

Date: January 28, 2010

To: All Students enrolled or enrolling in the Community Counseling programs (CPSE or CPSD)
From: Mark Woodford, Chairperson, Department of Counselor Education
RE: Anticipated Program Expansions based on the 2009 CACREP-accreditation standards

On 1st July 2009, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) published the 2009 CACREP standards that took effect on that date. The new standards substantially changed the accreditation process for the 48-credit masters-degree program in Community Counseling. Specifically, the capacity to re-accredit Community Counseling programs at the 48-credit level has been eliminated.

PLEASE NOTE: This does not change our current Community Counseling accreditation status. We are fully-accredited with CACREP in both the School Counseling and Community Counseling programs through 2013 (and, as has been our practice, we will continue to seek re-accreditation through CACREP for our MA counseling programs).

Students currently enrolled in the 48-credit Community Counseling programs (CPSD or CPSE) are advised to complete their degree requirements by May of 2013 in order to graduate within the timeframe remaining for our current Community Counseling accreditation status.

Additionally, although there will be some important adjustments in terms of our curriculum offerings in the School Counseling program (CPSA) in response to the new 2009 standards, this program will remain as a 48-credit graduate program, which is in-line with the 2009 CACREP standards, as well as the certification standards for school counseling in New Jersey.

As a faculty, we developed a plan for re-accreditation in 2013 under the newly released 2009 CACREP-standards. In short, we will be expanding our Community Counseling options by developing them into two 60-credit programs, which will continue to lead to a Master of Arts in Counseling. One will be a program in Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling and Therapy (MCFCT) and the other will be a Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program. We feel that these changes will facilitate future CACREP-accreditations, and be responsive to the growing needs of our profession, as well as the professional licensure process in New Jersey.

In order to facilitate a timely transition, we have gained college-level approval for the expansion of our current curriculum as follows:

1. The current "Community Counseling: Human Services" program (CPSE) will be expanded to become a 60-credit program in *Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling and Therapy*. We will seek accreditation in 2013 for this program under the 2009 CACREP-standards for Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling programs. We have submitted documents to the state licensure board that describe how graduates from this 60-credit program will have met the educational requirements for licensure as both a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in New Jersey.

2. The current “Community Counseling: Substance Abuse and Addiction” program (CPSD) will be expanded to become a 60-credit program in *Clinical Mental Health Counseling*. We will seek accreditation in 2013 for this program under the 2009 CACREP-standards for Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs. We have submitted documents to the state licensure board that describe how students within this program will be able to choose to take electives in addiction counseling that would meet the educational requirements for licensure as both a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC) and a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in New Jersey. Likewise, if students are interested in general practice as a mental health counselor, then they may pursue the same by taking a variety of elective courses with their core mental health counseling coursework. This general practice option would meet the educational requirements for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in New Jersey.

TIMELINE FOR THESE CHANGES TO OCCUR:

SPRING OF 2010: Working with Records & Registration, we hope to create new program planners for these 60-credit MA programs in PAWS.

FALL OF 2010: We will request in the fall of 2010 that all currently fully-matriculated students in the Community Counseling (CPSD/CPSE) programs inform us about their plans in regards to these changes (Please see “OPTIONS for the Fall of 2010” below). Also, in the fall of 2010, we will mail out forms for you to complete that will facilitate this process. Please make sure that your contact information (home address, phone number, email) are correct in the PAWS system.

SPRING OF 2011: The Department of Counselor Education plans to have its first class admitted under the new 2009 standards described above in the spring of 2011.

OPTIONS for the Fall of 2010:

There will be 2 options for students who will be enrolled in the 48-credit Community Counseling programs (CPSD or CPSE) in the Fall of 2010:

1. Complete the 48-credit degree program requirements by May of 2013 in order to graduate within the timeframe remaining for our current Community Counseling accreditation status. Students may also choose to complete the same 48-credit degree program, plus 12 additional credits, to have the 60-credits needed for licensure during (or after) their current program of study.
2. Choose to switch to one of the new 60-credit programs in the fall of 2010. We will seek CACREP-accreditation status for these programs in the 2013 re-accreditation cycle.

We recognize that students may have a number of questions pertaining to the upcoming changes in our programs. We strongly encourage you to meet with your advisor individually to plan your program of study. If you are unsure about who your advisor is in our program, or you want to set-up an appointment to meet with one of our faculty members, please feel free to call 609-771-2119.