

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Assessment and Accountability

NO.: AAC 07-06

COMMITTEE DATE: October 11, 2006

BOARD DATE: October 19, 2006

MOVED:

The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of **The Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Inc.**, to award the **Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology**.

The institution shall provide, in January 2008 and annually for four years thereafter, a status report on its implementation of the program, including information regarding curriculum, enrollment, faculty, student services, and publications.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

Contact: Aundrea Kelley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Policy

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

October 2006

The Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Inc.

Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology

INTENT

In July 2006, The Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Inc. (MSPP), filed a petition with the Board of Higher Education to seek approval to offer the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology. Graduates of the program will meet the education and degree requirements that, followed by two years of post-master's supervised clinical work, will qualify them for licensure as mental health counselors. Direct services are increasingly provided by mental health professionals with intermediate levels of training—such as licensed mental health counselors—working under the supervision of doctoral professionals with more advanced credentials. This is particularly true for public agencies, community clinics, and residential centers and hospitals that rely heavily upon public funds. The proposed program will help address critical shortages and shortcomings in the current mental health care system.

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

In 1972 a group of psychologists from the Massachusetts Psychological Association and its affiliate, the Massachusetts Psychological Center, initiated plans for The Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. MSPP received authority to award the Doctor of Psychology degree (Psy.D.) in 1980, the Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology in 2000, and the Master of Arts in Professional Psychology and the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in School Psychology in 2005. MSPP has established field placement relationships with over 175 mental health training sites throughout New England. The School houses an Office of Continuing Education, which includes the Institute for Clinical Health Psychology, Rorschach training, the T.E.D. Test, the Erich Lindemann Memorial Lecture, and other professional programs of interest to mental health care professionals. MSPP also provides re-specialization in Clinical Psychology and offers non-matriculating courses.

MSPP is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and by the American Psychological Association.

ACADEMIC AND RELATED MATTERS

The proposed curriculum intends to provide graduates with advanced counseling psychology clinical skills through practice-oriented coursework integrated with extensive field work opportunities. The curriculum will rely on current courses being offered through MSPP's existing doctoral program in clinical psychology and master's/certificate of advanced graduate studies programs in school psychology: only three new courses have been created for the proposed program, and 12 courses have been closely adapted from current courses. For example, Clinical Seminar I: Helping Relationships mirrors Clinical Seminar I in the clinical psychology program.

Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the proposed program are the same as for MSPP's other graduate programs and include:

- (1) Earned B.A. or B.S. degree;
- (2) Completed application with three recommendations and official transcripts;
- (3) Submission of General Record Exam (GRE) or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores;
- (4) GPA of 3.0 or better;
- (5) Interview; and
- (6) \$50 fee

GRE results (verbal and quantitative) are expected to be at least 1150 combined as well as a 4 or higher on the analytical writing section. TOEFL results (listening, structure and writing expression, speaking and reading) are expected to be at least 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 92 (in the new internet-based) combined.

Projected Enrollments

The estimated enrollment per year will be 25 students. Full-time students will complete degree requirements by the end of the second year.

Curriculum (Attachment A)

Students will earn the proposed master's degree after completing the following requirements:

Coursework

The student must complete a planned program that includes 60 or more semester credits of coursework. The student's program must be approved by the faculty advisor. Up to 9 credits of highly equivalent coursework earned as a non-matriculated student at other institutions may be accepted with faculty approval.

Field work

As per Massachusetts requirements for pre-master's clinical field experience (262 CMR 2.06), the first year curriculum includes a 100-hour practicum, and the second year curriculum includes a 600-hour internship. Field site supervisors will assume the primary mentoring role and clinical responsibility for on-site activities. Supplementary support and group supervision will be provided through concurrent clinical seminar courses. The MSPP Field Placement Office will arrange and facilitate field placements.

Capstone project

Students must satisfactorily complete a capstone project in their area of specialized interest under the supervision of a faculty member. This project will involve both a substantial (20-30 page) written paper, including an extensive literature review and an oral presentation of the material in the seminar.

Students will normally complete the program in two years but are expected to complete all requirements within four years from the first semester of enrollment. Student progress toward program completion is reviewed on an annual basis with the major advisor.

RESOURCES

Human Resources

Currently, there are three full-time faculty and 50 part-time faculty who teach at MSPP. MSPP intends to hire two full-time faculty for the proposed program, one of whom will serve as the

program director. MSPP also intends to hire a part-time faculty member focusing on clinical seminars and internships. The remaining courses will be taught by faculty members who currently teach in MSPP's existing doctoral program in clinical psychology and master's/certificate of advanced graduate studies program in school psychology.

Fiscal and Physical Resources

MSPP submitted a five-year financial plan based upon the enrollment of 25 FTEs in the proposed program. Revenues from tuition and fees minus the costs associated with the proposed programs would yield an anticipated profit of \$75,000 in year two and \$100,000 in year three and beyond.

The MSPP Library has a core collection of books, scholarly periodicals, professional newsletters, assessment materials, new reference materials, and audio-visual materials. The proposed program will be provided with an annual budget for the acquisition of services, books, and journals selected in consultation with faculty. The librarians have begun to purchase books and explore online resources for the proposed program in counseling psychology.

The institution is currently housed in a 17,000 square-foot section of a one-story building in the West Roxbury section of Boston, Massachusetts. The proposed program will require two classrooms accommodating 25 students each, one large or two small faculty offices, and an administrative office space. In August 2006 the Finance Committee and Facilities Committee of the MSPP board of trustees voted to approve the leasing of 10,800 square feet of additional space within the current building to accommodate MSPP's space needs.

PUBLIC HEARING

The required public hearing was held on August 25, 2006, at 10 a.m. in the Board of Higher Education's office. No comments were offered in opposition to the proposed program.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff reviewed all materials submitted by MSPP and held several discussions with representatives of the institution. The proposed Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology is closely aligned to the College's existing doctoral program in clinical psychology and master's/certificate of advanced graduate studies programs in school psychology. The College also provided evidence of the sufficiency of the institution's faculty, facilities, and other resources to deliver the proposed program.

After a thorough evaluation of all documentation submitted, staff is satisfied that the proposed Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology meets the criteria set forth in 610 CMR 2.08(3) in the Degree-Granting Regulations for Independent Institutions of Higher Education, accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Recommendation is for approval.

The institution shall provide in January 2008, and annually for four years thereafter, a status report on its implementation of each program, including information regarding curriculum, enrollment, faculty, student services, and publications.

ATTACHMENT A: Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology

Major Required (Core) Courses (Total courses required =16)		
<i>Course number</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
CL 550	Counseling Theory	3
LS 511	Life Span Development	3
PA 505	Assessment in Counseling Psychology	3
CC 522	Diversity and Cross-Cultural Psychology	3
CS 520	Clinical Seminar I: Helping Relationships	3
PY 524	Adult Psychopathology or	3
PY 523	Child & Adolescent Psychopathology and Risk Assessment	"
RS 555	Research Methods and Program Evaluation	3
GR 550	Group Work and Group Dynamics	3
CS 521	Clinical Seminar II: Application of Counseling Theory	3
CO 610	Consultation, Collaboration and Community Partnerships	3
PS 635	Ethics, Law and Professional Practice in Counseling Psychology	3
CS 620	Clinical Seminar III: Counseling Psychology Practice	3
FP 620	Clinical Internship, Semester 1	3
CS 621	Clinical Seminar IV: Counseling Psychology Practice	3
FP 621	Clinical Internship, Semester 2	3
PR 630	Capstone Project Seminar	3
	<i>Also required: one specialized treatment course (see electives below)</i>	
	Total core credits required	48
Elective Courses* (Total courses required = 4)		
CX 520	Child Psychotherapy*	3
FX 610	Theories and Methods of Family Therapy*	3
HP 530	Introduction to Clinical Health Psychology*	3
SB 630	Substance Abuse and Motivational Interviewing*	3
GE 681	Clinical Geropsychology*	3
BX 601	Cognitive and Behavioral Therapeutic Approaches*	3
MX 620	Mindfulness in Psychotherapy*	3
CH 520	Hypnosis: Clinical Applications*	3
PH 521	Psychopharmacology: Theory and Practice	3

SN 512	Children and Adolescents with Special Needs	3
BL 622	Biological Bases of Behavior and Learning	3
RS 510	Statistics and Measurement	3
	Total elective credits required	12
* Must include at least one specialized treatment course (indicated by asterisks)		
Curriculum Summary		
Total number of courses required for the degree		20
Total credit hours required for degree		60