

School of Professional and Online Education

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Dr. Timothy J. Ziebarth, Executive Dean

Introduction

The School of Professional and Online Education houses a wide range of academic programs and services designed to make the “Grace” education experience available to a broad group of learners outside the traditional college setting. Programs run the gamut from industry-specific certificates, to associate degrees, to adult bachelor degree-completion programs to a variety of master’s degrees.

Vision

To be the recognized leader in innovative, Christian higher education offering learners engaging opportunities that are affordable and accessible.

Mission

The School of Professional and Online Education exists to expand innovative strategic partnerships and implement high quality and affordable educational programs to a diverse population of learners.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Grace College and Seminary is a private, not-for-profit, faith-based exempt organization as described in Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue code. In compliance with applicable federal and state laws, Grace College and Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in its administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs and activities, or in employment.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Notice of Nondiscrimination:

Carrie Yocum, Title IX Coordinator and VP of Administration and Compliance
Grace College and Seminary
McClain 104
1 Lancer Way
Winona Lake, IN 46590
yocumca@grace.edu
574-372-5100 x6491

Inquiries may also be addressed to the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights at 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1100.

Community Lifestyle Pledge

Students agree to show respect for the faith commitment that Grace practices and agree to abide by certain of the institution's community guidelines (avoidance of disrespecting others, sexual misconduct, illegal drugs, gambling, coarse or obscene language, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and such conduct) while on campus or engaged in Grace activities. The student understands that this extends to any advocacy initiatives in which the individual might participate while a Grace student.

Computer Usage/Web Site/Blogs/Social Media

Grace College realizes the value added to technology and relationship building through use of the Internet. It is expected that members of the Grace College community maintain appropriate behavior while applying scriptural values to any personal Web content created. This includes, but is not limited to, blogs, personal and business social media accounts (including, but not limited to: Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, TikTok and Tumblr), websites, and/or other creative content. This includes "anonymous" content that can reasonably be traced back or attributed to a Grace student. Ultimately, Grace students are responsible for what they post or comment online. Therefore, students should not post content on social media that violates Grace community lifestyle policies. Posts or comments that are harassing or discriminatory to individuals or groups of people, or that reveal community standard violations, will result in consequences. Students must comply with copyright laws, file sharing laws, and avoid plagiarism. See our "Academic Integrity" policy for more details.

Classification of Graduate Students

Full-time Students: Full-time students are those enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program for at least 6 semester hours of credit during a regular semester.

Part-time Students: Part-time students are those enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program for at least 3 hours of credit during a regular semester.

Auditors: Students who desire to hear the lectures in a course without undertaking the coursework for credit may be admitted as auditors to selected courses by making proper application with the Online Admissions Office. Though no credits or grade points are involved, auditors are required to pay the appropriate fees and to meet class attendance requirements. Those who do not meet attendance requirements will receive the "grade" of "W," whether or not they have officially withdrawn.

Auditing is not permitted for some courses. (This policy is at the discretion of the department or professor involved.) For some courses, auditing is permitted only if the student completes the course assignments as specified by the professor. An auditor may enroll for only one semester as a "full-time" auditor.

HLC Criteria as Applied to the School of Professional and Online Education

Faculty teaching in the School of Professional and Online Education should have completed a program of study in the discipline or subfield in which they teach, and/or for which they develop curricula, with the coursework at least one level above that of the courses being taught or developed/or a current teaching or administrator license in the field. The School of Professional and Online Education can determine that a faculty member is qualified based on experience that the institution determines is equivalent to the degree it would otherwise require for a faculty position.

- Faculty teaching in the School of Professional and Online Education GRADUATE programs should hold a terminal degree in the program in which they are teaching. If a faculty member holds a master's degree or higher in a discipline or subfield other than that in which he or she is teaching, that faculty member should have completed a minimum of 18 graduate hours in the discipline or subfield in which they teach. See the SPOE Process for Exceptions.

School of Professional and Online Education Process for Exceptions

HLC Assumed Practice B.2 allows an institution to determine that a faculty member is qualified based on experience that the institution determines is equivalent to the degree it would otherwise require for a faculty position. This experience should be tested experience in that it includes a breadth and depth of experience outside of the classroom in real-world situations relevant to the discipline in which the faculty member would be teaching. An institution that intends to use tested experience as a basis for hiring faculty must have a well-defined policy and procedure for determining when such experience is sufficient to determine that the faculty member has the expertise necessary to teach students in that discipline.

Deans and faculty leaders assess faculty members' qualifications. Endorsements are considered when potential instructors do not have the academic credentials required by the Higher Learning Commission. These endorsements are dependent on the relevancy of the experience both to the degree level and to the specific content of the course for which the faculty member is responsible. These endorsements come in two forms: Endorsement by Equivalency and Endorsement by Exception. These endorsements are used when credentialing part-time instructors.

ENDORSEMENT BY EQUIVALENCY is used when it is evident that an instructor has credentials that are "equivalent to" the degree required of our faculty in that content area. This endorsement is in line with HLC guidelines that allow an individual's knowledge and expertise to be determined by his or her tested experiences outside of the classroom in real-world situations relevant to the discipline in which the faculty member would be teaching. For example, an instructor can be credentialed to teach if that instructor has a minimum of ten years of industry-specific experience. Such life experience can qualify as an equivalent to academic credentials for the purpose of teaching, based on the judgment of knowledgeable faculty in the discipline. This endorsement is used when in faculty judgment it is not necessary for an instructor to pursue further studies to teach at the college in the approved area.

ENDORSEMENT BY EXCEPTION is used when an instructor has demonstrated adequate knowledge and experience but has not met our standard for credentials. An example of such a situation would be the instructor who has a bachelor's/master's degree in a different teaching field, but has some certifications, professional affiliations, and a minimum of five years industry-specific or teaching experience.

Note about the Catalog

Each program at the institution maintains a catalog in which basic academic information related to the program's goals, expectations, admission, policies, accreditation, and other pertinent information is described. This applies to undergraduate, non-traditional (e.g., online, adult degree completion), graduate, and seminary programs.

Grace makes every attempt to provide information that, at the time of publication, most accurately describes the policies, procedures, and requirements of the institution and its individual programs.

The provisions of the academic catalogs are, therefore, to be considered a guide and not to be regarded as a contract between any student and the institution. Course content and institutional policies governing admissions, tuition, and campus life are under constant review and revision.

Grace reserves the right to change any statement contained within the catalog at any time and without prior notice including academic provisions, policies, or requirements (e.g., modifications to classes, fees, personnel, academic policies, and programs) and the right to withdraw or amend the content of any courses described in the catalogs as may be required or desirable by circumstances. Grace will, however, make every attempt to give students reasonable prior notice to changes in policies and other catalog content when possible and rarely implements policy changes during an academic year.

Courses of study for non-traditional, graduate, and seminary programs and check sheets for undergraduate students may undergo revisions; however, these are typically implemented in the fall of the new academic year. All students are expected to be familiar with the catalog(s) associated with their selected program(s) of study with the understanding that policies and procedures of their selected program(s) may change from year-to-year. The current year's catalog should, in most situations, be considered the catalog applicable to the student.

In some programs, students are asked to acknowledge in writing their receipt of the program's catalog. Changes to an academic catalog that are necessary following the start of the fall semester will be noted as an addendum to the original catalog.

Archived catalogs are maintained on the institution's Web site.

It is each student's responsibility to schedule regular meetings with his or her academic advisor and to be knowledgeable about institutional requirements, academic regulations, and calendar deadlines specified in the catalogs and academic program publications. Students should read the catalog carefully and consult with an advisor to determine how these policies relate to their individual circumstances.

Online Courses

Some individual undergraduate courses at the institution are offered in an online format and most courses in the college and seminary use a learning management system to facilitate course delivery. Courses offered online are identified as such on the schedule published by the Registrar's Office.

Degree Programs

Grace College offers residential and online degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, which are described in each program's individual catalog. Residential and online programs include:

Online Associate

- Associate of Science in Liberal Arts
- College Launch Associate of Science in Liberal Arts

Online Degree Completion

- **Bachelor of Science Psychology**
- **Bachelor of Science in Ministry Leadership**

Online GOAL program

- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Human Services

Online Graduate

- Master of Science in Athletic Administration
- MBA (refer to the School of Business)
- Master of Arts Clinical Mental Health (refer to School of Behavioral Science)
- Master of Science in Higher Education
- Master of Science in Nonprofit Management
- Special Education License: Intense Intervention Graduate (refer to School of Education)
- Transition to Teaching (refer to School of Education)

Residential Academic Programs

- College Launch Associate of Science in Liberal Arts

Please refer to each program’s individual catalog section for program and course descriptions, program goals, and additional information regarding admission requirements.

Questions about professional and online programs can be directed to the School of Professional and Online Education, Grace College, 200 Seminary Drive, Winona Lake, IN 46590 (telephone: 888.249.0533) or visit: www.grace.edu and/or www.grace.edu/online for more information.