

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology, in the Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations division in the College of Education, effective fall term, 2018.

Background

The Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology is a program to prepare practitioners for full licensure as doctoral-level psychologists (LP - Licensed Psychologist) in the State of Michigan. The training of doctoral-level psychologists is not new to the department. The Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, which leads to the full psychologist license, is in its last year and is being phased out because the accrediting body is closing and the State of Michigan Board of Psychology now requires that all programs have American Psychological Association (APA) accreditation. The new Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology will have a unique focus on systemic approaches to mental illness and mental health treatment across the lifespan. There will be a family and community systems framework also reflected throughout the program and students will have the option to expand their focus on marriage and family therapy through additional coursework as well.

This program is needed because there is only one other Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology in the state of Michigan (Western Michigan University) and there is a need for practitioners trained with the full psychologist license. The department has several years of students already waiting to join a doctoral level program in the College of Education. The last cohort of students admitted to the PhD in Education was 5 years ago, resulting in high demand from students who decided to pursue the department's master programs while waiting for a new Ph.D. program. The creation of this new program will not only fulfill the department's own professional goals of having full training from the master's through the doctoral level, but the mental health training in the program will support the initiatives to improve mental health services around campus and meet the needs of students. The students in this program will provide services to adult students on campus as part of practica/internships.

In the field of psychology the APA accredits three types of "applied" psychology—School, Counseling, and Clinical. While there is overlap between the three types, there are professionally recognized differences, and hence the APA's support for them is through accreditation of them uniquely. In addition, there are three clinical Ph.D. programs, which leads to the same full psychologist license, in Southeast Michigan outside of Wayne State University: University of Detroit Mercy, Eastern Michigan University, and the Michigan School for Professional Psychology. Michigan State University and Central Michigan University also have clinical Ph.D. programs. Typically, less than ten students are admitted at each university per year, leaving much demand for doctoral level, fully licensed psychologists in the state of Michigan.

Specifically within WSU, the Psychology Department in the College of Liberal Arts and Science has a Ph.D. program in clinical psychology. The Psychology Department supports the establishment of the Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology and provided letters of support. The Psychology Department has 200 applications for 7-8 spots per year. More students want a Ph.D.

in clinical psychology than their program accommodates. Furthermore, doctoral students in Educational Psychology have a long history of taking classes in the clinical psychology program, versus duplicating courses, and that cooperation would continue. Some of the course requirements in the proposed program will be taken in the psychology department.

Program Description

The mission of the Counseling Psychology Ph.D. program at Wayne State University is to prepare professionals to enhance the healthy development of mental health and social, emotional, and cognitive functioning in children, adolescents, adults in a variety of clinical, educational, and research settings effectively. Also included in the program is an emphasis on systems approaches inherent to interventions within both marriages and families. The faculty are committed to preparing psychologists capable of facilitating learning, growth, and adjustment of individuals experiencing a variety of social-emotional, academic/occupational, and behavioral difficulties. The program's emphasis on theory, research, and evidence-based practices subscribes to the scientist-practitioner model in the practice of psychology reflected in the academic requirements.

Graduates of the program primarily engage in the practice of psychology in clinics, hospitals, and community mental health agencies, teach at the college or university level, and work in research positions. Students will be prepared to conduct individual child, adolescent, adult as well as marital and family mental health interventions, perform psycho-educational assessments, and conduct research. Students completing the degree requirements of this program will be eligible to apply for licensure as a psychologist in the State of Michigan (LP—Licensed Psychologist).

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet requirements for admission to the Graduate School. The minimum GPA permitted for admission will be a 3.0. Students must have completed at least 15 credits of psychology coursework at the undergraduate or graduate level prior to admission. The program is designed to be a direct admit Ph.D. program. Three letters of recommendation, Graduate Record Exam scores, a program area application including professional essay, and a personal interview are also required.

Curriculum Requirements

The program requires 107 credit hours total. All courses in this program will be open only to graduate students. The courses offered in a block-scheduled format will allow students to matriculate together through the process. There will be no new courses needed to create this program. Students will complete coursework and practica/internships in the core curriculum related to the major of Counseling Psychology through offerings in Educational Psychology, Counselor Education, and Psychology; research courses in Educational Evaluation and Research; and dissertation hours.

Graduation Requirements

All completed coursework is required in accordance with the Graduate School and the regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. Students must enroll full-time and complete requirements within seven years of admission. The minimum GPA required for graduation is a 3.0. However, no more than one grade of C+ will be permitted; a second grade of C+ or lower results in dismissal from the program. Courses cannot be repeated.

Program Administration

There will be a Program Director (PD) and, as required by APA, a Director of Clinical Training (DCT), who holds a Ph.D. explicitly in Counseling Psychology. Together, they will manage oversight of the day-to-day operations. However, the whole program area is invested in and will be serving as doctoral advisors for the students and thus program oversight overall will occur by the department as a whole. Recruitment, admissions, advising, and progress monitoring will be the responsibility of the PD and DCT as noted earlier. The doctoral advisor will also become responsible for advising and progress. The whole department will be responsible for curriculum development and program evaluation. The Assistant Dean in the Division of Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations will oversee the program.

Budget and Resource Requirements

The department currently provides several masters' level training programs and the establishment of this new program will not require additional library materials, supplies, equipment, secretarial support, etc., as the department already incurs those costs and supports for those existing programs. An additional 1.0 FTE faculty position will be required to meet the necessary credentials for accreditation. This has the support of Dean Whitman and the hiring process is already underway. The sources of revenue will be student tuition and grants. The program does not include any new courses and the expectation is that doctoral students from this new program will create more enrollment in existing sections, which will improve profitability. Course sections are able to accommodate additional students. In addition, the program plans to seek training grants, especially to begin the program.

Accreditation

The program will seek accreditation from the American Psychological Association. As noted earlier, one additional faculty member is needed in order to have adequate credentialed faculty to be competitive for accreditation.

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Educational Psychology faculty in the Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations division, the College of Education Assembly, the Dean of the College of Education, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.