





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: Master Plan Amendment: Roberts Wesleyan College,
Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) program in Clinical/School
Psychology

DATE: May 9, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Roberts Wesleyan College to offer a Psy.D. program in Clinical/School Psychology?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its May 2016 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 doctoral level.

Background Information

Roberts Wesleyan College is seeking approval of an amendment to its master plan to offer a Psy.D. program in Clinical/School Psychology. The purpose of the

proposed program is to prepare doctoral level practitioner/scholars who can ethically deliver effective, evidence-based psychological services in a variety of settings, and who can integrate the science and practice of psychology with principles of the Christian faith. The proposed 96-credit Psy.D. program includes a capstone applied research project, and a one-year internship and will span four academic years. The program will utilize a training model that teaches students the core competencies required for clinical and school-based practice, as well as the ability to utilize empirical research to inform practice. The proposed curriculum is designed to meet the educational requirements for professional licensure and teacher certification in New York State, and is aligned with the educational standards for the training of professional psychologists suggested by the American Psychological Association Committee on Accreditation (APA/CoA) and the National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (NCSPP).

Admission to the Psy.D. program requires a minimum bachelor's degree in psychology or a related field with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The bachelor's study shall include courses in statistics and research methods and 15-18 hours in psychological coursework. GRE scores are also required; the 37th percentile has been set as a minimum level, although some flexibility will be allowed for students with special circumstances. Applicants will also be interviewed prior to final acceptance.

The existing classroom, training labs, and office space are adequate to meet the needs of the proposed program. The testing library of the Department of Psychology currently houses multiple copies of approximately 75 different norm-referenced instruments for clinical and school-based practice. All classrooms have internet and audio-visual technology. Academic support services already serve the needs of a doctoral program offered by the adjacent Northeastern Seminary and are prepared to support this new degree.

The program will utilize current departmental faculty consisting of seven full-time doctorally-prepared professors from various fields of expertise (3 clinical psychology, 2 school psychology, 1 counseling psychology, and 1 social psychology/research) and two doctorally-prepared adjunct faculty who are trained and credentialed in school psychology and neuropsychology. Two additional full-time faculty will be added, one in the third year and one in the fifth year following launch, to direct study and to support the increased supervision needs of students working on capstone applied projects and in the clinical experience.

After review of the proposal, the Department determined that the program meets all standards for registration. In addition, as part of the review process, a peer review team conducted a site visit to Roberts Wesleyan College. Following the peer review site visit, a canvass of the institutions of the Finger Lakes Region and the institutions offering licensure-qualifying psychology programs in New York State was conducted to determine the potential impact on current programs and resources. Of those canvassed, there were no objections to this proposal.

Recommendation

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of Roberts Wesleyan College to authorize the College to offer the Psy.D. program. This amendment will be effective until May 17, 2017, 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 amendment, the Department will register the Psy.D. program in Clinical/School Psychology.