To: Graduate Council

From: Christina Campbell, MPP DOGE, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition

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Please consider this proposal to waive expired course limits for students who have completed the Dietetic Internship (DI) and continue on the Masters of Professional Practice (MPP) in Dietetics

In the Master of Professional Practice in Dietetics (MPP), 14-15 of the required 30 credits for the degree come from the Iowa State University Dietetic Internship (ISU DI), which is currently a Graduate Certificate. The MPP only accepts students who have successfully completed the ISU DI; therefore this graduate program does not accept students from any other program. Furthermore, the MPP as it currently exists (the online stand-alone master’s program), will be combined in the fall of 2021 with the ISU DI for a new coordinated master’s plus supervised practice program to meet the new credentialing requirements for the Dietetics Profession. In the fall of 2024, all entry-level Registered Dietitians will need to complete a master’s degree to be eligible to take the board exam. The current stand-alone on-line MPP was developed to create a bridge between the current stand-alone ISU DI and the future coordinated MPP. For the past 1.5 years, faculty members in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition have been actively developing, the new combined MPP program that will begin fall 2021.

We began enrolling students in the MPP in the fall of 2018 with ~32 students. We have accepted at least 30 students per cohort (spring 2019, fall 2019 and spring 2020). A student enrolled full-time in the current MPP program can complete the program in 1 year. The last cohort we expect to enroll in the stand-alone online MPP will be fall 2020 to allow one year for program completion in anticipation of the new combined MPP program in fall 2021. When the new combined MPP program is in effect beginning fall 2021, the graduate certificate for the Dietetic Internship will be discontinued.

**An issue has arisen for two students thus far regarding expired courses**. We recognize that the Graduate College has a rule to limit the number of expired credits a graduate student can apply towards the degree. However, under the circumstances of this specific degree, both students have just passed the 7-year mark for the credits received during the ISU DI. These credits represent approximately half of the credits needed to fulfill their degree requirements. Furthermore, both of the students are Registered Dietitians and work in the profession so the fact that the credits are expired is not entirely relevant to knowledge carried forward.

**We request a waiver to allow the MPP to be exempt from the expired course policy for students who have completed the Dietetic Internship.**  This would apply to the two current students mentioned above and any possible future occurrences. We anticipate the future number will be low, if any at all, but would like to request a waiver rather than have a case-by-case approach.

If you have further questions, I am happy to provide more information. The two current students are on track to graduate in the spring and summer of 2020. Your attention to this matter is somewhat time-sensitive and I thank you for your work to resolve the current issue.