

ACU Graduate Council
March 17, 2026
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
CBS Dean's Conference Room

Present: W. Carroll, K. Witemeyer, T. Baggs, A. Huddleston, L. Merchant, T. Womble, D. Walls, L. Sharp-Penya, D. Perkins, R. Slaymaker, M. Long, M. DeHart, C. Flanagan

Absent: M. Lee

Guests: D. Kennamer, C. Westmoreland, R. Team, W. Crawford, E. Gumm

The meeting began at 11:48 a.m.

- Prayer by T. Baggs
- Announcements
- Approval of the minutes from 11/11/25

Minutes passed by consent.

Information Items:

1. BMFT 662 – Change Course Terms

L. Merchant - These are just catalog clean-up to reflect when the courses are actually being offered.

2. BMFT 665 – Change Course Terms

See above.

3. ENGL 620 – Revise Title, Description, & Content

T. Womble - We are adding some new content to it to make it more general to all our students.

Action Items:

4. BMFT 612 – New Course – Couples Therapy II

L. Merchant - We currently offer Couples Therapy I, which approaches topics through a theoretical lens. We used to have a sexual therapy class. The problem is that students have complained that the course's content is too repetitive. We were also missing some

things from our curriculum like pre-marital counseling and divorce/remarriage issues. Couples Therapy II addresses these. It teaches by topic. Students are enjoying this class. C. Flanagan - So Couples Therapy I is not a prerequisite for Couples Therapy II? L. Merchant - Correct. Psychology students can easily come and take it. E. Gumm - Do you intend to close BMFT 651? L. Merchant - Not yet, but maybe in the future.

Motion to approve by T. Baggs; seconded by R. Slaymaker; all in favor. Motion passes.

5. MFTH & MFTT – Remove BMFT 651, Add BMFT 612

L. Merchant - We would like to remove Sexual Therapy from our degree plan and add the new Couples Therapy II course. W. Carroll - Do you have a catalog mark-up? L. Merchant - I can get you one.

Motion to approve by C. Flanagan; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor. Motion passes.

6. GERO 668 – Close Course
7. GERO 685 – Close Course
8. GERO 774 – Close Course
9. GERO 775 – Close Course

L. Merchant - This is catalog clean-up. The graduate certificate moved from being housed in Sociology to our Marriage and Family Department. We have hired a director for the Gerontology Center, and she has been going through our courses. She does not see us offering these four courses moving forward, so we are asking to close them. We might even discontinue the graduate certificate entirely in the future. R. Slaymaker - If someone closes a course and a student has already taken these courses and comes back can they use them toward their program? E. Gumm - Yes. Closing just means that no future courses will be built. The older courses still count as long as the student is returning within the degree time limit allowed by their catalog. You can always reopen a course in the future should there be a need.

Motion to approve items 6-9 by D. Walls; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor. Motion passes.

10. MA ENGL – Revise Course Requirements

T. Womble - We always have students who need substitutions with our current program design. We like the old degree plan, but we need to make it more flexible for students. Most masters of English programs these days are generalist programs. Students just have to take the right number of hours. These changes will eliminate many substitutions. We have three required courses and an emphasis on graduate level courses to remove many of the cross-listed 500-level courses. E. Gumm - I might suggest that we use "Selections" instead of "Electives." Can we use a range so that we don't have to delineate each course? T. Womble - I'm good with that. E. Gumm - That

allows flexibility for special topics courses and new courses to be included naturally.
Range ENGL 501-599, 601-698.

Motion to approve the degree plan including council revisions by R. Slaymaker; seconded by A. Huddleston; all in favor. Motion passes.

11. PSYC 627 – New Course – Child/Adolescent Development & Psychopathology

R. Team - These courses are combining courses we already offer in our full program and remaking them for this new certificate for students who already have a masters degree. We don't need to cover material with the same depth due to their prior education and experience. Our licensing board has very specific courses that you have to take for school psychologists. All these courses have been fit to meet those requirements.

C. Westmoreland - Most of our certificate students have taken child development as educators, so adding pathology made good sense here.

Motion to approve by T. Baggs; seconded by M. DeHart; all in favor. Motion passes.

12. PSYC 633 – New Course – Biological Bases of Behavior and Intervention

R. Team - The Board determined this title. Students will be looking at the brain and learning why we see certain behaviors. T. Womble - Will it be offered every semester? R. Team - Yes, with the online programs. New cohorts are coming in every term. Right now, we have 150 applicants with 15 available slots. From all across the state. This is in great demand. R. Slaymaker - So they are owned by Abilene but administered by Dallas. W. Carroll - That's correct.

Motion to approve by A. Huddleston; seconded by T. Baggs; all in favor. Motion passes.

13. PSYC 654 – Research Methods and Statistics

R. Teams - This is a requirement of our Board. This is very practical. Most school psychologists don't have to do in-depth research. It focuses on the data they will need for their workplace. R. Slaymaker - So this is more about understanding research than conducting research? R. Team - Yes. They do still need to research case studies, for example, though.

Motion to approve by D. Walls; seconded by R. Slaymaker; all in favor. Motion passes.

14. PSYC 678 – School Consultation and Counseling

R. Team - All of our students are working in schools where they do consultations. We need to focus on theory and technique with counseling, both working with children and adults, including parents and other school staff.

Motion to approve by M. DeHart; seconded by T. Baggs; all in favor. Motion passes.

15. PSYC 638 – New Course – Residency I

R. Team - As part of our program, our students must come to Abilene twice in the duration of their program. We are doing in-person skills checks. There are some things we can't see online. You can redo a video, but you can't do that live. We are looking for skill deficits so we can address those. These are zero-credit courses, but it is required that they attend both to earn their certificate. C. Westmoreland - Our group is excited about this. They are looking forward to being together as a cohort in person as well. It encourages ACU community spirit. D. Walls - Is there tuition? R. Team - There is a fee. Dallas knows about the fee, so I assume they are processing that on their end. R. Slaymaker - Do you provide housing? R. Team - We have blocks reserved at two local hotels. L. Merchant - Does this count toward faculty load as a zero-credit course? R. Team - Yes. T. Bagg - What happens if they are passing their academic work but fail their residency? R. Team - We first look to remediate, but in the end, they could be dropped from the program if they do not successfully pass their residency courses.

16. PSYC 686 – Residency II

R. Team - This is basically the same as Residency I, but looking at the next-level of skills. They take place during the summers, so different cohorts will have had a different number of courses prior to the residencies depending on the term in which they started the program.

Motion to approve items 15-16 by M. DeHart; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor. Motion passes.

17. PSYC 696 – Internship II

R. Team - Our students need to have a school-year long internship. Abilene students take PSYC 695 twice. ACU Dallas does not allow a student to take the same course twice, so we are creating a second Internship course. T. Baggs - What is the difference between Residency and Internship? R. Team - Internship is when they are working as a school psychologist in a district. Residency is when they come here for a week-long intensive training. During practicum they are working part-time to gain some experience. Internship is full-time. W. Crawford - Do you differentiate the number of hours between Internship I and II? R. Team - Situations come up where flexibility is needed, but the overall requirement for the program is 1200 total internship hours. R. Slaymaker - Will

you change the residential program to include the new course? R. Team - We don't have plans to do that for Abilene at this point.

Motion to approve by M. DeHart; seconded by T. Baggs; 8 in favor, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

D. Perkins left early.

Meeting ended at 12:51 p.m.