MFT Program Policy on Policies

Policy Availability

This policy is available to the public via the link to Program Handbook and Policies on the MFT website.

Policy on MFT Program Policies

The MFT Program faculty hold that to the extent possible, all aspects of the MFT Program should be transparent and available to the public. To that end, the Program codifies a number of program policies, all of which are approved by the faculty. All MFT Program policies comply with and are subordinate to University policies. If any conflicts arise among policies, the order of governance is as follows: Board of Regents Policy is primary, VSU Policy is secondary, Departmental Policy is tertiary, then MFT Program Policy.

Definition of Policy and Standardization of University Policies

A policy is a governing principle. It is a long-term commitment by program faculty to an activity or practice. Policies are meant to guide the program strategically; thus, they are not frequently changed. Policies standardize and regulate university operations so that all students are subject to the same regulations, rules, procedures, and processes. The following list are the university-level policies relevant to graduate students:

Academic Dishonesty	Academic Load
Appeal of Dismissal from Graduate School	Application for Graduation
Auditing Classes	Comprehensive Examinations
Course Withdrawal	Cross-Disciplinary Courses
Determination of Credit Hours	Diploma Replacement
Expectations for Satisfactory Graduate-Level Student Performance	Financial Aid
General Requirements for Graduate Degrees	Grade Appeal
Grading System	Graduate Assistantships
Graduate Course Numbering	Graduate Student Classifications and Admission Criteria
Hardship Withdrawal	Maximum Course Loads and Other Restrictions
Medical Withdrawal	Mental Health Withdrawal
Plagiarism	Request for Extension of Seven-Year Rule

Satisfactory Academic Progress	Second Master's Degree Program of Study
Student E-mail Responsibilities	Theses and Dissertations
Transfer Credit	

Policy on MFT Program Policies

The MFT Program faculty hold that to the extent possible, all aspects of the MFT Program should be transparent and available to the public. To that end, the Program codifies a number of program policies, all of which are approved by the faculty. All MFT Program policies comply with and are subordinate to University policies. If any conflicts arise among policies, the order of governance is Board of Regents Policy primary, VSU Policy is secondary, Departmental Policy is tertiary; lastly, MFT Program Policy.

Procedures for Proposing and Implementing an MFT Program Policy

Any MFT Program employee or MFT Program student may request a new or revised policy by presenting the proposal to an MFT faculty or staff member. The faculty or staff member will take the proposal to the entire faculty at a regularly scheduled faculty meeting where the faculty will assess and revise the proposal as it deems necessary. The faculty may invite the new policy proposer to the faculty meeting for questions or greater context. When the faculty reaches an adoption decision, either yah or nay, the proposer will be invited to a faculty meeting to discuss the means and the timeframe for presenting the proposal to the wider program.

1. If accepted, the policy will be written/edited by the proposer, whether the proposal is for a new policy or for a revision of an extant policy.
2. A faculty member be assigned to make editorial improvements.
3. Upon completion of the writing, the policy will be posted for 30 days on the MFT website as a proposed policy.
4. An email from faculty alerting the MFT program community to the new policy proposal will invite comment and discussion.
5. If a Community Meeting is scheduled during this 30-day period, the newly proposed policy will be added to the agenda for discussion.
6. At the end of the 30 day posting period, all comments will be reviewed at a faculty meeting and/or Community Meeting.

Difference Between a Policy and a Procedure

The difference between policies and procedures is this: Policies provide structure to what we do and stand as guiding principles in decision making. A procedure guides action, often within the context of a policy. It is how we "do" something, often how we enact a policy.