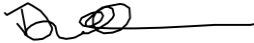





**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234**

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech 

SUBJECT: Cazenovia College – Master Plan Amendment for Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

DATE: January 31, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Cazenovia College to offer a proposed Clinical Mental Health Counseling program leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) degree?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its February 2019 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

A Master Plan Amendment is necessary as this is the institution's first program at the master's level.

Background Information

Cazenovia's mission is "to cultivate student growth and creativity through engagement with an involved faculty and staff who provide a supportive, personalized learning environment." The Clinical Mental Health Counseling program's goals are

intertwined with the College's mission. The proposed program prepares students to be eligible to apply for licensure in New York State and for a career offering mental health services. It is committed to preparing students to become informed, up-to-date, and ethical practitioners, well-equipped with tools for mental health counseling in individual, family, and group settings.

As Cazenovia College has been offering a NYS Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) certification for over 10 years, students in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program will have the opportunity to pursue the 350 education hours required for the CASAC. Additionally, the program will allow professionals who live in rural Madison, Lewis, Otsego, and Oneida counties to have the opportunity to attend a graduate level program in this central rural region where there are no current Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs.

Admission criteria into the graduate program include: a minimum GPA of 3.2, a bachelor's degree in a related field, an interview with the program director, a Professional "Fit" application, three letters of recommendation, and a completed graduate school application and fee.

The proposed program requires 60 credits completed over two years of full-time study, including winter and summer sessions. The curriculum was designed to meet NYS mental health counseling licensure requirements and includes a 600-clock hour clinical internship. The College has secured agreements with several local agencies to serve as clinical sites for the proposed program. The program is aligned with CACREP's Clinical Mental Health Counseling education standards and includes courses in human growth and development, counseling theories, group dynamics, cultural foundations of counseling, assessment and appraisal of individuals, couples and families, professional organizations and ethics, the needs of specific populations such as veterans, women, and adolescents, foundations of mental health counseling, clinical instruction and internships, and alcohol and substance abuse.

The student body will primarily be students who are enrolled in the undergraduate Human Services program and the Psychology program at Cazenovia College, as well as alumni of the college who would be interested in returning for graduate work. Additionally, there will be potential students from rural Madison, Lewis, Oneida and Otsego counties who will have the opportunity to commute to the college.

The projected enrollment for the program is expected to be 15 new full-time equivalents per year for the first five years. It is anticipated that the diversity of the student population of the proposed program will be similar to that of the College. Currently, of the 915 students at the college, 70 percent are female. Enrollment by ethnicity is as follows: 64 percent White, Non-Hispanic; 10 percent African-American; 10 percent Hispanic; and 1 percent American Indian/Alaska Native.

The proposed program will not require any new facilities. Students will utilize existing SMART classrooms that are used by the undergraduate Human Services and Psychology programs. Classes will be offered in the late afternoon and evening to avoid

scheduling conflicts with undergraduate programs. The College's library is expanding its holdings to include additional mental health journals.

Two existing faculty members will be teaching in the program on a full-time basis. A third full-time faculty member will be hired prior to the start of the program. One of the current faculty members is a NYS licensed Mental Health Counselor and the new hire will have or be eligible for NYS licensure. Four other full-time faculty members at the College will be teaching in the program on a part-time basis.

Canvass Results: A canvass of the institutions of the Central Region as well as of all institutions in the state offering licensure qualifying Mental Health Counseling programs was conducted to determine potential impact on current programs and resources. One institution responded that the existing programs prepare an adequate amount of licensed mental health counselors to meet the needs of the State. The College responded that the program only admits 12-15 students per year and it serves the under-served population in rural Madison, Oneida, Otsego and Lewis Counties. After receiving Cazenovia College's response, the institution that voiced concerns withdrew objection.

Related Regents Item

A related charter petition to add authority to grant the Master of Science (M.S.) degree will also be before the Board at the February 2019 meeting.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of Cazenovia College to authorize the College to offer its first master's level program, a Master of Science (M.S.) in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. This amendment will be effective until February 2020, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan and charter amendment, the Department will register the program.