

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
654th Meeting
September 14, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bond, Arado, Bateni, Balcerzak, Burchfield, Camic, Furr, Groves, Hanley, Jaekel, Johnson, Kelly, Klonoski, Mantzke, Moghimi, Narayanan, Ogundipe, Onder, Osorio, Ryzhov, Steciuch, Werstler, Wu, Xia, and Zheng

MEMBERS ABSENT: Duffrin, Gallaher (on leave), and Wasonga

OTHERS PRESENT: Barshinger (Secretary), Halverson (Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator), Matuszewich (Associate Dean of CLAS), and Klaper (Ombudsperson)

Dean Bond called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Priority Business

Establishment of Standing Committees of the Graduate Council: Graduate Council members were previously asked to choose four sub-committees on which they were interested in serving. Dean Bond thanked the council for volunteering to serve on these committees. Additional vacancies were filled with non-Council members to ensure appropriate representation by each college. Bond announced that Wesley Swingley from Biology will fill the vacate slot on the Graduate School Student Awards Committee. Bond asked for a motion to approve the standing committees. Jaekel made the motion and Balcerzak seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Selection of an Assistant Chair of the Graduate Council: This person serves as acting chair when the chair is absent and assists with creating the agenda when called upon. The assistant chair also meets with Denise and the curriculum chair every month to review and screen curriculum proposals. Another duty is to serve as an *ex officio* member on the University Council and Faculty Senate. Jaekel volunteered to serve as the assistant chair of the graduate council. The Graduate Council unanimously approved her appointment.

Selection of Representatives to University Committees: Bond asked for volunteers for faculty vacancies on university committees. Arado volunteered to serve on the University Outreach Advisory Committee for a three year term. There were no volunteers willing to serve on the other committees. Bond stated he would continue to represent the Graduate School on the University Committee on Advanced Non-Teaching Educator Licensure Programs and the University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure.

There were four university committees requiring graduate student representation. During the meeting, Matthew Werstler (MUSC) volunteered to serve on the Libraries Advisory Committee. Amritha Narayanan (ELE) volunteered to serve as a student representative on the University Council. Kelly Furr (HHS) and Yasemin Onder (ETRA) volunteered to serve as student representatives on the Faculty Senate. No one volunteered to serve on the Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee. After the meeting Matthew Werstler reported that he was unable to serve on the Libraries Advisory Committee due to previous engagements. Dean Bond will work on finding volunteers to fill the remaining vacancies.

Bond asked if the Graduate Council approves these nominations for the university committees. The Council approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Criminal Disclosure Review Committee Report: Bond reviewed the report that was distributed prior to the meeting. The Criminal Disclosure Review Committee meets on an as needed basis throughout the year. This committee reviews personal statements, court documents, and police reports submitted by an individual that applies to the Graduate School indicating they have been convicted of a felony or have felony charges pending. The committee reviewed five cases this year. All were approved and were able to proceed through the admissions process.

Graduate Council Appeals Committee Report: Bond briefly reviewed the previously distributed report. The Graduate Council Appeals Committee met five times, twice face-to-face, once electronically, and twice through Microsoft Teams. The committee reviewed forty-three appeals. Thirty nine were for general reinstatement, of which nine were denied. Two requested an exception to the limitation on transfer credit hours which were approved; one requested GPA adjustment which was denied; and one requested permission to take 9 hours of grad credit to use towards the last semester as an undergraduate which was approved.

New Business

Curriculum Changes

Bond introduced Kate Mantzke as the new curriculum chair. She has served on the Graduate Council's Curriculum Committee for many years. With changes to the way curriculum is being approved at the University to expedite routine, non-controversial matters, Bond stated that the Graduate Council would look at the curriculum changes as a committee of the whole and eliminate the curriculum committee.

College of Business: Mantzke summarized the curriculum changes proposed by the College of Business. Refer to the curriculum attachments for more information.

Bond asked for a motion to approve the curriculum changes submitted from the College of Business. Burchfield made the motion to approve and Balcerzak seconded. The Council approved these changes unanimously.

College of Education: Mantzke summarized the curriculum changes proposed by the College of Education. Refer to the curriculum attachments for more information.

Mantzke asked for a motion to approve the curriculum changes submitted from the College of Education. Groves made the motion to approve and Balcerzak seconded. The Council approved these changes unanimously.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

Announcements

1. Sarah Klaper from the Office of the Ombudsperson, reported that her office is available to all faculty, staff, administrators, and students who are experiencing a conflict on campus. She is here to listen, lay out options, and help develop strategies of situations you may be experiencing. Please contact her office if needed. Her office is located on the sixth floor of the Holmes Student Center.
2. There will not be a meeting in October.

Adjournment

Mantzke made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bateni seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

SECTION A – Recorded as approved by the Graduate Council for approval for inclusion in the 2021-22 Graduate Catalog

College of Business

Meeting 12 from AY 2019-20

Department of Finance

New Course 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog **CBUSGR20.21.121920.01**

CIP: 27.03

FINA 515 – Personal Investing and Finance

Overview of fundamental concepts of personal investing and finance. Topics include types of investment securities, debt management, retirement and estate planning, insurance planning, overview of the Social Security system, societal implications of investment, and personal financial management, and related topics. Emphasis on investment decision making and budgeting decisions.

Credits: 3

Rationale: This course was developed to comply with requirements established by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board). The department hopes to offer financial planning courses that would fulfill the education component required to sit for the Certified Financial Planner exam, and thus the department would consequently be approved as a CFP Board-Registered Program. Despite the roughly 80,000 certified financial planners (CFPs) in the U.S. now, financial advisors are one of the most in-demand positions, according to a recent CareerCast report on the toughest jobs to fill. Additionally, offering the course online allows NIU to reach both students and professionals in the state of Illinois who are interested in pursuing the CFP Certificate.

An undergraduate version of this course (FINA 315) already exists. The department plans to offer this course in an online, combined format with additional class projects required for the graduate students.

Note on duplication: A review of the graduate catalog found no other courses offered by other departments that are similar in content to this course.

New Course 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog **CBUSGR20.21.121920.02**

CIP: 27.03

FINA 526 – Insurance Principles

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Survey of financial programs providing income to offset the perils of retirement, disability, disease, premature death, and unemployment. Study of life and health insurance as a major social institution, with private and governmental sectors. Emphasis on diverse viewpoints of insurance providers, regulators, and consumers. Exploration of fundamental issues of risk management and insurance.

Credits: 3

Rationale: This course was developed to comply with requirements established by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board). The department hopes to offer financial planning courses that would fulfill the education component required to sit for the Certified Financial Planner exam, and thus the department would consequently be approved as a CFP Board-Registered Program. Despite the roughly 80,000 certified financial planners (CFPs) in the U.S. now, financial advisors are one of the most in-demand positions, according to a recent CareerCast report on the toughest jobs to fill. Additionally, offering the course online allows NIU to reach both students and professionals in the state of Illinois who are interested in pursuing the CFP Certificate.

An undergraduate version of this course (FINA 326) already exists. The department plans to offer this course in an online, combined format with additional class projects required for the graduate students.

Note on duplication: A review of the graduate catalog found no other courses offered by other departments that are similar in content to this course.

New Course 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog **CBUSGR20.21.121920.03**

CIP: 27.03

FINA 627 – Retirement and Estate Planning

An integration of the financial planning process, concepts and applications into structuring planning for retirement and the transfer of assets through a will, or trusts and gifts.

Prerequisites & Notes

FINA 620, or consent of department

Credits: 3

Rationale: This course was developed to comply with requirements established by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board). The department hopes to offer financial planning courses that would fulfill the education component required to sit for the Certified Financial Planner exam, and thus the department would consequently be approved as a CFP

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Board-Registered Program. Despite the roughly 80,000 certified financial planners (CFPs) in the U.S. now, financial advisors are one of the most in-demand positions, according to a recent CareerCast report on the toughest jobs to fill. Additionally, offering the course online allows NIU to reach both students and professionals in the state of Illinois who are interested in pursuing the CFP Certificate.

An undergraduate version of this course (FINA 427) with the corresponding undergraduate prerequisite already exists. The department plans to offer this course in an online, combined format with additional class projects required for the graduate students.

Note on duplication: *A review of the graduate catalog found no other courses offered by other departments that are similar in content to this course.*

New Course 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog **CBUSGR20.21.121920.04**

CIP: 27.03

FINA 629 – Financial Planning Case Studies

Application and synthesis of financial and tax planning process.

Prerequisites & Notes

FINA 615 and FINA 620 and FINA 626 and FINA 627.

Credits: 3

Rationale: *This course was developed to comply with requirements established by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board). The department hopes to offer financial planning courses that would fulfill the education component required to sit for the Certified Financial Planner exam, and thus the department would consequently be approved as a CFP Board-Registered Program. Despite the roughly 80,000 certified financial planners (CFPs) in the U.S. now, financial advisors are one of the most in-demand positions, according to a recent CareerCast report on the toughest jobs to fill. Additionally, offering the course online allows NIU to reach both students and professionals in the state of Illinois who are interested in pursuing the CFP Certificate.*

An undergraduate version of this course (FINA 429) with the corresponding undergraduate prerequisites already exists. The department plans to offer this course in an online, combined format with additional class projects required for the graduate students.

Note on duplication: *A review of the graduate catalog found no other courses offered by other departments that are similar in content to this course.*

SECTION A – Recorded as approved by the Graduate Council for approval for inclusion in the 2021-22 Graduate Catalog

New Course 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog [CBUSGR20.21.121920.05](#)

CIP: 27.03

FINA 640 – Introduction to FinTech

Introduction to the fundamentals of Finance Technology (FinTech). Topics include disruption in the financial markets due to FinTech, crowdfunding and peer-to-peer lending, blockchains and cryptocurrencies, and algorithmic and high-frequency trading.

Credits: 3

Rationale: The global financial markets and institutions are increasingly disrupted by new technologies and advances in computing powers. FinTech innovations like cryptocurrencies, algorithmic trading, and crowdfunding can disrupt industry structures, revolutionize service portfolios and product delivery, create new opportunities for venture capital and growth, as well as introduce a new wave of privacy and regulation concerns. Examples that are central to FinTech include cryptocurrencies and the blockchain, digital advisory and trading systems, artificial intelligence and machine learning, peer-to-peer lending, equity crowdfunding and mobile payment systems. Employers looking for students with skill sets in this area include banks, consulting firms, financial technology, and investment firms. The proposed course introduces students to the fundamentals of FinTech.

Note on duplication: A review of the graduate catalog found no other courses offered by other departments that are similar in content to this course.

Other Catalog Change 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog [LINK](#) [CBUSGR20.21.121920.07](#)

Master of Science in Finance

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Requirements

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Four of the following electives (12)

To be selected from the following courses or from among relevant graduate offerings elsewhere in the university with approval of the academic program adviser.

- FINA 555 - Analysis of Derivative Securities Credits: 3
- FINA 560 - Financial Markets and Investments Credits: 3

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- FINA 603 - Seminar in Financial Research Credits: 3
- FINA 604 - Independent Study in Finance Credits: 3
- FINA 622 - Security Analysis Credits: 3
- FINA 623 - Investment Management Credits: 3
- FINA 662 - Financial Management Strategies Credits: 3
- FINA 688 - Financial Risk Management II Credits: 3
- FINA 695 - Seminar in Finance Topics Credits: 3

Rationale: These new courses are either already being manually substituted in for certain students (and thus amending the catalog would improve efficiency) or are part of the department's Certificate of Graduate Study in FinTech. No costs to the university are associated with these modifications.

Other catalog change 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog [LINK](#) [CBUSGR20.21.121920.08](#)

FinTech (12)

Certificate of Graduate Study

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Requirements

FINA 575 - Financial Modeling Credits: 3

Nine semester credit hours (9)

Selected from the following courses or from among relevant graduate offerings elsewhere in the university with approval of the academic program coordinator:

- CSCI 501 - Programming Principles in C++ Credits: 3
or CSCI 502 - Programming Principles in Java Credits: 3
or CSCI 503 - Programming Principles in Python Credits: 3
- CSCI 600 - Big Ideas in Computer Science Credits: 1
- CSCI 601 - Theory of Computation Credits: 3
- CSCI 602 - Design and Analysis of Algorithms Credits: 3
- CSCI 607 - Principles of Computer Security Credits: 3
- CSCI 627 - Data Visualization Credits: 3
or MSDA 673 - Business Data Visualization Credits: 3

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or OMIS 673 - Business Data Visualization Credits: 3

- CSCI 641 - Big Data Analytics Credits: 3
or MSDA 665X - Big Data Analytics for Business Credits: 3
- CSCI 656 - Artificial Intelligence Credits: 3
- FINA 651 - Seminar in Financial Institution Management Credits: 3
- FINA 695 - Seminar in Finance Topics Credits: 3
- **MSDA 649 - Data Analytics Programming Credits: 3**
- **MSDA 681 - Machine Learning and Advanced Predictive Analytics Credits: 3**
- **MSDA 683X - Business Applications of Text Mining Credits: 3**
- OMIS 645 - Applied Business Analytics Using SAS Credits: 3

Rationale: FinTech is a rapidly expanding and evolving field that requires a wide-ranging technical and computing skill sets. Consequently, we propose to expand the list of potential electives to meet the demand for different skill sets. The Department of Operations Management and Information Systems has agreed to the proposed additions of OMIS and MSDA courses and to accommodate students who might enroll in those courses.

Meeting 13 (AY 2019-20)

Department of Finance

New Course 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog **CBUSGR20.21.131920.01**

CIP: 27.03

FINA 645 - Security Analysis Practicum

Practical experience in investment management combined with traditional academic objectives as a member of a portfolio management team responsible for the investment management of endowed funds. Student acts as industry and security analyst, making investment recommendations to the portfolio management team.

Prerequisites & Notes

PRQ: Consent of department.

Credits: 3

Rationale: Students in this competitive entry-course act as fiduciaries, managing a \$700,000 equity portfolio on behalf of the NIU Foundation and an external donor (i.e., the Treasury

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Management Association of Chicago). In addition to their classroom activity, they are responsible for external presentations and publications, engage in numerous international competitions, and participate in recruitment activities on behalf of the department, college, and university.

Although the Student Managed Portfolio (SMP) has existed at the undergraduate level since 2000, in Fall 2019 the NIU Foundation granted the department's request to allow graduate students in the department's Master of Science in Finance program to also participate. Consequently, graduate level course numbers are now needed for the undergraduate counterparts (i.e., FINA 445 and FINA 446).

Per the investment mandate, SMP operates year-round. SMP assignments vary by calendar semester. Regardless of what calendar semester a student joins SMP, they register for FINA 645. The second time they register for SMP, they register for FINA 646. If they take SMP for three consecutive semesters (usually ~25% of the SMP analysts, usually starting in the Summer term and ending in Spring), they again register for FINA 646. The courses are combined, in that in any given semester, the students in the competitive entry course are a mixture of 645 students (first semester) and 646 students (second and third semesters).

There is no additional cost to offering this course as SMP already exists and is currently being delivered year-round. No additional sections will need to be created.

Note on duplication: A review of the graduate catalog found no other courses offered by other departments that are similar in content to this course.

New Course 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog **CBUSGR20.21.131920.02**

CIP: 27.03

FINA 646 - Portfolio Management Practicum

Practical experience in investment management combined with traditional academic objectives as a member of a portfolio management team responsible for the investment management of endowed funds. Student acts as industry and security analyst, making investment recommendations to the portfolio management team. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours.

Prerequisites & Notes

PRQ: Consent of department.

Credits: 3

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Rationale: Students in this competitive entry-course act as fiduciaries, managing a \$700,000 equity portfolio on behalf of the NIU Foundation and an external donor (i.e., the Treasury Management Association of Chicago). In addition to their classroom activity, they are responsible for external presentations and publications, engage in numerous international competitions, and participate in recruitment activities on behalf of the department, college, and university.

Although the Student Managed Portfolio (SMP) has existed at the undergraduate level since 2000, in Fall 2019 the NIU Foundation granted the department's request to allow graduate students in the department's Master of Science in Finance program to also participate. Consequently, graduate level course numbers are now needed for the undergraduate counterparts (i.e., FINA 445 and FINA 446).

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There is no additional cost to offering this course as SMP already exists and is currently being delivered year-round. No additional sections will need to be created.

Note on duplication: A review of the graduate catalog found no other courses offered by other departments that are similar in content to this course.

Credits: 3

Department of Marketing

New Course 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog **CBUSGR20.21.131920.08**

CIP: 09.07

MKTG 599 - MSDM Portfolio

A student collection of course work that demonstrates proficiency in the Master of Science in Digital Marketing program.

Prerequisites & Notes

CRQ: MKTG 684 or MKTG 686.

Credits: 0

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Rationale: The course requires students to compile their best work in the program. The Portfolio provides students the opportunity to take this work with them after they graduate; it also provides the Department of Marketing with a repository of student work for assurance of learning assessment.

Note on duplication: A review of the graduate catalog determined there is no overlap with other courses.

College of Education

Meeting 14 (AY 2019-20)

DEPARTMENT of COUNSELING and HIGHER EDUCATION

Other Catalog Change: Graduate Catalog **CEDU19.20.14.01**

Doctor of Education in Higher Education

Simultaneous Enrollment in Ed.D. and J.D. Degree Programs

The Department of Counseling and Higher Education and the College of Law offer the opportunity for simultaneous enrollment in the Doctor of Education in Higher Education (Ed.D.) and Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree programs to qualified graduate students. Students must be admitted to both the Ed.D. program and the J.D. program. Matriculation in the two programs must be within 18 months of each other.

Since students enroll in two separate degree programs, to receive both degrees students must meet all of the graduation requirements for both degree programs. A student may obtain either degree prior to completing all requirements for the other degree. Under the simultaneous enrollment plan, students are required to take at least 126 total semester hours, 78 from the College of Law and 48 from the Department of Counseling and Higher Education. Thirty credit hours from the J.D. program will be applied toward the 84 semester hours required for the Ed.D. degree. One course substitution for a required Ed.D. course and one elective may also be completed in the College of Law. Up to 12 semester hours of Ed.D. course work with a grade of B or better may be applied toward the 90 semester hours required for the J.D. degree.

Students should begin their coursework in Higher Education during a fall semester. During each semester in which students plan to take courses in the Higher Education program, they must enroll in two courses and follow the outlined course sequence throughout their program.

RATIONALE:

Marc Falkoff approached the Higher Education program about the idea of offering a dual J.D./ED.D. in Higher Education. Through several conversations in early 2019, we discussed how to support students

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interested in a dual degree and the process for enrollment. The dual degree program would provide a pathway for individuals desiring to advance and pursue careers that require a J.D. and advanced knowledge of institutions of higher education. This could include individuals working at universities in areas such as student conduct, student legal services, ombudsperson, and/or university counsel. Outside of university settings, career options might include non-profit organizations, government agencies, and private practice that specializes in the area of higher education law. While we do not anticipate large numbers of students, we believe this pathway would help attract students to both programs.

Kinesiology and Physical Education

Other Catalog Change: 2020-2021 Online Graduate Catalog [LINK](#) **CEDU20.21.161920.05**

Admission

To be considered for admission to the M.S.Ed. program in kinesiology and physical education, an applicant is expected to have a baccalaureate degree which included courses in kinesiology, physical education, health, recreation, dance, or equivalent courses.

Applicants to the M.S.Ed. program are not required to take the GRE. Student transcripts and Life experiences will be evaluated to determine if deficiencies exist. If they do exist, students should consult the graduate program academic adviser and conditional admission may be granted to complete identified deficiencies and 9 semester hours of program specific graduate-level course work designated by the adviser. Conditional admission requirements must be satisfied within 3 semesters for students to be reclassified as regularly admitted (see the Conditional Admission section of this catalog).
boreclassified as regularly admitted (see the Conditional Admission section of this catalog).
No more than six credit hours of graduate coursework completed as a student-at-large may be applied to a master's degree. Check departmental information for any additional requirements

RATIONALE:

Completing no more than six credit hours as a student-at-large within the Kinesiology and Physical Education department will benefit students in that they will know that they have qualified and are accepted to the program of interest prior to investments in additional coursework. Further, accepted students have more access to program specific advisors which facilitates timely program completion.

Special and Early Education

Course Revision: 2020-2021 Online Graduate Catalog [LINK](#) **CEDU20.21.161920.06**

SEEC 582 - Preprimary Clinical Experience



SECTION A – Recorded as approved by the Graduate Council for approval for inclusion in the 2021-22 Graduate Catalog

Prerequisites & Notes

PRQ: EPS 506, SEEC 500, SEEC 504, or E consent of department.

RATIONALE:

This change makes explicit which courses are required prior to candidates' clinical experience. The PRQ courses provide candidates with foundational knowledge and skills that foster success in their clinical experiences. We believe candidates will be more successful in their clinical experience if they complete these PRQs prior to SEEC 582.

Course Revision: 2020-2021 Online Graduate Catalog **LINK** [CEDU20.21.161920.07](#)

SEEC 583 - Primary Clinical Experience

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Prerequisites & Notes

PRQ: EPS 506, SEEC 500, SEEC 504, or E consent of department.

Credits: ~~2~~ **1**

RATIONALE:

This change makes explicit which courses are required prior to candidates' clinical experience. The PRQ courses provide candidates with foundational knowledge and skills that foster success in their clinical experiences. We believe candidates will be more successful in their clinical experience if they complete these PRQs prior to SEEC 583. A similar clinical experience in the program, SEEC 582 is a 1-credit hour class. The change to SEEC 583 from 2- to 1-credit hour aligns the courses in terms of credits.

Course Revision: 2020-2021 Online Graduate Catalog **LINK** [CEDU20.21.161920.08](#)

SEEC 598 – Master's Project

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Credits: ~~3~~ **2**

RATIONALE:

The change better reflects the expectations for assignments in the course. The course assignments take the place of a comprehensive examination as a culminating activity for the

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graduate program. The project incorporates several projects previously completed in the program which are then aligned to NAEYC standards. Because it does not involve new projects or research, the course does not justify 3-credit hours.

Other Catalog Change: 2019-2020 Online Graduate Catalog LINK [CEDU20.21.161920.09](#)

Master of Science in Education in Early Childhood Education

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No more than six credit hours of graduate NIU coursework completed as a student-at-large may be applied to an advanced degree in SEED. Check departmental information for additional requirements.

RATIONALE:

Completing no more than six credit hours as a student-at-large will benefit students in that they will know that they have qualified and are accepted to the program of interest prior to investment in additional coursework. Further, accepted students have more access to advisors which facilitates timely completion of their programs.

Other Catalog Change: 2020-2021 Online Graduate Catalog LINK [CEDU20.21.161920.10](#)

Student-at-Large, Study-Abroad, and Transfer Credit

Student-at-large, study-abroad, and transfer hours in combination may not exceed 15 6 semester hours for candidates pursuing the M.S.Ed. degree in early childhood education or special education. The limit on student-at-large hours may be waived in special circumstances with the approval of the department chair.

RATIONALE:

Completing no more than six credit hours as a student-at-large will benefit students in that they will know that they have qualified and are accepted to the program of interest prior to investment in additional coursework. Further, accepted students have more access to advisors which facilitates timely completion of their programs.

Other Catalog Change: 2019-2020 Online Graduate Catalog LINK [CEDU20.21.161920.11](#)

Specialization in Advanced Special Education Practices
Specialization in Assistive Technology Used by Persons with Visual Impairments
Specialization in Behavior Analysis
Specialization in Learning Behavior Specialist I

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**Specialization in Orientation and Mobility
Specialization in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy
Specialization in Visual Impairments**

The specializations in Advanced Special Education Practices is designed....

The Specializations in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy and Orientation and Mobility are designed to serve individuals who have previously earned baccalaureate degrees and wish to obtain national certification as a vision rehabilitation therapist or orientation and mobility specialist from the Academy for Certification of Vision, Rehabilitation, and Education Professionals (ACVREP). **No more than six credit hours of graduate NIU coursework completed as a student-at-large may be applied to an advanced degree in SEED.** Check departmental information for any additional requirements.

RATIONALE:

Completing no more than six credit hours as a student-at-large will benefit students in that they will know that they have qualified and are accepted to the program of interest prior to investment in additional coursework. Further, accepted students have more access to advisors which facilitates timely completion of their programs.

SECTION B – Recorded, but further approval beyond the GC, is needed before inclusion in the Graduate Catalog

College of Business

Meeting 12 from AY 2019-20

Department of Finance

Other Catalog Change 2020-21 Online Graduate Catalog **CBUSGR20.21.121920.06**

Financial Planning (15)

Certificate of Graduate Study

This Certificate of Graduate Study provides graduate students with a set of courses focused upon preparing for a career in financial planning. Based on the Certified Financial Planner curriculum, this certificate will cover major financial planning areas: Personal Finance, Insurance, Investment, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, and Financial Plan Development.

The certificate is a non-degree program open to all students admitted to degree and non-degree study at Northern Illinois University. Students must earn an average GPA of 3.00 across the five required courses to be awarded the certificate and complete all certificate course work within six years immediately preceding the awarding of the certificate. Some courses may have prerequisites that are not part of the certificate curriculum.

Applications are available in the Department of Finance. Students must be in good academic standing to be eligible.

Requirements

- FINA 515 - Personal Investing and Finance Credits: 3
- FINA 526 - Insurance Principles Credits: 3
- FINA 620 - Investment Fundamentals Credits: 3
- FINA 627 - Retirement and Estate Planning Credits: 3
- FINA 629 - Financial Planning Case Studies Credits: 3

Rationale: No additional costs are expected for the proposed Certificate of Graduate Study in Financial Planning as the certificate does not involve the creation or delivery of new courses (the graduate-level courses would be combined with existing undergraduate courses). FINA 620 is a required course in the department's Master of Science in Finance and the Graduate

GRADUATE COUNCIL (APPROVED 11.02.20)

First Meeting/ 2020-21 Academic Year

September 14, 2020

SECTION B – Recorded, but further approval beyond the GC, is needed before inclusion in the Graduate Catalog

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Certificate of Study in Finance and is an elective in the Master of Business Administration program. The remaining courses are electives in the Master of Science in Finance program.

These courses were developed to comply with requirements established by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board). The department hopes to offer financial planning courses that would fulfill the education component required to sit for the Certified Financial Planner exam, and thus the department would consequently be approved as a CFP Board-Registered Program. Despite the roughly 80,000 certified financial planners (CFPs) in the U.S. now, financial advisors are one of the most in-demand positions, according to a recent CareerCast report on the toughest jobs to fill. Additionally, offering these courses online allows NIU to reach both students and professionals in the state of Illinois who are interested in pursuing the CFP Certificate.