

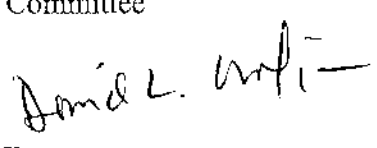


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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Jerry Haky, Chair  
Undergraduate Programs Committee

**FROM:** David L. Wolgin, Chair   
Department of Psychology

**RE:** Proposal for Certificate Program in Applied Mental Health Services

The Department of Psychology and the Department of Counselor Education propose the creation of a Certificate Program in Applied Mental Health Services to address the broad interest among undergraduate students in careers in clinical psychology, mental health counseling and allied human services. A copy of the proposal is appended. The program can be implemented with existing resources, although in the longer term we expect to request additional resources based on student demand. The program has been reviewed by both the Dean of the CES College of Science and the Dean of the College of Education, both of whom support the proposal.

## **Proposal for a Certificate in Applied Mental Health Services**

David F. Bjorklund, Paul R. Peluso, and Laurence Miller

### **Description and Purpose**

The purpose of this certificate program is to provide students who have an interest in pursuing a career in clinical psychology, mental health counseling, or allied human services with a curricular experience that would enhance their educational experience and preparation, either as majors within the Department of Psychology or as non-majors. Following the completion of courses, students will be granted a certificate of completion and a citation on their transcript. The goals for this certificate program are three-fold:

1. Create a "pathway" that would prepare students to go from undergraduate programs to graduate training programs in critical need areas (e.g., substance abuse treatment, clinical mental health counselors, and professional psychologists, which are among the top 30 fastest-growing careers, according to BLS.gov, 12/10/13). By enlisting and focusing motivation in student areas of interest, the program would support and facilitate FAU's strategic plan for on-time degree completion, as well as providing an educated workforce in critical need areas.
2. Provide a structure for psychology majors who wish to specialize in applied areas related to human services. This would allow the Department of Psychology to increase its appeal to existing and incoming students who wish to obtain more clinically-based coursework in psychology and mental health without placing additional burden on resources.
3. Develop students who have superior training and preparation for careers in clinical mental health counseling and related professions, further enhancing FAU's reputation as a producer of tomorrow's leaders in this field.

### **Program Requirements**

The certificate program would involve the completion of at least five upper-division, 3-credit courses (minimum number of credits = 15). Students who have completed 60 credit hours with a GPA of 3.0 or better may apply for the Certificate Program. Students must attain a 3.0 GPA or better to qualify for the Certificate.

The Program would involve five required courses (3 credits each), three from current offerings in the Department of Psychology and two from current offerings in the Department of Counselor Education (recent syllabi for each course are attached):

#### **Clinical Psychology (PSY 4930) 3 credits**

*Prerequisite: PSY 1012 - General Psychology and CLP4144, Abnormal Psychology;*

Understanding of the practice of modern clinical psychology. Students will be able to understand the theory and application of evidence-based practice in clinical psychology, including assessment, treatment, forensic settings, healthcare applications, and organizational consulting.

**Psychology & Law (PSY 4053) 3 credits**

*Prerequisite:* PSY 1012 - General Psychology and CLP4144, Abnormal Psychology;

Understand the modern applications of psychology to civil and criminal competencies, torts and personal injury, investigation and interviewing, the insanity defense, criminal classification, juvenile and family law, sexual deviance and violent behavior, offender profiling, dangerousness prediction, trial testimony, jury psychology, and the role of the psychologist as expert witness.

**Neuropsychology (PSB 4240) 3 credits**

*Prerequisite:* PSY 1012 - General Psychology and PSB 3002 Biological Basis of Behavior;

Explores the fundamentals of human neuropsychology, including the effects of brain damage on memory, language and spatial behavior, development and recovery of function.

**Career and Lifespan Development (SDS 3340) 3 credits**

This course addresses the history, trends and future direction of the world of work. It focuses on career development theories, searching and exploring job and career opportunities, self-assessment, and being successful in the job market. Attention is also given to issues in the workplace, such as diversity and strategies for advancement.

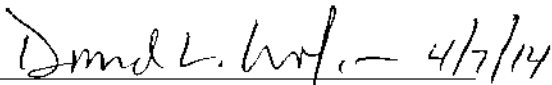
**Interpersonal Communication Skills (SDS 4410) 3 credits**

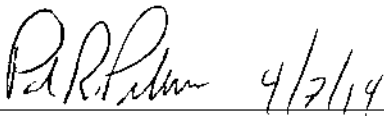
This course addresses the nature and process of interpersonal communication. It focuses on perceptions, self-disclosure, stages of relationships, spoken and unspoken communication, listening and responding strategies and problem-solving skills. Attention is given to understanding cultural diversity, conflict management and communication via electronic means.

As the program develops, additional courses may be added (e.g., Psychopharmacology, Addiction) permitting students greater flexibility in their course choices. As the program progresses, we may expand the range of courses, DIS-type projects, and opportunities for supervised practical experience in local organizations and facilities related to mental health services.

**Duties of Director and Co-Director**

1. Oversee, Advise and Administer Certificate program.
2. Teach courses in the program.
3. Assess effectiveness of program (viz. retention & student success).
4. Track employment of graduates in the community.
5. Develop new courses and tracks as program capacity and demand increases.
6. Develop and maintain liaisons with appropriate community resources and facilities for additional training, experience, and research for certificate program enrollees.

  
David L. Wolgin, Chair of Psychology

  
Paul R. Peluso, Interim Chair of  
Counselor Education