

## MEMO

11 March, 2014

TO: James Lentini  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

FROM: Darlene Schott-Baer  
Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Education

**RE: Proposed Modifications to the Master of Arts in Counseling program**

Currently, the Master of Arts in Counseling program is a 48 credit hour program. The program is nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). As of October 2014, the 48 credit hour counseling program will no longer be recognized or accredited by CACREP. Based on an evaluation of the curriculum, faculty need to increase school counseling offerings within the program and strengthen the school counseling concentration to better meet the needs of current students and remain competitive with other programs. The proposed modifications include a transition semester in Fall 2014 with implementation of the revised curriculum in Winter 2015.

In order to maintain program accreditation through CACREP the Master of Arts in Counseling program must offer the 50-credit hour School Counseling Program that includes a 100 hour practicum (40 with direct supervision) and a 600 hour internship. In preparation for the modifications faculty reviewed the curriculum of other CACREP programs offering the School Counseling curriculum, completed an analysis of the curricula, and reviewed student and alumni surveys. Students are required to gain competence in the eight core areas defined by CACREP: human growth/development, social cultural foundations, helping relationships, group work, career/lifestyle development, appraisal, research/program evaluation and professional orientation. Students must complete a program with an emphasis in School Counseling which is based on CACREP guidelines and standards provided by the American Counseling Association. The School Counseling Program will enable graduates to certify or license for either the School Counseling Certification for certified teachers or School Counseling License for non-certified teachers.

The proposed changes include revisions to admission requirements and process, and revisions of foundation, clinical and capstone courses. The total credits for the program increase to 50.

The members of Graduate Council unanimously approved the proposed modifications to the MA in Counseling with a concentration in School Counseling.