

OAKLANDUNIVERSITY
GRADUATE COUNCIL

4 January 2012

TO: Virinder Moudgil
Senior vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

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

RE: **Master of Science Degree in Psychology**

On behalf of the Graduate Council, I am pleased to forward a recommendation that Oakland University implement the proposed new Master of Science in Psychology degree effective Fall 2012.

According to the Department of Psychology, there is a need for professionals with advanced research skills and knowledge of psychological science for participation in an array of careers across multiple market sectors. The program will prepare students in two general areas of concentrations, biological and basic processes and social and behavior processes. Graduates of the Master of Science degree program will possess basic research skills and understand how basic research can be applied to solve a range of behavioral and social problems. Graduates would be well positioned for admission to a doctoral program in psychology.

It must be noted that the initial proposal combined two stand-alone degrees, the M.S. and the Ph.D., in one proposal. Members of the Graduate Council found this to be confusing and made the distinction between the two degrees difficult to follow. Graduate Council noted and requested that the proposal be divided into separate proposals. The authors of the proposal and the College administration refused to comply with the request. Graduate Council continued to struggle with the confusion between the two curriculums and finally in late December the Dean of the College agreed to have the Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Education divide the single proposal into two separate proposals, without changing any substantive content. Professor Shackelford, Chair of the Department of Psychology, confirmed that the two revised proposals could move forward without his review. This was completed over the holiday break which led to the approval of the Master of Science in Psychology degree program.

The members of Graduate Council approved the revised M.S. proposal by email notification with a ratification vote scheduled for January 11, 2012.

CC: Susan Awbrey, Senior Associate Provost, Academic Affairs
Fall 2012-RequestedAdmission term; Major Code 2635; Program Code MS2635; Graduate Catalog 2012-13