equity.
Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 7, 2023

GCE-22-23-08 – Leading Assessment Based Instruction
Department: Education

Course Description:
This course is designed to develop the knowledge and skills essential to leadership roles in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. There is an emphasis on best practices in assessment lead instruction, formative assessments, and their analysis. The role and responsibilities of leading a professional learning community and the creation of data teams will be explored as a tool for curriculum leaders.
Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 7, 2023

GCE 22-23-12 – Community Reentry & Integration
Department: Behavioral Sciences

Course Description:
Returning citizens, or individuals who have completed their sentence in a correctional facility and return to the community, are faced with numerous challenges to successful reentry and integration. This course will provide students with an in-depth analysis of the issues impacting reentry of returning citizens, including employment, treatment, family reunification, and housing. Students will also examine public policy that challenge and promote successful reentry and integration, as well as identify resources and strategies to support reentry of returning citizens.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 26, 2023

GCE 22-23-13 – Community Justice Approach to Criminal Justice
Department: Behavioral Sciences

Course Description:
Community justice is a community-oriented approach to prevent crime, control crime, and achieve justice. This course explores the role of community in justice activities and examines the consequences of decentralizing authority and accountability of criminal justice from government entities (e.g., courts and police) and explicitly involve the community and residents. The course also explores how a community justice approach impacts neighborhood crime, community social processes, and community quality of life.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 26, 2023

GCE 22-23-14 – Beyond Incarceration: Community Justice Practices in Corrections
Department: Behavioral Sciences

Course Description:
This course considers the present and future of corrections, community justice, and rehabilitation in the United States through a problem-solving approach. This course will provide an overview of current and emerging theory and application of best practices, policy and ongoing prison reform, community justice, and the connection between correction practices and rehabilitation through a humanistic lens. This course will consider contemporary topics including but not limited to mental health and community justice; trauma-informed justice; the evolution of intervention, evaluation, and research in community justice; the sociology of correctional environments and impact on behavior; global perspectives and intervention on community justice; and interdisciplinary approaches to balancing security and care.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 26, 2023

GCE 22-23-16 – AI in Communications Strategy
Department: Communications Media

Course Description:
This course examines how artificial intelligence is impacting human communication and collaboration. After learning the basics of how AI works, you'll get hands-on practice using AI tools as a way of understanding how it can be applied across various industries, with an emphasis on social media. Explore its potential for enhanced creativity, productivity, and decision-making, as well as the ethical and social ramifications of AI in collaboration and communication, including challenges such as privacy, security, and potential biases.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on May 15, 2023

Course Removals

GCE-22-23-01 – CJ 7300 – Professional Responsibility & Community Relations
Department: Behavioral Sciences

CJ 7300 is colloquially known known as "ethics for cops." This course was implemented specifically for the "MPTC concentration" of the MSCJ program for our Police Program students. However, as our online master's program has grown with students and now has a broader

"Professional Studies" concentration, it became necessary to offer a broader grad-level CJ ethics course for all of our grad students and not just the Police Program students. As such, we are now offering CJ 8580 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice. This currently-offered, grad-level, CJ ethics course is appropriate for all students in the MSCJ program, including those in the MPTC concentration, the Professional Studies concentration, and any future/new/proposed concentrations which might be offered.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on February 23, 2023

GCE-22-23-02 - MGMT 9030 – Accounting Theory
Department: Business Administration

The MBA accounting concentration requires one accounting core course- MGMT 9180 Accounting Practices for Managers and three concentration courses: MGMT 9034, MGMT 9045, and MGMT 9036. In the past, we also offered MGMT 9030 a theory driven course as a substitute course for MGMT 9180. Giving students without prior accounting knowledge the option to register for MGMT 9030, puts them at a disadvantage, as they are not given the opportunity to practice basic accounting skills to prepare financial statements which are required for MGMT 9170 Corporate Finance.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on February 23, 2023

New Programs

GCE 22-23-15 – Community Justice Concentration (30 credits) MSCJ Program
Department: Behavioral Sciences

Description of Program:
Community Justice Concentration (30 cr.)

Core Requirements:
CJ 7240 Criminal Justice Process (as required)
CJ 8580 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice
CJ 7320 Crime Causation
CJ 8100 Program Evaluation
CJ 9680 Cultural Diversity & Communication

Additional Requirements for the Concentration:
CJ 7xxx Community Justice Approach to Criminal Justice
CJ 8xxx Community Reentry & Integration
CJ 7260 Social Relations and the Legal System

Electives:
2 or 3 electives

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 26, 2023

GCE 22-23-17 – Certificate in AI & Data-Based Communication Strategy
Department: Communications Media

Description of Program:
The certificate is a 12-credit program designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics concepts, technologies, and their applications in the field of communication. It equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively integrate AI into communication strategies, evaluate AI systems, and navigate the societal and ethical impacts of AI advancements.

Required courses:
COMM 7xxx AI in Communication Strategies
COMM 7005 Communication Ethics
COMM 7006 New and Emerging Media

COMM 9025 Data & Analytics

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on May 15, 2023

GCE 22-23-18 – Certificate in Data-Driven Social Media Strategy
Department: Communications Media

Description of Program:
Looking to enhance your social media strategy with data-driven insights? Our Master's level Certificate in Data-Driven Social Media Strategy is designed for marketing professionals, entrepreneurs, and communication specialists seeking to master the latest techniques and tools for successful social media campaigns. This certificate program is comprised of two essential courses: Social Media Marketing and Data & Analytics. Upon completion of this certificate program, you'll be equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to develop and execute data-driven social media strategies that deliver measurable results. Whether you're looking to advance your career, start a new business venture, or enhance your organization's social media presence, this certificate program is an excellent choice for anyone looking to take their social media skills to the next level.

Required Courses:
COMM 9025 Data & Analytics
COMM 8144 Social Media Marketing
Proposal approved by President Lapidus on May 15, 2023

Program Changes

GCE-22-23-03 – MGMT 9030 – Accounting Theory
Department: Business Administration

Program Change:
This proposal removes a substitute accounting core course MGMT 9030- Accounting Theory and requires a single core course, MGMT 9180 to serve as the requirement for all MBA concentrations.

Rationale:
Students taking this course will benefit from basic accounting practice including the preparation of financial statements, which are not included in MGMT 9030 a theory-driven course but required in MGMT 9170 Corporate Finance.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on February 23, 2023

GCE-22-23-09 – Required Courses for Criminal Justice
Department: Behavioral Sciences

Program Change:
Program Chair [NO CHANGE] David P. Weiss, PhD Graduate Curriculum Committee [CHANGE] David P. Weiss, PhD Randall Grometstein, PhD Richard P. Wiebe, PhD Katherine Hazen, J.D., Ph.D. Eileen Kirk, Ph.D. Marcel Beausoleil, PhD, Adjunct Faculty Program Description [MINOR VERBIAGE CHANGE ONLY] If the role of the police officer is intellectually demanding, requiring officers to possess knowledge and skills in both substantive and procedural law, police procedures, problem solving, crisis management, written and oral communication, technology, and professionalism. This course of study, following the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with the Police Certification concentration, will lead to, upon completion, both a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and a Certificate of Completion from the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee, thereby allowing the student to apply for any Massachusetts municipal police department or that of any other state with a reciprocal agreement. In this concentration, students will complete a total of 36 credits: eight 3-credit courses that concentrate in criminal justice studies and a 12-credit Academy, which will have both a skills component and an academic component. Note: This program is only open to those students who have successfully completed the Police Certification concentration in the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at Fitchburg State University. Program Outcomes [NO CHANGE] Students who successfully complete the 4+1 Criminal Justice Police Certification concentration will: Meet all of the requirements of the Municipal Police Training Academy Apply knowledge of th e operations of the criminal justice system to real-life case scenarios and current events Recognize and analyze ethical issues and dilemmas in the practice of criminal justice Demonstrate the ability to research and analyze crime data and its impact on criminal justice policy Identify the links between theoretical foundations of

crime and delinquency and the development of criminal justice policy Recognize diversity in society and how criminal justice professionals respond to the increasing diversity in society Develop critical thinking skills and the ability to apply them to problem solving Develop oral and written communications skills as well as the ability to use technology for communication purposes Students will be eligible to seek employment with any municipal police department in Massachusetts, and with any state that has reciprocity with Massachusetts. Admissions Standards and Criteria [NO CHANGE] In addition to submitting required standard documentation for application to a graduate program as described in the Admissions section of this catalog, candidates must have successfully completed the undergraduate Fitchburg State University BS in Criminal Justice Police Certification concentration. The bachelor degree requires a minimum 2.50 GPA, with no grade lower than a 2,0 in any of the courses required for MPTC certification. The graduate candidates must continue to adhere to the requirements of the Police Training Academy. Required Courses [CHANGE] CJ 7250 - Applied Concepts in Policing (3 credits) CJ 7320 Crime Causation (3 credits) CJ 7370 - Advanced Criminal Law & Procedure (3 credits) CJ 8100 Program Evaluation (3 credits) CJ 8200 Recruit Officer Course (12 credits) **Must be completed first and is a pre-requisite for registration into the other courses within the Police Certification Concentration. CJ 8580 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice (3 credits) CJ 9680 Cultural Diversity and Communication (3 credits) Electives (6 Credits)

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 7, 2023

GCE-22-23-10 – Program Description and Concentration for Criminal Justice
 Department: Behavioral Sciences

Program Change:
Graduate Program Chair [NO CHANGE] David Weiss, PhD Graduate Committee [CHANGE] David Weiss, PhD, Chair Randall Grometstein, JD, PhD Richard Wiebe, JD, PhD Katherine Hazen, JD, PhD Eileen Kirk, PhD Marcel Beausoleil, PhD, Adjunct Professor Professional Studies Concentration - 100% Online Program [CHANGE] Description !l'his 30 credit program provides students with practical knowledge and skills based on current research in the field while also providing an understanding of ethical issues and dilemmas related to the profession. The program focuses on building student's problem-solving skills and their ability to analyze and understand data to assist with decision making. The program also provides students with experience in leadership and management to assist them in advancing in career areas such as law enforcement, corrections, social services and other public service related fields. Program Objectives/Learning Outcomes [NO CHANGE] Apply knowledge of the operations of the criminal justice system to real-life case scenarios and current events Recognize and analyze ethical issues and dilemmas in the practice of criminal justice Demonstrate the ability to research and analyze crime data and its impact on criminal justice policy Identify the links between theoretical foundations of crime and delinquency and the development of criminal justice policy Recognize diversity in society and how criminal justice professionals respond to the increasing diversity in society Develop critical thinking skills and the ability to apply them to problem solving Develop oral and written communications skills as well as the ability to use technology for communication purposes Plan of Study [CHANGE] Required Courses CJ 7240 - Criminal Justice Process (3 Credits) --OR-- Students with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice can take an elective course in place of CJ 7240 CJ 7320 - Crime Causation (3 Credits) CJ 8100 - Program Evaluation (3 Credits) CJ 8580 - Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice (3 Credits) CJ 9680 - Cultural Diversity and Communication (3 Credits) Electives (between 15-18) Credits total 30 Credits [CHANGE]

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 7, 2023

GCE 22-23-19 – Removal of the Applied Communication Studies Certificate Program from University Catalog
Department: Communications Media

Program Change:
Removal of the Applied Communication Studies Certificate Program from the university catalog.
We no longer offer courses like COMM 7011, COMM 8011, and COMM 8013 in our MS in Applied Communication program. Furthermore, the certificate has not been populated in some time, and this certificate program no longer reflects the learning and direction of studies in our program.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on May 15, 2023

GCE 22-23-20 – Removal of Interdisciplinary Studies: Applied Communication Concentration, CAGS from university catalog.
Department: Communications Media

Program Change:
Removal of Interdisciplinary Studies: Applied Communication Concentration, CAGS from university catalog.

This program is being removed to ensure that no one else is served under it.

The rationale for removing this CAGS program and concentration is to focus on the MS in Applied Communication program, which is currently the sole program running in the Communications Media department. By removing the CAGS program, we stop students from entering the course, and prevent them from taking courses that will not benefit them in a material way, as several courses are no longer offered (having been removed from the catalog in previous cycles).

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on May 15, 2023

Policy Changes

GCE-22-23-11 – PLA Policy / MS Construction Management
Department: Engineering Technology

Adding a 3 credit Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) through Portfolio option for M.S. Construction Management Students. This is the first PLA option that will be available for a graduate program at Fitchburg State. This policy and process will serve as a foundation for other graduate programs that might decide to offer a PLA option as well.

NEW:
Program Requirements:

The Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) through portfolio option allows students the opportunity to have those life-long industry experiences evaluated as educational experiences. If a student meets PLA credit criteria requirement or has an active Certified Construction Manager license, they can substitute 3 credits for a graduate elective course in the M.S. Construction Management program.

Note - Students in the 4+1 Construction management program are not eligible to to complete a PLA through portfolio for credit. PLA is not available graduate programs outside of Construction Management.

The criteria for 3 credits PLA are:
1. Industry experience: Minimum of six years of construction professional experiences (as a Responsible-In-Charge (RIC) role of minimum 4 years) (evidence: need resume and letter of references).
2. Teaching experiences (Optional): Minimum of two years experiences in high school (evidence: need a letter of appointment from administration).
3. Skills acquired from documented professional enhancement or development workshops (at least 100 hours), seminars and other training programs (evidence: need certificates or award letters) Optional 4. Evidence of leadership, services, and examinations (minimum of one year).
   - Community service (evidence: documents with minimum of one-year service)
   - Activity within professional organizations
   - Relevant experience gained via outside activity
   - Proficiency or competency examination other than those required and/or applied elsewhere with a candidate's degree program (evidence: need a record of the exams) (optional)
   - Military service courses, tests, professional specialties (evidence: need a record of the military discharge and tests documents) (optional) Students will be required to complete an essay describing how their professional experience relates to their academic experience at the graduate level. Students must complete the PLA process within two semesters after receiving approval to complete a PLA. If a submitted portfolio is not approved, students have one opportunity to resubmit for credit.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on April 7, 2023

GCE-22-23-23 – Matriculated Student Who Do Not Register for Classes
Department: School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education

The current policy is listed below Matriculated students who do not register for classes for two full academic years (2 fall terms, 2 spring terms, and 2 summers) will be withdrawn from the University and will need to be readmitted if they wish to continue their studies. Students can request a leave of absence if they meet the qualifications to remain enrolled for an additional I am proposing that we change the above policy to one academic year.

Matriculated students who do not register for classes for one full academic year (1 fall semester, 1 spring semester, and 2 summer semesters) will be withdrawn from the University and will need to be readmitted if they wish to continue their studies. Students can request a leave of absence if they meet the qualifications to remain enrolled beyond the one year.

We find in SGOCE that most students that have not registered for a course for more than a year either do not plan to return or do not plan to return in the near future. We are creating a webpage to highlight how easy it is to apply for readmission. Those students that are withdrawn for inactivity after one year can still come back into their program through the readmission process which is easy and does not require additional application fees etc. We feel this change will help improve the accuracy in reporting the numbers of current students in a given program while still allowing flexibility for a student to take a semester or two off if needed.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on May 15, 2023

GCE-22-23-24 – Retention Policy Change / 3.0 for each class
Department: Nursing

The Graduate Committee would like to change our retention policy to require that students must earn a minimum of a 3.0 in each course. This is a change from our current policy which requires students to maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA in the program.
To maintain enrollment in the graduate forensic nursing program students must earn at least a 3.0 in each course.
Some students have progressed through the program by supplementing their GPA with non-required courses.

Proposal approved by President Lapidus on May 15, 2023