



Department of Chemistry  
Rochester MI 48309-4477

April 11, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Department of Psychology Proposal for an M.S. and Ph.D. Program in Psychology. This proposal, from a department that has begun to seriously strengthen graduate level research expertise, is timely and well developed. As academic units evolve they frequently develop expertise in particular areas and to capitalize upon such collections of individuals pays dividends for the institution, both faculty and students, as well as society at large. The proposal from the Department of Psychology is an example of seizing such an opportunity.

The newer faculty in the Department of Psychology are working hard to be active, productive scholars who are indicative of the evolution and maturation of Oakland University. Development of these graduate programs will enhance their productivity, it will provide stimulation and vitality, and it provide well trained scientists for the future.

Finally, from the procedural standpoint, the proposal presented is well considered and realistic. Resource needs are reasonable while performance metrics are sensible and achievable. It proposes things it is likely to be able to deliver. This program will make Oakland University stronger and continue our upward trajectory as an academic institution of distinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arthur W. Bull".

Arthur W. Bull, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
[abull@oakland.edu](mailto:abull@oakland.edu)  
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Department of Mathematics and Statistics

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Eddie Cheng  
e-mail: echeng@oakland.edu

February 25, 2011

Professor Todd Shackelford, Chair  
Department of Psychology  
Oakland University  
Rochester, MI  
48309

Dear Professor Shackelford:

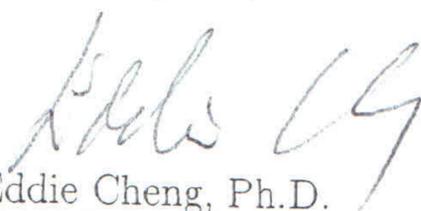
This is a supporting letter regarding the Proposal for a M.S. in Psychology and a Ph.D. in Psychology. I have carefully reviewed this proposal. I believe the proposal is excellent and it is carefully crafted after a comprehensive study.

First, I would like to point out that the Department of Psychology has the experience in managing a large undergraduate program. One of the concentrations is the *Biological and Basic Processes*. I think this fits in nicely with the medical school and the biomedical theme that is currently supported at Oakland University. The two programs are well-designed to follow one central set of courses. In the proposal, it is stated "M.S. students complete coursework alongside doctoral students." I think this is a great arrangement that saves on resources and provides the flexibility to students who may want to switch to the Ph.D. program.

Since I am not a psychologist and in fact know very little about psychology, I cannot comment on the rigor of the program directly. (My experience in psychology is limit to two first year undergraduate courses.) However, judging from the excellent research record of the faculty members in the Department of Psychology, the logical conclusion is that they will be 1st rate programs.

I believe these programs complement nicely to our new medical school and the Department of Psychology is in an unique position to offer such a program. It is a carefully designed program. I appreciate the frank discussion on the issue of statistics courses and I am looking forward to future cooperation. In short, I strongly support this proposal.

Sincerely yours,



Eddie Cheng, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair



Department of Biological Sciences

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April 11, 2011

Todd K. Shackelford, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair of Psychology  
Oakland University  
Rochester, MI 48309

Dear Todd,

I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of your department's proposal for an MS program and a Ph.D. program in Psychology.

The proposal is well-written and thought-out; it is based on two important foundations, Biological and Basic Processes and Social and Behavioral Processes. Both branches stand excellent prospects for extra-mural grant funding. Your department already has scholarly expertise pertaining to these areas; having these graduate programs in place will undoubtedly increase your capacity to engage in national-level research.

Not too long ago our own department, Biological Sciences, launched its first PhD program. Some of us were concerned back then that the program would not be able to pick up pace with the national level and strain existing resources. Exactly the opposite happened: the program has become very successful and helped us grow stronger, bringing new grant dollars and allowing the department to recruit better new faculty members, ones that would not have come to join us without it.

Our department has extensive experience in graduate education and sponsored research, and maintains substantial research support infrastructure that is relevant to your Biological and Basic Processes track. We will be glad to provide assistance, both by access to resources, consultation, and possibly collaboration with regards to graduate student activities.

The Psychology department's proposal for graduate programs is both timely and necessary. It will strengthen the university, attract new, capable students and raise the profile of sponsored research on campus. The Psychology department's faculty make for an impressive base of talent and dedication. I have no doubt in this department's ability to successfully implement these programs.

I strongly support your proposal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arik Dvir'.

Arik Dvir  
Chair, Department of Biological Sciences



Department of Sociology/Anthropology

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October 20, 2011

Professor Todd Shackelford, Chair  
Department of Psychology  
Oakland University  
Rochester, MI 48309

Dear Todd,

On behalf of my colleagues in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, I want to express our unequivocal support for the Department of Psychology's proposal for the new M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Psychology. I not only consider this proposal timely in terms of the current market conditions in your field and Oakland's strategic plan for growth in quality graduate programs, but it also represents a historic step for the social sciences generally at Oakland. Under your leadership, the department has positioned itself to offer a rigorous graduate program which prepares students for the multiple market sectors your proposal nicely identifies.

I am particularly excited by the opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration that your graduate program will no doubt facilitate. As a kindred discipline, members of our faculties share similar research interests and I can easily envision faculty participation on thesis and dissertation committees. Further, this graduate program will also articulate nicely with the new Center for Social and Behavioral Sciences that has been recently created by the Departments of Political Science, Psychology and Sociology/Anthropology/Social Work. These efforts, combined with the appointment in your department of Kerry E. Vachta, Ph.D. as a Research Associate Professor of Psychology at the Riverview Institute of Oakland University located in Detroit, heralds an exciting time and set of opportunities that will support graduate level research for your new programs.

In summary, we are grateful for the initiative your department has undertaken to bring a full scale, graduate research degree program that will no doubt further enhance the prestige of your department and Oakland University. Our department is ready to assist you and your faculty in any way we can.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jay'.

Albert J. Meehan, Professor and Chair  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work



**Center for Biomedical Research**  
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4487  
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Todd Shackelford  
Dept Psychology  
Oakland University  
Rochester, MI 48309

October 18, 2011

Dear Todd,

I am writing in support of your proposed MS/PhD program in Psychology. I believe this program will enhance the biomedical research opportunities at Oakland University.

Over the last few years, I have watched as the Department of Psychology has become more active in biomedical research. Two faculty in your department—Keith Williams and Lakshmi Raman—are members of the Center for Biomedical Research. Raman currently has funding from the National Institutes of Health, and Williams recently had an NIH grant. Michele Parkhill Purdie has an active research program that certainly has the potential for NIH funding. Other researchers, such as Andrea Kozak, approach psychology from a clinical perspective. Many other researchers in your department—including yourself and your two new faculty members this fall-- study topics that have biomedical implications. My understanding is that the Department of Psychology is planning on hiring a new faculty member whose research interests overlap with research projects at Beaumont Health System, the clinical partner for our new medical school. Having a graduate program in Psychology would support the research of these biomedically-oriented faculty. One of the goals of the CBR is to enhance graduate education in the biomedical sciences, and I believe that a graduate program in Psychology would be an important step in that direction.

I am particularly pleased that one of the two areas of emphasis in the proposed MS/PhD program would be a Biological and Basic Processes Concentration. I think that this concentration would open many possibilities for interaction with the Department of Biological Sciences and with the School of Health Sciences (for example, I know that Williams and Sumi Dinda in the SHS have submitted a joint NIH proposal recently). I believe that this program would also broaden the opportunities for students in the OU-William Beaumont School of Medicine to do their capstone research projects in psychological research.

The Department of Psychology has been a leader in undergraduate research at OU for many years. I am confident that with this new graduate program the department will likewise become a leader in graduate research. I fully endorse your proposed MS/PhD program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Brad Roth'.

Brad Roth  
Director, Center for Biomedical Research