

November 4, 2004

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

From: Dr. Vermelle J. Johnson, Chairman, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Request to Amend License
South University, Savannah, GA, at Columbia
M.A., Professional Counseling

Summary

South University <<http://www.southuniversity.edu>> requests approval of an amendment to its license to offer a program leading to the M.A. degree in Professional Counseling at the Columbia campus to be implemented in January 2005.

South University of Carolina, Inc., a South Carolina corporation, is a 100% subsidiary and branch campus of South University, Inc., in Savannah, Georgia, and is owned by Education Management Corporation (EDMC), a Pennsylvania company. Other branches of South University are in Montgomery, Alabama, and West Palm Beach, Florida.

The Commission licenses South University to offer at the Columbia location programs leading to the Bachelor of Business Administration degree; B.S. degree in Healthcare Management, Information Technology, and Legal Studies; Associate degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, Information Technology, Medical Assisting, and Paralegal Studies; and a Certificate in Paralegal Studies.

South University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees. The proposed program to be offered in Columbia is identical to the program offered at the Savannah campus.

The Columbia campus is located at 3810 Main Street in the Eau Claire community and is adequate to support the needs of the institution, including the proposed program.

To qualify for admission, an individual must submit three letters of recommendation from people within the education or mental health field, a two-to-four page typed personal statement addressing his or her interest in psychology and his or her career and professional goals, and a résumé. The candidate must have a bachelor's degree from an institution accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The applicant must have earned an undergraduate grade point average of 2.6 or above.

Tuition is \$2,895 per quarter for eight credit hours.

Faculty members who teach in the professional counseling program must have terminal degrees in counseling, counseling psychology, or a related field. The full-time program coordinator, who is already on the staff at the Columbia campus, holds an Ed.D. in Counseling Psychology. He is a South Carolina Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Supervisor for Professional Counselors.

The 72-quarter-credit-hour curriculum leading to the M.A. in Professional Counseling is designed to meet the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accreditation standards and to enable program graduates to achieve requirements for licensure as a professional counselor (LPC). The license application confirms that institution officials have projected a timeline to achieve CACREP accreditation in 2008. In South Carolina, professional counselors must be licensed by the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation's Board of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Psycho-Educational Specialists.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that overall employment of counselors is expected to grow faster than the average through 2012 and that job opportunities should be very good because there are usually more job openings than graduates of counseling programs.

The officials at South University project enrolling 10 new students in the first year and 20-25 new students each year thereafter. The target market for this program will be persons who have an interest in the private practice of professional counseling or in employment in community mental health agencies.

The didactic portion of the program will be conducted through weekend traditional classroom instruction and through distance learning modalities. The schedule is designed so that each class will meet for four hours on Saturdays in a traditional classroom environment. During the week interaction will take place through electronic

communications. Students will take two classes each quarter. The experiential component will incorporate the use of audio-visual and other instructional support to bring realistic professional activities to the didactic learning modality. The program will also incorporate a supervised field placement experience.

M.A. in Professional Counseling Curriculum	Quarter Credit Hours
Counseling Theory	4
Abnormal Psychology	4
Diagnostics of Psychopathology (DSM-IV-TR)	4
Human Growth and Development	4
Counseling Skills	4
Personality Theories and Individual Counseling	4
Professional and Ethical Issues	4
Community Mental Health	4
Group Counseling	4
Social and Cultural Foundations	4
Research and Evaluation	4
Individual Assessment	4
Lifestyle and Career Development	4
Couples and Family Therapy	4
Practicum I	4
Practicum II	4
Internship in Counseling	8
Total Quarter Credit Hours	72

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve an amendment to the license of South University to add the program leading to the M.A. degree in Professional Counseling to be implemented in January 2005 at the Columbia site.