



ACADEMIC ALERT #2007-02

DATE: March, 2007
DECISION: College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)

Discontinuation of Counseling Certificate for M.A. in Psychology Students

Rationale

The Counseling and Human Services department is moving towards external accreditation (CACREP) as a counseling program, which necessitates changes in program requirements. The changes will impact the Counseling Certificate for the M.A. in Psychology (MAP) program. The resultant changes would create a certificate with 33 hours that could potentially be the equivalent of a second masters degree (36 hours), making it an unrealistic option for students.

Senate Academic Planning Committee Approval: February 15, 2007
Faculty Senate Approval: Point of Information; Not Required
Provost Approval: Point of Information; Not Required

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Effective immediately.

CONTACTS:

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SIGNATURE

Carol R. Melnick, Ph.D.
Vice Provost

DESCRIPTION

The Counseling Certificate for M.A. in Psychology Students is discontinued. The certificate had been designed for students earning a Master's Degree in Psychology who wished to add a Counseling Certificate. The degree/certificate combination was designed to meet the educational requirements to sit for the Illinois State Counseling Licensing exams. The certificate consisted of 24 semester hours (six courses, plus three terms of internship.) This certificate will no longer be offered and available to M.A. in Psychology Students (MAP). These courses for the certificate will remain in Banner:

24 SH Certificate

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| HSC 501 Fundamentals of Counseling | 3 SH |
| HSC 510 Theories of Counseling | 3 SH |
| HSC 512 Theories/Techniques of Group Counseling | 3 SH |
| HSC 506 Intro to Theory and Practice of Family Therapy | 3 SH |
| HSC 514 Counseling for Career Development | 3 SH |
| HSC504 Clinical Techniques of Counseling | 3 SH |
| Plus Three Terms of Internship: | |
| HSM581 Human Services Internship I | 1 SH |
| HSM582 Human Services Internship II | 1 SH |
| HSM583 Human Services Internship III | 1 SH |
| HSM585 Internship Supervision (1semester hour each term) 3 | 3 SH |
| Total Certificate Hours: | 24 SH |

TEACH OUT PLAN

All currently enrolled MAP students will be provided the opportunity to apply for and complete the Counseling Certificate as they were promised when they initially enrolled in the MAP program. The following criteria will guide the teach out plan:

1. **Currently Enrolled MAP Students eligible for the Teach Out plan**
 - Currently enrolled is defined as students who began the MAP Fall 05 through Winter 07 terms and are enrolled in MAP courses for credit this (Winter 07) term. Students currently enrolled in the MAP program may *apply* for admission to the counseling Certificate program. Admission decisions are made by the Counseling & Human Services faculty according to published criteria.
2. Currently enrolled MAP students must complete all MAP degree requirements by **Fall 2008**.
3. Students can begin the Counseling Certificate program after completing all coursework in the MAP program but prior to completion of the thesis with the thesis needing to be completed before the internship.
4. Students who have been admitted to the Counseling Certificate, but not yet enrolled in the Counseling Certificate courses, must begin the Counseling Certificate program no later than **Fall 2007**.
5. Completion of the MAP program does not imply automatic qualification and/or admission to the Counseling Certificate program.
6. Eligibility to take the exam for counselor licensure is controlled by bodies outside of NLU. Completion of NLU's coursework does not guarantee future eligibility to take the counselor licensure exam.

Students Not Eligible for the Teach Out

1. Students who have completed the MAP and did not maintain continuous enrollment, are no longer eligible to apply for the Counseling Certificate.
 - Rationale: The degree and certificate were designed to be taken as a continuous sequence to meet requirements established by the State of IL for exam eligibility.

2. Students who cannot/are unable to complete the Counseling Certificate in the 6 year time frame from beginning the MAP program.
3. Students who were previously denied admission to the Counseling Certificate program.

Important Notification Dates

- All eligible MAP students/ /Counseling Certificate admitted students will be notified by the Psychology department of the discontinuation of the Counseling Certificate option, no later than **March 15, 2007**.
- Students who have completed the MAP program and have been admitted to the Counseling Certificate, but have not yet enrolled in the Counseling Certificate cohort/courses, must confirm their intent to complete the counseling certificate and enroll by **Fall 07**.
- All students admitted to the Counseling Certificate program will have a degree and certificate plan, with courses and schedule, created with a Counseling & Human Services faculty member, signed and on file.
- Currently enrolled MAP students must submit a completed application for admission to the Counseling Certificate program no later than **April 2, 2007**.
- The terminal cohort for the Counseling Certificate will begin **Fall 2008**.

Implementation

All changes need to be entered in Banner.

The lengthy teach-out plan must be strictly adhered to and monitored. That means faculty must be vigilant in monitoring and advising all affected students. In addition, faculty in both programs must remain in constant communication to ensure that nothing falls through the cracks.

Counseling and Human Services Department, as well as Department of Psychology faculty must work with the Vice Provost and University Registrar Catalog to ensure that catalog copy is correctly prepared and ready for the 2007-2008 catalog; all references to the Counseling Certificate for MAP students must be removed from the catalog.