



Graduate Executive Committee

9/5/2025

Minutes

Attendees:

Voting Members: Amanda Elder, Carlos Diaz, Christina Jimenez, Heather Song, James Pearson, Justin Cole, Kara Holt, Katie Sullivan, Lavonne Johnson, Lei Zhang, Leilani Feliciano, Morgan Shepherd, Patty Witkowsky, Robert Camley

Non – Voting Members: Amy Rodas, Andrew Lac, Ashley Beushausen, Asjia Trotter-McGill, Bee Bish, Bri Newland, Carolyn Daley, Chris Beiswanger, David Moon, Deanna Johnson, Hillary Fouts, Jeff Deickman, Jennifer Newcomb, Jenny Russell, Jose Mora, Katie Busby, Kim Paine, Lauren Harriott, Mary Rupp, Megan Rogers, Regina Winters, Robin Kempf, Rory Lewis, Rosey Reidl Smith, Sam Adams, Scott Kupferman, Shonda Johnson, Sofi Cruz Duke, Stephani Hosain, Stephanie Trujillo, Steve Bistricky, Susan Eldridge, Wendi Clouse, Xin Yee

Agenda Items:

- Welcome to AY 25-26 and Graduate School staff changes (Hillary Fouts)
- College of Business Proposed Revision of Graduate Certificate in Accounting (Morgan Shepherd)
 - Proposal is tabled for future meeting
- Beth-El College Proposal to increase Clinical hours required for graduation (Lavonne Johnson)
 - GEC voted to recommend the increase in Clinical hours (15 agree, 0 disagree, 0 abstain)
- Transfer Credit Policy (Hillary Fouts)
 - The graduate school will review feedback received and return with a formal proposal in October
- Official Transcript Requirement (Chris Beiswanger)
 - Official transcripts are required for applications beginning the Spring 2026 admission cycle due to recent Colorado Senate and House bills legislation
 - See attached document for more information and appropriate language for websites
- Slate Update (Chris Beiswanger)
 - Scheduled Trainings for Graduate Department Admissions:
 - Thursday, September 25 at 9:00AM - https://mx.technolutions.net/ss/c/u001.-4dh56bp0XcdctXbbZobLdkprg2UeAlHc7iiJHdgVbOf1-HS0gbDxtY1p3kB5_FbCWOsSa2sLBUflqUIdUTOjeaYtzuu3DQ4ka8FIItVmhhThj86WxLmoPzq68JJCND-j/4jn/ayhUjyeQRTGjzGummhnbvA/h0/h001.gmhj-iPMLzMuZkfKTlq5mA4V2X2pDcgkmp1O8PsXH4
 - Friday, September 26 at 11:00AM - https://mx.technolutions.net/ss/c/u001.-4dh56bp0XcdctXbbZobLdkprg2UeAlHc7iiJHdgVbOf1-HS0gbDxtY1p3kB5_FbK2LEu5nWflfZ3nHvWETyUe2otrGOT54h_T2YetKjoSgsOTdV36LuGR5fyW7qE8j-/4jm/ufxYykUPSFa4D2d6JfJP4Q/h0/h001.px2F7FMex-NqsgeyecuKF9pSlya92pqEw0dbSgYKbZI
 - If you cannot make either of these trainings, 3 Grad Examiners will be able to train once they are comfortable with the new system
- iThenticate Resources (Hillary Fouts)

- Please email FRC@uccs.edu if you are interested in using this tool to check thesis/dissertations for plagiarism
- Discussion of new policy on the time allowed to submit an appeal to the Graduate School after exhausting College level appeals (Hillary Fouts)
 - The graduate school will return in October with a formal proposal to update the appeals policy to be consistent with campus policy and add a time limit for students submitting a graduate school appeal after receiving a decision at the college level

Informational Items:

- GES has increased the number of credits allowed to count for AMP from 9 to 12.
- Computer Science now requires one letter from a Computer Science faculty member for their application and no longer requires a letter from the department chair.
- MSc in Nutrition and Dietetics has updated their Deadlines to the following:
 - Priority Deadline – November 1st
 - Applicants with completed and verified applications in DICAS received by November 1 will be given priority consideration for admission.
 - Secondary Application Deadline – January 5th
 - Applicants with completed and verified applications in DICAS received by January 5 will be considered for admission for any remaining seats in the program. Applicants seeking full financial aid consideration should meet the January 5 deadline to allow sufficient time for processing to meet the March 1 financial aid deadline.
 - Final Application Deadline – May 15th
 - Applications received after the Secondary Application Deadline will be considered for admission if seats remain available. Applications will be reviewed in the order in which a completed application is received. Please note that there may be financial aid implications for applications received after the January 5 deadline.

Announcements:

- Starting AY 25-26 the Graduate School will only host one Student Welcome a year. The event will take place each Fall and be open to new Fall admits as well as any Spring/Summer admits from the previous year.
- If you are interested in discussing Graduate Director duties and compensation across programs, please email Katie Sullivan (ksulliv8@uccs.edu)

GEC Meetings for 2025/2026 all meetings are from 10:00-11:30

- Fall GEC Meetings
 - 10/3, 11/7, 12/12
- Spring GEC Meetings
 - 2/6, 3/13, 4/3, 5/1

Graduate Certificate Revision Proposal

Graduate Certificate in Accounting

The proposed revision for the Graduate Certificate in *Accounting* aims to provide MBA students with foundational accounting skills that allow them to demonstrate the competencies needed to excel in business. The revised accounting certificate is a 4 course, **12-credit hour certificate based on three cornerstones** of accounting: Intermediate Accounting I, Intermediate Accounting II, and Cost Accounting. This revision will reduce the load of the certificate from a potential 27 credits to 12 credits due to the removal of all prerequisites.

As business leaders require MBA graduates with demonstrable accounting competencies, our program has evolved to meet this critical need through focused, practical education for MBA students who are not seeking a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) pathway. Previously, our accounting certificate required up to 27 credits, including extensive prerequisites that deterred working professionals and career-changing students from considering an accounting certificate. By streamlining to 12 credits and eliminating prerequisites, we've transformed the certificate from an academic barrier into a professional bridge.

The revised structure centers on three cornerstone courses, Intermediate Accounting I, Intermediate Accounting II, and Cost Accounting, which represents the most critical competencies for business leaders. This concentrated approach reflects adult learning principles, providing progressive skill building that moves from fundamental concepts to complex applications. The competency-based structure directly supports preparation for professional certifications like the CPA while enabling immediate workplace application. The certificate can provide a pathway to graduate level courses designed to prepare the learner for the CPA should they want to explore this learning opportunity.

Rationale

Employers face a persistent and increasing skills gap, especially in the field of accounting, leading to a demand for credentialing to bridge the gap. There is also a demand for employees with basic accounting skills. The ability to read, analyze, and generate financial statements, are critical foundational accounting skills needed for business (Stobierski, 2021). Market trends also indicate there is a noticeable shift towards non-degree credentials like certifications and micro-credentials, which many believe will become as valued as traditional university degrees in the future (Gasperson, 2025). The evolving job market necessitates continuous learning, upskilling, and reskilling to remain relevant, driving demand for credentials reflecting newly acquired skills (O'Leary, 2024). Learners and employers are increasingly interested in the impact of credentials on careers, including wage gains, career mobility, and promotion potential.

Resources and Capacity



College of Business

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

The courses are already taught at the graduate level in our department, by qualified full-time faculty. The certificate was designed with consideration of current teaching capacity and academic scheduling, the availability of graduate faculty, and ensuring that each area has courses that are taught at least yearly.

Curriculum

ACCT 6100 Accounting for Decision Making (Core MBA Course)

An exploration of the use of accounting information for executive decision-making. Emphasis is on understanding and applying basic managerial accounting skills to identify, use, and evaluate accounting information in both long-term strategic decisions and short-term operating decisions.

ACCT 5010 Intermediate Accounting I

A comprehensive analysis of the practice of financial accounting and reporting by public corporations to investors, creditors and other users. Includes analysis of standard setting, accounting theory and generally accepted accounting principles. Emphasis is on the purpose of financial statements with a focus on income determination and asset valuation. Includes the use of spreadsheets.

ACCT 5020 Intermediate Accounting II

A continuation of ACCT 5010 with focus on liabilities, equity, and special areas, including cash flow statements, leases, pensions, income taxes, and earnings per share. Includes the use of spreadsheets.

ACCT 5110 Cost Accounting

Cost analysis for purposes of control and decision making. Analysis of cost behavior, role of accounting in planning and control, and managerial uses of cost accounting data. Includes use of spreadsheets. Topics of current interest will be discussed, including activity-based costing.

References

Gasperson, S. (2025, February 4). Global trends in credentialing: Key insights from the 2025 ETS Human Progress Report. *PSI*. <https://www.psiexams.com/knowledge-hub/global-trends-in-credentialing-key-insights-2025/>

O'Leary, L. (2024, May 20). A summary of insights for credentialing from the ETS Human Progress Report. *PSI*. <https://www.psiexams.com/knowledge-hub/a-summary-of-insights-from-the-ets-human-progress-report/>

Stobierski, T. (2021, August 19). Financial Accounting Skills for Business Success. *Harvard Business School Business Insights*. <https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/financial-accounting-skills>



Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences

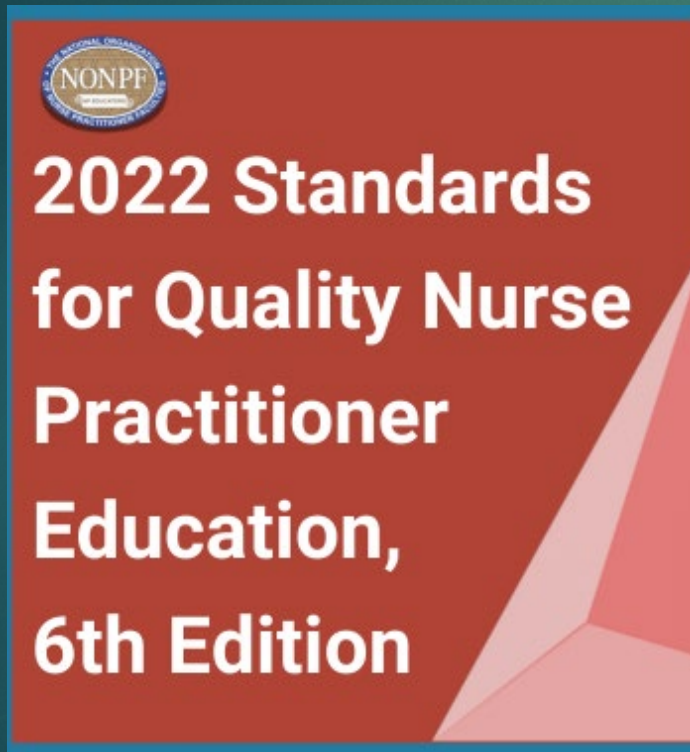
INCREASE IN PRACTICUM CLINICAL HOURS:
“GETTING AHEAD OF THE CURVE”



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National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF)



- ▶ A Report of the National Task Force (NTF) on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education



Consensus-Based: NONPF Recommends an Increase in Practicum Hours

- ▶ Requirement to take the National Certification Exams is currently 500 clinical hours
- ▶ Graduate Nursing at UCCS: Currently we require 630 clinical hours to graduate
- ▶ NONPF/NTF is recommending an increase in clinical hours to 750
- ▶ Due to the number of required Graduate Credits our clinical hours will be 770



Who has already moved to 750 hours?

- ▶ CSO Pueblo went from 585 clinical hours to minimum total 780 clinical hours effective Fall Semester 2024
- ▶ University of Northern Colorado requires 765 minimum total clinical hours
- ▶ We can no longer accept Graduate Nursing NP applications from Kansas as all students must complete 750 clinical hours to be licensed in Kansas effective 3/1/2025



Plan

- ▶ The Graduate Curriculum Committee agreed to move to 750 (770) required clinical hours starting Fall Semester 2026
- ▶ We believe that it is just a matter of time before we will before this is required
- ▶ We want our Graduates to be competitive in the market, both in CO and States that are already moving licensure requirements to 750 Clinical Practice hours



Any Questions



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Propose Transfer Credit Model

Graduate students who submit credits to be evaluated for transfer will receive a final decision of acceptance or denial within 30 days of the student's request.

Proposed Procedures:

- At the time of admission, a designated faculty member (graduate program representative) will conduct a content evaluation of transfer credits within 10 days of the student's request. If the content is determined to align with the program, the request will then be sent to the Graduate School for technical evaluation and final decision to be rendered in 10 days. If approved, the request will be sent to the Registrar's Office for final processing and to add the transfer credits to the student's UCCS transcripts.
- If a student submits a request for transfer credits more than 30 days after admission, a designated faculty member (graduate program representative) will conduct a content evaluation of transfer credits within 10 days of the student's request. If the content is determined to align with the program, the request will then be sent to the Graduate School for technical evaluation and final decision to be rendered in 10 days. If approved, the request will be sent to the Registrar's Office for final processing and to add the transfer credits to the student's UCCS transcripts.
- Should any transfer credits be denied, the reasons for denial must be communicated to the student once the decision has been made (within 30 days of the request).
 - o If the transfer of credit is denied by the Graduate School and the student would like to appeal this decision, they may follow the appeal procedures outlined in Article V of the UCCS Graduate School Policy.
- Should a student change their program of study, a designated faculty member (graduate program representative) retain authority to review the transfer credits and:
 - o Determine if credits are eligible to be applied to the final Program of Study
 - o Recommend approval of additional transfer credits
 - o Decline to include previously approved credits for former Program of Study

Changes to UCCS Admissions Requirements for Transcripts

Due to recent Colorado Senate and House bills legislation, the UCCS Office of Admissions needs to make the following changes for necessary compliance purposes:

- As of July 1, 2025, UCCS will require **official transcripts** to be submitted prior to admission for both Undergraduate and Graduate applicants, beginning **Spring 2026 and onward**.
 - For Graduate applicants, all transcripts from all colleges must be submitted to complete the file for admissions review. Sending a transcript with in-progress is acceptable, but enrollment will be blocked until a final transcript is received.
- Official transcripts are those sent directly from the institution conferring the degree or posting final grades. UCCS accepts official transcripts via three delivery methods, which can be found [here](#).
 - Transcripts received from any other source, including the student, are considered unofficial and will not be accepted if the transcript contains all final grades and/or their awarded degree.
 - Official transcripts received with in-progress coursework will need to be updated with final grades when the transcript is available by that institution.
 - A hold will be placed on the student's record and future enrollment will be blocked.

Graduate School Website Updates Regarding Official Transcripts

9-9-2025

Updated language reflected on the Graduate School Website:

Submitting Official Transcripts

Official transcripts from all previously attended institutions (both undergraduate and graduate level work) are required.

- Official transcripts are those sent directly from the institution conferring the degree or posting final grades.
- For Graduate applicants, all transcripts, from all colleges, must be submitted to complete the file for admission review.
- *UCCS does not accept unofficial transcripts.*
- Sending a transcript with in-progress coursework is acceptable, but enrollment will be blocked until a final transcript is received. Transcripts received with in-progress coursework will need to be updated with final grades when the transcript is available by that institution. Failure to provide updated transcripts with final grades will result in a hold being placed on the student's record and future enrollment will be blocked.
- Official transcripts should include the institution's seal, date, and the Registrar's signature.

UCCS accepts official transcripts via three delivery methods, which can be found here:

- **Electronically:** Official transcripts can be emailed from the institution to ugapp@uccs.edu. Institutions using the National Student Clearinghouse or Parchment will have the most up to date information for UCCS transcript delivery in their systems. Please ensure official transcripts are being sent to ugapp@uccs.edu.
- **In-Person Hard Copy:** If a student is choosing to bring a hard copy transcript to the UCCS Admissions Office, the transcripts should be presented in a sealed, unopened institution branded envelope. Opened copies of transcripts will be considered unofficial. UCCS does not accept unofficial transcripts for graduate admission review.
- **Postal/Mail Service:** Official transcripts being mailed should be provided in a sealed, branded envelope addressed from the sender. Transcripts can be mailed to:

UCCS Office of Admissions
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80918-3733

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR DEPARTMENTS (ABBREVIATED):

Official transcripts from all previously attended institutions (both undergraduate and graduate level work) are required for admission review. UCCS does not accept unofficial transcripts. Official transcripts are those sent directly from the institution conferring the degree or posting final grades. Transcripts received with in-progress coursework will need to be updated with final grades when the transcript is available by that institution. Failure to provide updated transcripts with final grades will result in a hold being placed on the student's record and future enrollment will be blocked. Please view our Graduate School Admission's page for information on [how to send official transcripts](#).

Link: <https://graduateschool.uccs.edu/admissions#submitting-official-transcripts>

ABBREVIATED VERSION FOR PROGRAM REQUIREMENT CHECKLISTS:

- Official transcripts from **all** previously attended institutions (both undergraduate and graduate level work) are required for admission review. Please view our Graduate School Admission's page for information on [how to send official transcripts](#).

Link: <https://graduateschool.uccs.edu/admissions#submitting-official-transcripts>

Policy updates shared with GEC on 9-5-2025:

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