

**OAKLANDUNIVERSITY**  
**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

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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: **Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Psychology**

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

According to the Department of Psychology, applicants to the PhD program will be admitted to one of two concentrations in addition to having broad exposure to the secondary concentration. The biological and basic processes concentration includes areas of brain function, pattern recognition, condition, memory, sexual selection, language, consciousness, and motivation. The social and behavioral processes concentration includes study in social influence, persuasion, personality traits, intelligence, parent-child relationships, sense of community and public health. This proposal addresses the National Academy's identified need to increase the number of doctorally prepared faculty in the STEM fields, specifically psychology. Graduates of the PhD program are primarily prepared to accept positions as faculty in an academic setting.

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 Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology degree program.

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