

Request for New Degree Program and Deletion of Sequence
Department of Psychology: Clinical-Counseling Psychology
October 1, 2001

Summary of proposed action: The proposed action would create a new graduate program in the Department of Psychology: Clinical-Counseling Psychology; and would eliminate the current Clinical-Counseling sequence under the psychology master's degree program. Current and proposed catalog copy attached.

Old catalog copy (2001-2002)
(included as one of five sequences
under the Psychology master's degree program)

Clinical-Counseling Psychology

This sequence requires two years of study and is designed to prepare students to provide counseling services in settings such as mental health centers, family services agencies, employee assistance programs, community colleges, substance abuse treatment facilities, and other mental health positions. The program includes two semesters of practica in campus and community settings, which build on course work in basic psychology, psychological assessment, and theories and techniques of psychotherapy. These dual practicum placements prepare students to work with a diverse clientele. Students who complete this program meet curricular requirements to sit for the Illinois Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor examination. Minimum 48 hours required.

New catalog copy
(to be included as a separate program)

Clinical-Counseling Psychology

This program requires two years of study and is designed to prepare students to provide counseling services in settings such as mental health centers, family services agencies, employee assistance programs, community colleges, substance abuse treatment facilities, and other mental health positions. All students must complete either a thesis or a comprehensive examination requirement. The program includes two semesters of practica in campus and community settings, which build on course work in basic psychology, psychological assessment, and theories and techniques of psychotherapy. These dual practicum placements prepare students to work with a diverse clientele. Students who complete this program meet curricular requirements to sit for the Illinois Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor examination. Minimum 48 hours required.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW PROGRAM

1. Institution: Illinois State University
2. Responsible Department: Psychology Department

3. Proposed Program Title: Clinical-Counseling Psychology
4. Previous Program Title: Psychology
5. CIPS Classification: not applicable
6. Proposed Date of Initiation: August 15, 2002
7. Description of Proposed Program:

The Clinical-Counseling Psychology Program at Illinois State University would be a 48-hour master's degree program completed over 5 semesters (two academic years and the intervening summer session). The current option of taking a Comprehensive Examination or completing a Thesis would remain. Each student would complete 13 common courses, take either Psychology of Women or Seminar in Psychology of Diversity, and select at least one elective course. Students choosing to complete a thesis would take four hours of thesis credit for a total of 49 semester hours. Students choosing to complete the comprehensive examination would select at least one additional elective (in addition to the one elective all students select) for a total of 48 semester hours. Students could select as electives any course offered for graduate credit in the Department of Psychology that furthered their educational plan. A proposed Plan of Study would be submitted for review by the graduate advisor in the Spring Semester of a student's 1st year.

Prerequisites: Nine hours of undergraduate classes in Psychology which include Introductory Psychology or equivalent, Statistics and Research Design or equivalent, and one other course (not including abnormal psychology and learning theory) and proficiency in both abnormal psychology and learning theory. Proficiency in abnormal psychology and learning theory can be demonstrated by a number of methods, including having an upper division undergraduate course in these areas, a graduate course in these areas, other prior experience (with the approval of the Clinical-Counseling Coordinating Committee), or passing a proficiency examination in these areas acceptable to the Clinical-Counseling Coordinating Committee.

Model course schedule:

fall 1st year

PSY 470 Legal, Ethical, and Practice Issues in Clinical-Counseling Psychology

PSY 420 Theories of Personality

PSY 468 Advanced Psychopathology and Mental Health Diagnosis

PSY 440 Statistics: Data Analysis and Methodology

spring 1st year

PSY 438 Techniques of Objective Psychological Assessment

PSY 464 Theories and Techniques of Counseling

PSY 466 Substance Abuse Counseling

PSY ____: either thesis credit or an elective would be taken

summer 1st year

PSY 467 Family Therapy

PSY 421 Advanced Behavior Modification

fall 2nd year

PSY 437 Group Psychotherapy and Counseling

PSY 436.02 Practicum in Clinical-Counseling Psychology

PSY ____: either thesis credit or an elective would be taken

PSY ____: an elective course would be taken all students

spring 2nd year

PSY 465 Vocational Counseling

PSY 480.28 Seminar in Psychology of Diversity or PSY 305 Psychology of Women

PSY 436.02 Practicum in Clinical Psychology

PSY ____: either thesis credit or an elective would be taken

Common courses are Psychology 470, 420, 468, 440, 438, 464, 466, 467, 421, 437, 436.02 (repeated once), 465 for a total of 39 semester hours in the core program. All students are required to take either PSY 305 Psychology of Women or PSY 480.28 Seminar in Psychology of Diversity.

This model schedule is only an example. For students electing to complete a thesis, their thesis hours would be scheduled under the direction of their thesis committee and their elective course would be selected in consultation with their departmental advisor and taken as available. For students electing to complete the comprehensive examination, their two elective courses would be selected in consultation with their departmental advisor and taken as available. Changes in the scheduling of particular classes could be necessary to meet the overall needs and objectives of the Department of Psychology.

8. Rationale for Proposal: For three decades the Department of Psychology at Illinois State University offered successful graduate sequences in Clinical and in Counseling Psychology. Responding to the pedagogical needs of students as well as state licensing requirements led to increasing similarity in these initially independent sequences. The Clinical and Counseling sequences were recently consolidated into a Clinical-Counseling sequence. The current proposal to reorganize this sequence as a separate program within the Psychology Department is initiated to increase the degree of flexibility within the training requirements necessary to prepare students entering this professional area. As an independent Psychology program, the Clinical-Counseling area will be able to reorganize the common courses to give students an opportunity to exercise a limited degree of individualization in their plan of study. One of the three common courses for the present Master's Degree in Psychology (Theories of Learning) will no longer be required, allowing students to select an elective course. It is anticipated that this will increase student satisfaction and facilitate use of available elective courses within the Psychology Department.

The change from sequence to program status would also allow rapid adaptations to any possible future changes in curriculum required by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. There is a continuing need for master's level practitioners with various areas of emphasis in the mental health delivery system of Illinois and other states. In order to be

competitive in meeting this need, it is essential that our students be able to qualify for the Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) license. Recent changes in the LCPC requirements significantly affected the choices available to students in our sequence. The change from sequence to program status would yield a net increase in the flexibility of the required courses. This would provide some margin for adjustment to any future changes in licensing requirements.

The constraints imposed by the LCPC licensing act directly lead to the decision by the Clinical-Counseling Coordinating Committee to seek the elimination of a graduate course in Learning as a common course. Our consensus position, however, was that this was still an important cognate area. Our resolution of this conflict was the decision to address this need by requiring a demonstration of proficiency in this area through previous undergraduate work or in some other acceptable fashion.

The change of status from sequence to program should also positively enhance the cohesiveness of the faculty and students associated with this endeavor. As one illustration of this--with the change to program status, the title of the earned degree would reflect the specific program name. A number of former students have communicated to us that they wished this could have been the case. This change could be a helpful point in future recruitment efforts for the program.

9. Expected Impact of Proposal on Existing Campus Programs: None. The Clinical-Counseling Sequence is currently offered by the Psychology Department. There is no anticipated impact on other programs in the change of this area from a sequence to a program.
10. Curricular Change Including New Courses: None. All the courses necessary for the proposed Clinical-Counseling Program are currently offered for the existing Clinical-Counseling Sequence.
11. Anticipated Staffing Arrangement: The staffing of the Clinical-Counseling Program will be the same as the current staffing of the Clinical-Counseling Sequence.
12. Anticipated Funding Needs and Sources of Funds: No change in funding will be required.