

# Academic Council Minutes

## May 2024

### Midwestern State University

The Academic Council met Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the Dillard College of Business Administration, the Priddy Conference Room.

#### Voting Members:

Dr. Sarah Cobb, Interim Dean, McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering

Ms. Leah Gose, Dean, Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts

Dr. Leann Curry, Dean, Gordon T. and Ellen West College of Education

Dr. Jeff Killion, Dean, Robert D. and Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services

Dr. Jeff Stambaugh, Dean, Dillard College of Business Administration

Dr. Sam Watson, Dean, Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. Tiffany Ziegler, Interim Dean, Dr. Billie Doris McAda Graduate School

Dr. Matt Capps, Professor, Educational Leadership & Technology for Dr. Dawn Slavens, Faculty Senate representative

Mr. Brandon Goins, Student Government Association representative (absent from meeting)

#### Additional Attendees:

Dr. Kristen Garrison, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Michael Mills, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management

Ms. Amanda Raines, Registrar

Mr. Kenley O'Brien, Associate Registrar

Ms. Leah Hickman, Interim Director, Admissions

Ms. Elizabeth Ysasi, Associate Director of Admissions and Staff Senate representative

Dr. Margaret Brown Marsden, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presided and the meeting began at 2:00 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The April 2024 minutes were brought forward for approval by Dr. Brown Marsden. Dr. Ziegler approved, Dr. Cobb seconded, and the minutes were approved.

#### **Old Business**

Dr. Brown Marsden reminded of the need to submit new program paperwork to THECB and SACSCOC for the Music BMA and the BS in Political Science. Both have been approved by Academic Council.

## New Business

### Academic Affairs Updates – Dr. Brown Marsden

1. Dr. Brown Marsden asked for a motion to present the following items for approval. Dr. Killion approved and Dr. Cobb seconded the motion. Dr. Brown Marsden presented and it was approved.
  - a. Double-counting Courses

*(the proposed language would appear in the alphabetical listing of General Information in the catalog, available at <https://catalog.msutexas.edu/content.php?catoid=39&navoid=2172>)*

Double-counting: Students may use a single course to fulfill more than one requirement across the curriculum. The following rules apply to double-counting:

- Courses can count toward the major and academic foundations/core curriculum or program requirements.
- Courses can count toward a minor and academic foundations/core curriculum or program requirements.
- Courses for a minor may fulfill other major degree requirements, such as lower-level major requirements, academic foundations/core curriculum, or program requirements.
- A student may elect to change which course will apply to satisfy a specific requirement. This change can occur at any time before graduation.
- Program descriptions in the catalog should identify when courses may be double-counted. In cases where double-counting is not specified or permitted, students may seek a waiver or substitution and have it approved by the chair, dean, and provost, with subsequent notification of the Registrar's Office.

## Minors and Requirements for Minors

[https://catalog.msutexas.edu/content.php?catoid=39&navoid=2186&returnto=portfolio&in\\_portfolio=1](https://catalog.msutexas.edu/content.php?catoid=39&navoid=2186&returnto=portfolio&in_portfolio=1)

### Minors

Minors are secondary areas of study and fall into two categories at Midwestern State University: discipline-specific minors and Signature Minors. Discipline-specific minors are focused on a specific subject area or discipline and intended to provide expertise in that focal area. Requirements of discipline-specific minors are listed by college in which the minor is offered.

Signature Minors are unique undergraduate areas of study offered at Midwestern State University and are intended to enhance students' educational experience by being flexible and marketable for a broad range of majors. Signature Minors are transcript-recognized undergraduate minors that require 15 to 18 hours of coursework.

### Requirements for Minors

At least half of the required coursework in the minor must be completed in residence at Midwestern State University.

A student may not earn a minor in the same field of study as the major. All minors must include a minimum of six hours of upper-level coursework. At least nine of the hours required for the minor must include coursework not used to satisfy upper-level mastery requirements of the student's major. Classes usually cannot be double-counted toward more than one minor. The balance of the courses required for the minor may fulfill other major degree requirements, such as lower-level major requirements, or academic foundations and core curriculum ~~general education requirements, or required elective hours.~~

Transcript recognition of the minor is awarded at the time of undergraduate degree completion.

Each of the following minor programs is described in the catalog section for the college in which the minor is offered.

### Discipline Specific Minors:

Accounting Minor  
 Art History Minor  
 Art Minor  
 Biology Minor  
 Business Administration Minor  
 Chemistry Minor  
 Coaching Minor  
 Computer Science Minor  
 Criminal Justice Minor  
 Cycling Performance Minor

Digital Media Minor  
 Economics Minor  
 English Minor: Literature Emphasis  
 English Minor: Writing Emphasis  
 Entrepreneurship Minor  
 French Minor  
 Geosciences Minor  
 Global Studies Minor  
 Great Books Minor  
 History Minor  
 Humanities Minor  
 Instrumental Performance Minor  
 Journalism Minor  
 Keyboard Performance Minor  
 Kinesiology Minor  
 Management Information Systems Minor  
 Mass Communication Minor  
 Mathematics Minor  
 Music Minor  
 Organizational Psychology Minor  
 Petroleum Engineering Minor  
 Philosophy Minor  
 Physics Minor  
 Political Science Minor  
 Psychology Minor  
 Public Relations and Advertising Minor  
 Sociology Minor  
 Spanish for the Professions Minor  
 Spanish Minor  
 Sport and Leisure Studies Management Minor  
 Sport and Leisure Studies Practitioner Minor  
 Theatre Minor  
 Vocal Performance Minor  
 Women's and Gender Studies Minor

**Signature Minors:**

Agribusiness Minor  
 Computational Science Minor  
 Cybersecurity Minor  
 Early Childhood Development and Intervention (EIS credential) Minor  
 Early Childhood Studies Minor  
 Educational Design and Learning Management Minor  
 High Performance Computing Minor  
 Instructional Design, Technology, and Assessment Minor  
 Marketing Communication Minor

Medical Sociology Minor  
Multimedia Production Minor  
Musical Theatre Minor  
Nonprofit Management Minor  
Spanish/Mass Media Studies Minor (18 hours)  
Substance Abuse Counseling Minor  
Teaching and Learning Minor  
Visual Communication Minor

## Requirements for Double Major

([https://catalog.msutexas.edu/content.php?catoid=39&navoid=2197&returnto=portfolio&in\\_portfolio=1](https://catalog.msutexas.edu/content.php?catoid=39&navoid=2197&returnto=portfolio&in_portfolio=1))

A student who is seeking one degree with two majors may be allowed to count a course among the requirements in more than one major. The decision on which course(s), if any, ~~are~~ **requires consultation between** ~~at the discretion of both~~ **advisors**, chairs and dean(s) of the two majors. ~~Students should consult with advisors and chairs in both majors early and often to determine the course of study. The departments~~ Academic advisors and chairs will notify the Provost and Office of the Registrar via memo signed by the relevant dean(s) on any courses ~~that will be allowed~~ permitted to be shared by both majors.

2. Dr. Brown Marsden asked for a motion to present the following items for approval. Dr. Watson approved, Ms. Gose seconded the motion. Dr. Michael Mills presented the item and it was approved.

b. English Proficiency Proposal

### English Language Proficiency Proposal

The Global Education Office (GEO) proposes the consideration of accepting the Cambridge English Exam as a provisional basis for students applying for the Fall 2024 semester. This exam, which assesses English language proficiency, is administered globally and attracts students from all over the world.

GEO believes that recognizing the Cambridge English Exam as a valid indicator of language proficiency would provide a more accessible pathway for international students seeking admission to our university. By acknowledging the exam's credentials, we can ensure that talented and qualified students from diverse linguistic backgrounds have a fair opportunity to join our academic community.

For more detailed information about the Cambridge English Exam and its qualifications, kindly refer to the official website: <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/qualifications/>

**Proposal:** GEO recommends that any student who scores at least B2 (170 or higher), C1, or C2 on the Cambridge English Proficiency Exam be recognized as having met English proficiency requirements for both undergraduate and graduate level programs.

**Rationale:** Over 880 institutions in the US accept the Cambridge English exam as a method to prove English Proficiency.

#### Some notable peer universities with comparable requirements:

University Name	TOEFL	IELTS	Cambridge
MSU Texas	79	6.0	N/A
Texas Tech	79	6.5	C1 (175) for Grad, B1 for UG
West Texas A&M	80	6.0	C1 for Grad & UG
University of North Texas	79	6.0	C1 for Grad & UG
University of Houston-Victoria	69	6.0	B1 for Grad & UG
Texas State University	78	6.5	B2 (176) for UG only

There are several strong points for a university to consider accepting the Cambridge English Exam as an English proficiency exam:

***Global Recognition:*** The Cambridge English Exam is widely recognized and respected around the world. Accepting it as proof of English proficiency would attract a diverse pool of international students from various countries and linguistic backgrounds.

***High Standards:*** The exam is designed and administered by Cambridge Assessment English, a part of the University of Cambridge. It follows rigorous standards, ensuring that students who pass the exam have demonstrated a high level of language proficiency.

***Comprehensive Assessment:*** The Cambridge English Exam assesses all language skills, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This comprehensive evaluation provides a holistic view of a student's English language abilities.

***Fairness and Accessibility:*** Recognizing the Cambridge English Exam offers a fair opportunity for students from non-English speaking countries to demonstrate their language proficiency. It ensures that the university evaluates applicants on a level playing field.

***Alignment with Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR):*** The exam is aligned with the CEFR, a widely used international standard for measuring language proficiency. This alignment facilitates easy comparison of applicants' language abilities.

***Track Record of Success:*** Many students worldwide have successfully used the Cambridge English Exam as a qualification for higher education. Universities can trust its effectiveness based on its long-standing track record.

***Efficient Evaluation:*** The standardized nature of the exam allows universities to evaluate language proficiency consistently across applicants, simplifying the admissions process.

***Language Support:*** Accepting the Cambridge English Exam may encourage students to pursue language preparation courses and support programs offered by the Cambridge Assessment English, enhancing their language skills before joining the university.

***Cultural Exchange:*** Embracing a globally recognized exam encourages cultural exchange among students from diverse linguistic backgrounds, enriching the overall university experience.

***Flexibility:*** The Cambridge English Exam offers different levels of proficiency, providing universities with flexibility in setting language requirements for different programs.

By considering these strong points, a university can create a more inclusive and internationalized environment, attracting talented students from all corners of the globe and contributing to a vibrant academic community.

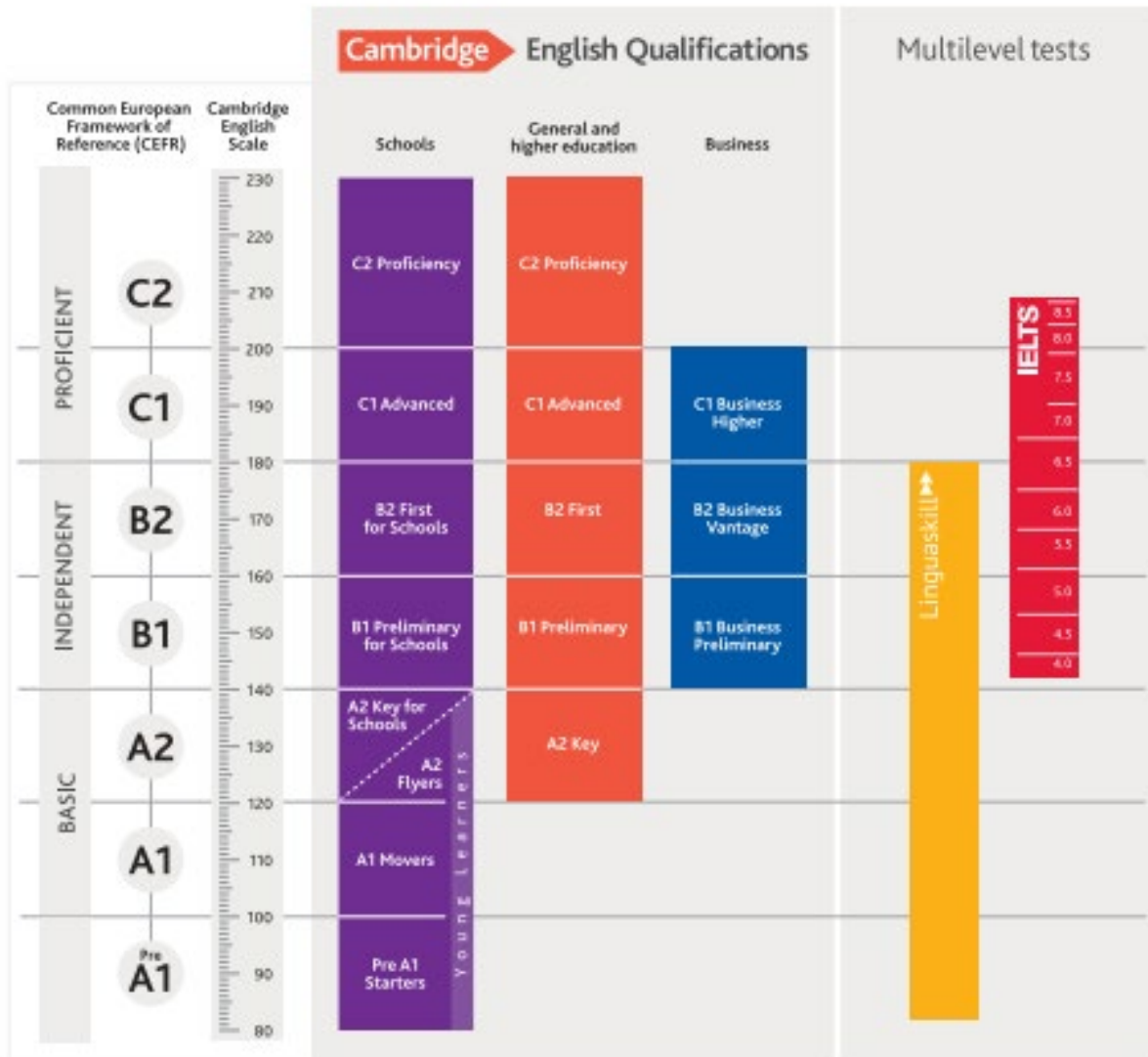
Based on valuable input from the MSU Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) staff, we propose the incorporation of the Cambridge English Exam system, encompassing levels B2 (170 or higher), C1, and C2, in addition to the already established acceptance of the Cambridge IELTS English Proficiency Exam. This strategic expansion is expected to yield considerable benefits.

In light of our existing IELTS Score of 6.0, aligning with the mid B2 range on the CEFR scale, accepting candidates with B2 level proficiency and beyond would be a valuable inclusion to



our English Proficiency criteria. This thoughtful approach ensures a comprehensive evaluation of candidates' language abilities and promotes the institute's commitment to maintaining high language standards among our prospective students.

### CEFR Design 28.07.20



All proposed changes are marked as such: deleted items are marked with a strikethrough line and new items are in bold and underlined. Italicized wording is justification or clarification from the proposing department/college.



Centre Reference

GB599 0002

To be quoted on all  
correspondence

Verification Number

A9712221

Session

18 AUGUST 2024

## Certificate in Advanced English

### Statement of Results

Candidate name

First Name Last Name

Place of entry

TEST123

Result

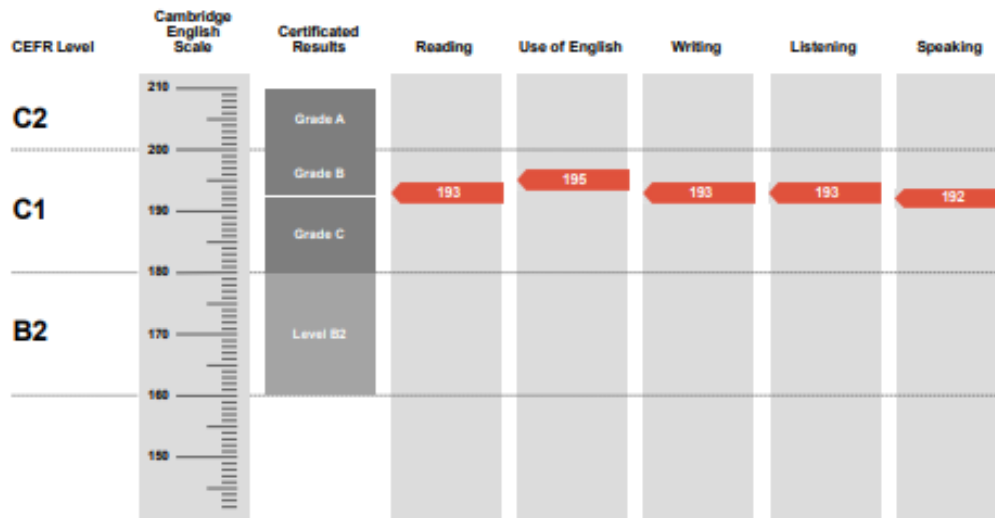
Pass at Grade B

Overall Score

193

CEFR Level

C1



Advanced is an examination targeted at Level C1 in the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference.

Candidates achieving Grade A (between 200 and 210 on the Cambridge English Scale) receive a certificate stating that they have demonstrated ability at Level C2. Candidates achieving Grade B or Grade C (between 180 and 199 on the Cambridge English Scale) receive a certificate at Level C1.

Candidates whose performance is below Level C1, but falls within Level B2 (between 160 and 179 on the Cambridge English Scale), receive a certificate stating that they have demonstrated ability at Level B2.

Examination results can be quickly and securely verified online at: [www.cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers)

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#### THIS IS NOT A CERTIFICATE

Cambridge Assessment English reserves the right to amend the information given before the issue of certificates to successful candidates.

#### Results Score

<b>Pass at Grade A</b>	200 — 210
<b>Pass at Grade B</b>	193 — 199
<b>Pass at Grade C</b>	180 — 192
<b>Level B2</b>	160 — 179

Candidates who take Advanced and score between 142 and 159 on the Cambridge English Scale do not receive a result, CEFR level or certificate.

Cambridge English Scale scores below 142 are not reported for this examination.

#### Other

**X** - the candidate was absent from part of the examination  
**Z** - the candidate was absent from all parts of the examination  
**Pending** - a result cannot be issued at present, but will follow in due course  
**Withheld** - the candidate should contact their centre for information  
**Exempt** - the candidate was not required to sit this part of the examination

All proposed changes are marked as such: deleted items are marked with a strikethrough line and new items are in bold and underlined. Italicized wording is justification or clarification from the proposing department/college.

## Catalog Change Effective Fall 2024

### International Students

**Admission** - International applicants to Midwestern State University must meet entrance requirements as outlined for all students and the items listed below to be considered for admission.

1. An application for admission by the following deadlines:
  - Fall - August 1
  - Spring - December 1
  - Summer - March 15

International applicants outside of the United States should have applications submitted by the priority deadlines listed below for consideration of visa services.

- Fall - June 1
  - Spring - October 1
  - Summer - March 15
2. An application fee of (U.S.) **\$75.00**.
  3. A course-by-course credential evaluation with GPA that includes verified transcripts from each college and university attended. **MSU provides this service to all applicants. Students can, however, choose an outside NACES agency to evaluate transcripts and have those sent directly to MSU.** ~~MSU strongly prefers the WES ICAP evaluation, but will accept a comparable evaluation from an NACES member.~~
  4. Official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores. Applicants must submit a score of at least 79 on the Internet-based examination to meet the university requirement for unconditional admission. Students taking TOEFL iBT will be required to score a minimum total test score of 79, with preferred scores on each of the sections of the test as follows:

- Writing - 20
- Speaking- 20
- Reading - 19
- Listening- 20

IELTS Test score of 6.0 will serve as an acceptable alternative to the above TOEFL requirement.

ITEP Test score of 4.0 will serve as an acceptable alternative to the above TOEFL requirement.

PTE Test score of 53 will serve as an acceptable alternative to the above TOEFL requirement.

**Cambridge English Proficiency Test score of B2 (170 or higher), C1, or C2 will serve as an acceptable alternative to the above TOEFL requirement.**

A language proficiency test is not required if English is the native language. A local English proficiency examination may be required.

Applicants from countries where English is not the official language must demonstrate the requisite level of proficiency to embark on graduate studies.

5. An official bank financial statement accompanied by either a letter of sponsorship or an MSU Affidavit of Support that shows the availability of financial funding adequate to meet the tuition, living, book, insurance, and incidental expenses of the first year. The availability of funds from the same or equally reliable source must be assured for the duration of the program of study.
6. Health insurance, including repatriation and medical evacuation benefits must be purchased for the duration of studies prior to initial enrollment.

NATO personnel stationed in Texas OR their dependents must meet the requirements shown in items 3 and 6. Local English proficiency examinations are required for admissibility in lieu of the TOEFL and will be scheduled upon request. Applicants are required to contact the Graduate Admissions Office to determine eligibility.

International students on F-1 visas may not be enrolled primarily in internet courses in any given semester. Students should consult an international advisor well in advance of each semester to ensure compliance.

3. Dr. Brown Marsden indicated this as an informational item only. Dr. Kristen Garrison presented the information.

- c. EURECA requirement course deletion

Dr. Kristen Garrison  
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Stacia Miller (Whitworth)  
Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research

#### Removal of the MWSU 2003/4000 Requirement for EURECA

The purpose of this memo is to inform the university community of the removal of the requirement to enroll in MWSU 2003/4000 for all first-time EURECA students. Students will no longer be required to take the course beginning fall 2024. The Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee reviewed the current requirements for EURECA and voted in favor of removing this requirement in March 2024.

4. Dr. Brown Marsden indicated this as an informational item only. Dr. Kristen Garrison presented the information.

d. Writing Across the Curriculum Committee

On Monday, May 6, 2024, the six members of the University Writing Council voted to transition to a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Committee, starting 2024-25. The new name and structure align with changes resulting from the recent elimination of the Writing Proficiency Requirement, and signal a transition to a culture of writing on MSU's campus that is more faculty-driven and accommodating to program needs.

- **Membership:** The new committee will include two faculty representatives from each college to emphasize the nature of the WAC effort as faculty-driven. These twelve faculty representatives will serve as voting members, and they should have demonstrated a commitment to delivering sound writing pedagogies at the undergraduate level. A committee chair will be elected from the voting members at the start of each year. Additionally, the Writing Coordinator (English, Humanities, and Philosophy) and two student representatives will serve as advisory, non-voting members. The WAC Committee will report to the AVPAA.
- **Scope:** The WAC Committee will be responsible for guiding the development, delivery, and assessment of enhanced writing instruction across campus, including but not limited to “Writing to Learn” (WTL), “Writing in the Disciplines” (WID) assignments and “Writing Intensive” (WI) courses. In order to facilitate tracking of students’ WAC experiences, the WAC Committee will designate the criteria for various writing experiences, oversee the process for reviewing WAC proposals, and assigning the appropriate designator (i.e. WTL; WID; WI).

5. Dr. Stambaugh submitted the following undergraduate items for approval. Ms. Gose seconded the motion and the items were approved.

### **Dillard College of Business Administration – Dr. Stambaugh**

#### 2023-2024 Undergraduate Catalog Changes by Dillard College

The Professional Development in Business course, BUAD 2032, will serve as a two-hour elective course focusing on students' professional development.

The following approved electives section already appears within the catalog for each of these majors.

#### Approved Electives

Electives approved by student's advisor to bring total to 120 semester hours. Developmental courses and EXPH activity courses cannot be counted as electives.

The Professional Development in Business course, BUAD 2033, will serve as a three-hour elective course focusing on students' professional development.

The following approved electives section already appears within the catalog for each of these majors.

#### Approved Electives

Electives approved by student's advisor to bring total to 120 semester hours. Developmental courses and EXPH activity courses cannot be counted as electives.

Course Inventory UpdatesNew Course Additions:

Course Prefix: **BUAD**

Course Number: **2032**

Course Title: **Professional Development in Business**

Prerequisite(s): **Sophomore standing or above or consent of the chair**

Description: **Develop and practice job search, career planning, networking, and career management skills relevant to business professionals. Topics include personality assessment, job researching, resume writing, business etiquette, interviewing skills, career development, and other relevant career management skills. This course in a two and three credit hour format delves more deeply into these topics and has additional learning requirements such as job simulations and certifications. Note: This course may not be substituted for a required upper-level major course.**

Lec/Lab Hrs: **2(2-0)**

Type of Course: **Lecture**

Course Objectives:

Course Prefix: **BUAD**

Course Number: **2033**

Course Title: **Professional Development in Business**

Prerequisite(s): **Sophomore standing or above or consent of the chair**

Description: **Develop and practice job search, career planning, networking, and career management skills relevant to business professionals. Topics include personality assessment, job researching, resume writing, business etiquette, interviewing skills, career development, and other relevant career management skills. This course in a two and three credit hour format delves more deeply into these topics and has additional learning requirements such as job simulations and certifications. Note: This course may not be substituted for a required upper-level major course.**

Lec/Lab Hrs: **3(3-0)**

Type of Course: **Lecture**

Course Objectives:



6. Dr. Curry submitted the following undergraduate item for approval. Dr. Killion seconded the motion and the item was approved.

### **West College of Education – Dr. Curry**

#### **Renaming of the Gordon T. and Ellen West College of Education to the Gordon T. and Ellen West College of Education and Professional Studies**

To be presented at August 2024 TTUS BOR: Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden  
Board approval required by: Section 04.11.1, 04.11.3, 06.06.1, *Regents' Rules*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The president recommends, and the chancellor concurs that the Board of Regents approve the change of the name of the Gordon T. and Ellen West College of Education to the Gordon T. and Ellen West College of Education and Professional Studies.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

From its beginnings in 1954, education programs at Midwestern State University (MSU) have grown and expanded beyond their roots in teacher education. The West Foundation has provided continuing financial support for education since 1983, including funding for professorships, scholarships, equipment, faculty development, and innovative training programs for faculty and public school teachers. The MSU Texas Board of Regents named the Division of Education the Gordon T. and Ellen West Division of Education in November 1993. The Division became the Gordon T. and Ellen West College of Education in September 1999. The College created MSU's first graduate program and, later, the first doctorate program at MSU, a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership.

The mission of the College, a community of learners, is to prepare successful, reflective professionals through the use of best practices. The College currently offers undergraduate and graduate programs in education certification (EC-3, EC-6, 4-8, 7-12, Diagnostician, School Counseling, Principal, & Superintendent). Within its mission, the College also educates skilled professionals in related fields outside the teaching realm. Current professional studies degrees in the College include Adult Education/BAAS, Early Childhood Studies, Early Care/, Child and Adolescent Studies, Instructional Design and Technology, Sport and Leisure Studies, Sports Administration, Professional Studies, and Substance Abuse Counseling.

The name change proposal has been developed in consultation with faculty and staff and based on similar names at many other education and professional colleges around the country. The name change to include professional studies received approval from the West Foundation board in April 2024. The College anticipates that renaming will increase the marketability and awareness within and outside the university.

7. Dr. Ziegler submitted the following graduate item for approval. Dr. Cobb seconded the motion and the item was approved.

### **Graduate Course and Catalog Changes – Dr. Ziegler**

#### West College of Education

Catalog Change Effective Fall 2024

Clinical Mental Health, M.A.

COUN 5323 (change in course prerequisite)

Course Title: Marriage and Family Counseling

Course Prerequisite: COUN 5203 **or COUN 5403**

Adjournment:

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Boerma

Assistant to the Provost