

## **Spring 2010 Update**

### **Addendum to 2009-2010 Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog**

#### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum number of credits required of a baccalaureate degree from Misericordia University is 120 credits. To obtain a baccalaureate degree, a student must complete the minimum hours of credit require by the declared major program even if that number exceeds 120 credits. A transfer student must complete a minimum of 30 credits at Misericordia University for any given degree. That number may exceed 30 credits contingent on the number of total credits a student needs to meet degree requirements. Students should consult individual program descriptions.

A minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average, both overall and in the core curriculum, is required to graduate with a baccalaureate degree.

A degree application form, available from the registrar's office, must be completed in the year of graduation by the student and advisor. This form is to be submitted to the registrar's office during the fall semester prior to spring graduation. All bills must be paid in advance for a student to be eligible to graduate. Failure to do so in a timely manner may delay the date of receiving a diploma.

Only students completing all academic requirements in May or August will be permitted to process in the May ceremony of that same year. Example: Students completing all requirements in May or August 2010 will be eligible to walk in the May 2010 ceremony. Students completing all requirements by December of 2010 will be eligible to participate in the May 2011 ceremony.

#### **OFF-CAMPUS COURSES**

Off-campus courses are defined as those not sponsored by Misericordia University or by our consortium partners, King's College and Wilkes University (see Consortium Programs). Students may complete a maximum of twelve (12) credits in approved off-campus courses, of which no more than six (6) credits may be in core courses. Exceptions may be made for four (4) credit courses. Students should consult with their academic advisors.

Once matriculated at the university, transfer students may not transfer more than six (6) additional credits in approved off-campus courses, of which no more than three (3) credits may be in the core. A student who has completed sixty (60) credits of academic work, whether on campus or in transfer, must take all additional transfer credits at an accredited four-year institution.

All off-campus courses must be evaluated and approved as to their equivalency to Misericordia University courses. This determination will be made in consultation between the department chair in the discipline which sponsors the course at Misericordia University and the registrar.

Only grades of C or better will be accepted for transfer. Transfer credits must come from an accredited degree-granting institution or equivalent as determined by the registrar in consultation with the department chair.

Off-campus course approval forms are available in the registrar's office or online.

### **TRANSFER STUDENTS WITHOUT AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE**

Misericordia University welcomes students who wish to transfer from other four-year colleges or universities, or two-year junior or community colleges. Prospective full-time transfer students are encouraged to arrange an interview with the admissions office to review academic status and proposed curriculum. Prospective part-time transfer students are encouraged to arrange an interview with the Center for Adult and Continuing Education.

Prospective transfer students will be considered for admission if they have maintained a cumulative GPA (grade point average) of 2.0 or better (based on a 4.0 system). Higher GPA may be required to specific majors. Transfer students must complete a minimum of 30 credits at Misericordia University. The university will accept no more than 60 credits from any single or combination of two year institution(s). Only grades of C or better will be accepted for transfer. Transfer credits must come from an accredited degree-granting institution or equivalent as determined by the registrar in consultation with the department chair. The registrar, however, reserves the right to award or withhold credit. GPA requirements for advancement into the professional level of individual programs vary (see individual curriculum guides for each program). Candidates who meet the GPA requirements for general admission and who seek advanced standing for previous college work must provide the director of admissions with the following:

1. Application for Admission with a non-refundable \$25 fee.
2. Official copy of secondary school transcript or GED test results.
3. Official transcripts from each college/university previously attended where credit has been earned.

Credit for course transfer will be awarded for those courses that are equivalent to ones offered at Misericordia University. Other transfer credits may be accepted as elective credit. Grades earned at other institutions are not included in the student's GPA at Misericordia University. Please refer to the section in the catalog for specific information that applies to students transferring with an associate degree.

### **TRANSFER STUDENTS FROM NON-ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS**

In accordance with regulatory bodies, students seeking credit for work completed at a college or university that is not accredited by one of the six regional accrediting commissions in the United States but has been licensed by a state board of education to award an associate degree or higher may have their credit accepted on a course by course evaluation completed by the university registrar in consultation with the appropriate department chair(s). Only courses with a grade of C or better will be evaluated for transfer credit.

## **PART-TIME STUDENTS**

Students who wish to be accepted to Misericordia University on a part-time basis in either the accelerated degree program (evening/weekend); the Expressway Program at Hazleton, Nanticoke, Scranton, Shamokin, or Tannersville; or the semester format should first contact the Center for Adult and Continuing Education for a personal interview. Curriculum requirements, relevant university policies, the process for transfer credit evaluation, and financial aid referral will be explained in detail at that time.

Although part-time students may begin their studies on a non-matriculating basis, they are expected to apply for formal admission to the university at the earliest possible date. Non-matriculated students are limited to earning 15 credits at the university unless special arrangements have been approved. Students applying for part-time admission to the university must:

1. Complete a part-time student application form. Submit a non-refundable \$25 fee with the form.
2. Send one official transcript from each college/university previously attended to the Center for Adult and Continuing Education.
3. Send one copy of secondary school (high school) transcript (or GED) to the Center for Adult and Continuing Education if this is the first time attending college.
4. Registered nurses must send transcripts from their diploma-granting institution, as well as a copy of the RN license to the Center for Adult and Continuing Education.

Upon receipt of the application for admission, the secondary school record/transcript or post-secondary transcripts (if applicable), and the appropriate recommendations, the Center for Adult and Continuing Education and department faculty review the applicant's portfolio. Applicants are notified by mail of the admission decision usually within three weeks. Certain programs have specific requirements for acceptance. Applicants are referred to the description of programs, which appears later in the catalog.

Courses, which apply to the student's field of study and have a course grade of C or higher, will be evaluated by the Misericordia University registrar on a course by course comparison and are subject to approval by the department chair in consultation with the registrar.

## **TRANSFER OF CREDIT – GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

In graduate programs that allow transfer or prior learning assessment (PLA) credits, applicants may transfer up to six (6) graduate credits, or a maximum of two (2) courses, earned previously in other accredited graduate programs provided the courses were completed with a grade of "B" or better and are appropriate substitutes for the courses offered in the Misericordia University program. In special cases where applicants have already earned a graduate degree, twelve (12) credits from that degree may be applied toward a Misericordia University master's degree, provided the course credits are appropriate substitutes. Transfer credits are accepted after evaluation by the registrar in consultation with the appropriate program chair/director.

Matriculating students who have not already transferred credits may, with program approval, take up to six (6) graduate credits off campus from an accredited graduate program. These credits may also be transferred to Misericordia University, if the grade is B or better, to meet program requirements. However, in no case may the number of credits transferred into a graduate program at Misericordia University after matriculation exceed six (6).

### **PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT (PLA) CREDITS – GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credits provide students the opportunity to validate their relevant learning in a written document called a portfolio. The portfolio information is organized to correspond as closely as possible to comparable courses from Misericordia University inventory of graduate offerings. Emphasis is placed on the satisfactory presentation of the student's knowledge relative to each course's learning objectives. Eligibility for PLA application will be determined by the appropriate program director. For challenged courses, a faculty assessor from the involved department will be determined by the appropriate program director.

The assessor will review the portfolio according to the following criteria: the learning will be demonstrated to be college level; the learning is current, particularly in quickly-changing fields; the learning must be able to be generalized and transferred, i.e., it can be applied outside of the specific context or situation in which it was acquired; the learning must be measurable; the learning must have actual learning outcomes, not merely the experience; the credits awarded will not duplicate other earned credits.

Students who request assessment of their prior learning must:

1. Be matriculated at the university with a declared major;
2. Limit requests for assessment to those course areas that will fulfill degree requirements in their declared graduate major;
3. Have had all transfer credits officially evaluated prior to attempting this credit option;
4. Submit the designated fee for each PLA assessment being evaluated made payable to the department assessing the PLA portfolio(s).

Students who have been awarded prior learning assessment credits at another institution will not automatically be awarded such credit in transfer. Students have the opportunity to present their portfolios, with updated information, to the appropriate program director for consideration.

In no case may the number of PLA credits brought into a graduate program at Misericordia University after matriculation exceed twelve (12), nor can the combination of PLA credits and/or transfer credits exceed twelve (12).

The PLA decision of the department is final.

## **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES MISSION STATEMENT**

The undergraduate and graduate programs within the College of Health Sciences support the mission of the University, embracing the values and attitudes of justice, mercy, service and hospitality. Our programs strive to provide a quality education grounded in the sciences and liberal arts while maintaining high academic and professional standards. Students are prepared to become: collaborative members of a multidisciplinary team; active participants in scholarship; and ethical practitioners. Graduates are life-long learners who engage in evidence-based practice in a diverse global society.

## **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENT OUTCOMES**

Upon graduation students will:

1. Demonstrate the knowledge, critical reasoning ability, and skill necessary to obtain all appropriate professional credentials within their respective fields of practice.
2. Demonstrate ethical decision-making and competence in their respective disciplines within local, regional, and/or broader communities.
3. Participate as a collaborative member of a multidisciplinary team
4. Provide culturally competent health care services to diverse populations.
5. Critique and/or incorporate research related to evidence-based best practice.
6. Incorporate leadership and management principles in field/clinical settings.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **CHEMISTRY**

#### **CHM 360 Principles and Biochemical Mechanisms of Pharmacology 2 credits**

This lecture course is designed to provide the student with the knowledge to understand the fundamental principles and biochemical mechanisms of pharmacological applications, such as drug dosage, clearance, and metabolic action. Each student will become familiar with the complex mechanisms of action and clinical applications of a variety of the major categories and classes of pharmaceuticals, using illustrative prototypical agents. This course will offer both “high yield” facts and a sufficient framework for critical thinking and analysis, rather than just memorization.

### **DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY**

#### **DMS 102 Introduction to Sonography Lab 1 credit**

This lab course introduces the student to the psychomotor skills for the performance of sonographic examinations. Emphasis is placed on normal anatomy recognition, image optimization, and ability to acquire high quality diagnostic sonographic images.

#### **DMS 320 Advanced Vascular Sonography 3 credits**

This course will discuss the pathophysiology of various vascular diseases, associated sonographic findings, diagnostic interpretation criteria and current methods of treatment. Emphasis will be placed on techniques for performance and sonographic findings for advanced and less commonly performed vascular procedures.



**MBA F508 Foundations of MIS****1 credit**

This course is an interdisciplinary study that views information as a resource. The course focuses on computer-based information systems that support the operations, management and decision functions of an organization. This course explores the basic technical, behavioral, economic, and organizational concepts, relevant information, decision-making, and systems. Topics include the methodology and practice of developing a computerized information system; the organization, management and control of information systems; and the social impact of information technologies.

**MBA F509 Foundations of Economics****1 credit**

Introduction to Economics for Business course will focus on a limited number of micro-economic concepts that apply to business institutions, practices and decision making. The objective is to create a foundation in economics ideas and concepts for those students who may have had little or no exposure to economics study at the undergraduate level and who are aspiring to study for the MBA at Misericordia University.

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