

**New Program Proposal
Educational Specialist
Counselor Education
With Concentrations in School Counseling and Mental Health Counseling
Clemson University**

Summary

Clemson University requests approval to offer a new program leading to the Educational Specialist degree with concentrations in School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling, to be implemented in Spring 2013. The proposed program is to be offered through traditional instruction methods on Clemson University's campus.

The Program Planning Summary was submitted to the Commission on November 1, 2011, and reviewed and voted upon favorably with substantive comment by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) on January 19, 2012. Clemson University's Board of Trustees approved the proposal on October 21, 2011. The final proposal was received by the Commission on May 15, 2012.

According to the proposal, the purpose of the proposed program is to provide graduates the opportunity to complete the necessary coursework that will allow them be eligible to pursue licensure and certification as counselors, increase their opportunities for higher salaries, and for professional development. The program will also allow graduates to acquire advance knowledge and skills which will be directly applicable to their present or future employment. The program leading to the Educational Specialist degree in Counselor Education will have two options for admittance. The first option will allow students with a Master's degree and working in counselor education the opportunity to complete 30 credit hours. The second option will allow students with a Bachelor's degree to take 60 additional credit hours and receive a M.Ed. and an Ed.S. Clemson's University's existing program leading to the Master's degree in Counselor Education is approved and has been granted certification authority in Elementary and Secondary Guidance the South Carolina Department of Education.

At the request of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing, a Clemson University representative provided additional information about the proposed program's justification of need. The institution anticipates that the proposed program will not only fill a need for counselors and educators in Greenville County, but the program will enroll students from the entire upstate area. The institution's existing program leading to the Master's degree in Counselor Education with concentrations in school counseling and clinical mental health counseling have a student enrollment of 38 and 50 respectively. The information states that the goal of the proposed Ed.S. degree program is to increase the number of qualified school counselors and mental health counselors. This may lower the student to-counselor-ratios in the regional school districts. The program will provide an opportunity for those who hold master's degrees in other areas to consider school counseling and mental health counseling as options for furthering their education.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010-11 *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, employment of counselor education graduates is expected to increase by (19%) percent from 2010 - 2018. The number of students attending schools at all levels is expected to increase during the projections decade, boosting demand for both school and career counselors. The

proposal states that the demand for graduates of counselor education programs will increase as many of the current counselors begin to retire.

The Citadel, Winthrop University, Clemson University, and South Carolina State University offer programs leading to a Master's degree in Counselor Education. However, USC-Columbia is the only public institution that offers the program leading to an Educational Specialist in Counselor Education. The proposal notes that the programs differ because USC-Columbia's offers a 66-credit hour program with an emphasis in school counseling, but does not offer a Master's degree in school counseling.

Admission requirements for the proposed program will be consistent with other graduate programs at Clemson University's Graduate School. Admission will be based on the applicant's graduate school application, GRE scores, letter of recommendation, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and a personal essay. The curriculum for the proposed program in Counselor Education will consist of 60 credit hours. Students entering the program with a Bachelor's degree will have to complete 60 credit hours, however, students entering the program with a Master's degree will have to complete a minimum of 30 credit hours. No new courses will be added to the institution's catalog for implementation of the program.

Projected new enrollment for the program will be 0 new students (1.6 FTE) in the program's first year (most 30 credit hour students will begin in the Summer) , increasing to 8 students (6.4 FTE) in the second year and increasing to 16 students (9.6 FTE) in the third, fourth and fifth years of the program. If enrollment and program completion projections are met, the proposed program will meet the Commission's productivity standards.

The proposal states that the assessment of student learning will be tied to the specific goals and objectives of the proposed program. The proposed program assessment will use direct and indirect methods which will include student review/progress meetings, final examinations, and standardized examinations relevant to their concentration. Students also complete exit surveys to provide information on specific courses. The institution collects data and receives feedback from stakeholder groups such as employers and alumni. In addition, the institution monitors enrollment and graduation numbers as well as faculty research, paper, presentation and funding productivity.

According to the proposal, no new faculty, staff or administrators will be hired to support the program. The current coordinator for the Master's in Education with concentrations school counseling and clinical mental health counseling will coordinate the proposed program. Existing nine (6.25 FTE) faculty members, 11 (8 FTE) staff members, and one (1 FTE) administrator will be sufficient to support the program. Additionally, the proposal states that no physical plant or significant equipment needs are anticipated to support the proposed program.

The information provided in the program proposal states that Clemson University's Library has adequate resources to support the proposed program with print and electronic resources including the statewide PASCAL databases, Interlibrary Loan, Internet access, bibliographic instruction, and a variety of class-specific user education programs.

The proposed program will be subject to accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and for counseling by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Additionally,

the program will have to demonstrate to State Department of Education officials discipline-specific objectives as articulated in the South Carolina Curriculum Standards and South Carolina's ADEPT program. All students completing the counselor education program must be certified by the South Carolina State Department of Education, pass the appropriate Praxis II examinations and the National Counselor Education Examination (NCE), and undergo an FBI fingerprint review.

New costs and sources of financing identified by the institution for the proposed programs are shown below.

Estimated Costs by Year						
Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals
Program Administration	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000
Faculty Salaries	348,850	355,827	362,944	370,202	377,607	1,466,579
Graduate Assistants	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clerical/Support Personnel	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	30,000
Supplies & Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0
Library Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	125,000
Totals	389,850	396,827	403,944	411,202	418,607	1,671,579
Sources of Financing by Year						
Tuition Funding	16,800	67,200	100,800	100,800	100,800	386,400
Program Specific Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reallocation of Existing Funds	373,050	329,627	303,144	310,402	317,807	1,285,179
Federal Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funding (Specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	389,850	396,827	403,944	411,202	418,607	1,671,579

These data demonstrate that if Clemson University can meet the projected student enrollments and contain costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the first year of its implementation.

In summary, Clemson University is proposing a program leading to the Education Specialist Degree in Counselor Education with concentrations in School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Graduates will be provided with the opportunity to complete the necessary coursework that will allow them be eligible to pursue licensure and certification as counselors, increase their opportunities for higher salaries, and for professional development. In addition, the proposed program will provide an opportunity for students who wish to expand their skills and knowledge base for personal and career advancement.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends favorably to the Commission approval of Clemson University's proposed program leading to the Educational Specialist degree in Counselor Education with Concentrations in School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling, to be implemented in Fall 2013, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested and the program be approved by the State Board of Education prior to implementation.