

**Proposition Number: 06-15/16**

**Sponsor(s): Heather Oesterrich, Faculty -College of Education**

**Enedina Vázquez, Associate Dean -College of Education**

**Proposed Committee: Faculty Affairs**

**Actual Committee Assignment:** Scholastic Affairs

**Title: Change in Major Name-Counseling & Educational Psychology Master's Degree**

**Proposal:** The College of Education requests consideration to change the name of one concentration of the master's degree the Counseling & Educational Psychology department offers. Currently the department offers the following degree, major and concentrations:

DEGREE: Master of Art

MAJOR: COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

CONCENTRATIONS: COUNSELING

EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICS

**The CEP Department would like to request that the concentration in Counseling be changed to a Major and titled Clinical Mental Health Counseling. With this change students would earn the MA degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.**

(Please note that although the approval bodies have also approved changing the Educational Diagnostics concentration, this bill only proposes changing the Counseling program name.)

**Additional Required Resources:** None

The request does not change any of the curricula or internship requirements. Currently core faculty will remain associated with the program and **no** additional faculty lines or graduate assistantships are needed to fully support the program.

**Rationale:** The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) is concerned that the degree title does not reflect the specialty area and is requesting that the University change the name to Clinical Mental Health Counseling (additional information is attached) for accreditation purposes.

Accreditation of the program helps graduates obtain licenses to provide counseling in New Mexico and other states. The program faculty has recently completed an accreditation self-study and is in the final process of arranging a re-accreditation site visit that will occur November 1-4, 2015. In their final response to our self-study CACREP reviewers raised concerns regarding the title of the degree students earn when they complete the Counseling Program. The stated concerns are based on CACREP's Accreditation Process Policy #4 that reads as follows:

*Use of Programs and Degree Titles. Titles may not be used that have the potential of misrepresentation with regard to CACREP accreditation. Therefore, when an institution decides to seek CACREP accreditation for one or more graduate degree programs (e.g., School*

*Counseling, Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling), the institution must use titles that 1) clearly identify the programs and degrees as counseling programs and counseling degrees, and 2) accurately reflect the CACREP program area under which accreditation is being sought.*

Essentially, CACREP is concerned that the title of the degree that is awarded does not specifically reflect the CACREP specialty area in which the program is accredited. CACREP reviewers are concerned that the degree title can potentially result in confusion and misunderstandings regarding our CACREP accreditation and the type of training that our graduates receive. Specifically, the CACREP reviewers wrote,

“The Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is simply indicated as a concentration in Counseling under a Counseling and Guidance degree. It appears that there are additional concentrations under this degree, including a concentration in Educational Diagnostics. The generic use of the program title Counseling in conjunction with a degree title aligned generally with School Counseling and the inclusion of required courses referencing other specialty areas (e.g., Organization and Administration of School Counseling) or other disciplines [e.g., Family Theory and Technique] complicate the clear designation and identification of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program as a Clinical Mental Health Counseling program.”