

Center for Justice and Peacebuilding
Graduate Program in Conflict Transformation
Foundations I substitute for Limited-residency MA students

1. **Proposed by:** Janelle Myers-Benner
2. **Purpose or intent of the policy:** To provide clarity to limited-residency MA students (those completing the majority of their coursework through SPI or through WPLP) on the policy and process for having other courses satisfy the Foundations I requirement, such that only a spring semester on campus is required.

3. **Body of the policy:**

Limited-residency MA students who wish to spend a minimum of one spring semester on campus must take PAX 533 Analysis: Understanding Conflict and PAX 532 Formation for Peacebuilding Practice (*see below for WPLP requirements) prior to that spring semester. It is strongly recommended that students take both of those classes during the same SPI (if doing in split summers, Analysis needs to be taken first). In the SPI that a student takes Analysis and Peacebuilding Practice, he/she should take no more than 1 additional class. If the student's plan is to return to campus the January following SPI, he/she is required to finish all coursework by the August 20th deadline. If the student is not coming until a later spring term, he/she can take up until the October 1st deadline to finish.

For anyone (including WPLP students) wishing to bypass Foundations I (fall course), a practice comprehensive exam will need to be taken between August 15 and September 1 (prior to the spring semester the student wishes to be on campus). If the student passes the practice comp then he/she will be approved to move on to Foundations II, having Analysis and Practice satisfy the Foundations I requirement. If the student does not pass, they will be required to be in residence for a fall and spring semester to take both Foundations I and II, if they wish to complete the full MA degree.

*Please note: this policy also applies to WPLP students (including those that have successfully completed coursework for the Graduate Certificate in Peacebuilding Leadership). In most cases for WPLP students (who have taken Analysis, Intervention Design Workshop and Mobilizing for Systems Change – or pre-2016 WPLP alums that took Analysis & Practice under the former curriculum), Foundations I will have been adequately satisfied. However, the practice comprehensive exam is an important assessment measure for all limited-residency MA students, giving faculty a clear sense of the student's strengths and weaknesses. If the practice comp is passed, a WPLP student/graduate can bypass Foundations I and just be in residence for one spring semester to take Foundations II, the core research class and the required skills assessment course.

4. **Approved by CJP Academic Committee on:** 2/11/15 (amended 3/4/16 in light of new WPLP curriculum and again 9/4/16 with new Practice title)

5. **Who needs to be informed of this policy once approved?** In an ongoing way, any limited-residency students or WPLP students wishing to go on for the MA degree need to be made aware of this policy when they begin the program. In addition to faculty, WPLP staff, the Admissions Director and the Associate Director of Marketing & Recruitment (Sara Reed) need to be aware of this when working with recruiting and communicating with prospective students.
6. **Who is responsible for distribution?** Academic Program Coordinator
7. **How distributed & date:** final policy distributed to the above persons by email 2/12/15
8. **Review in:** as needed (once several students have gone through using the above policy or there has been any kind of substantial curriculum revisions).
9. **Administrative notes:**

Gloria Rhodes (who taught both Analysis and Practice in SPI 2015), will be working at developing core objectives for both of these courses and in 2016 tried to have those two classes cover more closely what is covered in Foundations I. Stemming from that for 2017 changed title to Formation for Peacebuilding Practice.

A moodle site will be set up for this practice comprehensive exam and those needing it added to the site manually. The Program Director and one of the Foundations I instructors will be the readers for the final.
10. **Procedures for implementation:** This policy should be made available to prospective and new limited-residency students at the beginning of their program and to WPLP MA candidates.