



May 8, 2014

Dr. Tracy Teaff
Chief Liaison Officer
Texas A&M University-Central Texas
1001 Leadership Place
Killeen, TX 76549

Dear Dr. Teaff:

Thank you for your letter and prospectus of March 5, 2014, notifying SACSCOC of your intention to close the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology degree program, effective spring 2014, and implement two new degree programs, effective summer 2014. The two new degree programs are:

Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy
Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

This letter will address the prospectus for the M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy and the M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. The closing of the M.S. in Counseling Psychology was addressed in a separate letter.

The M.S. in Counseling Psychology no longer meets the new 60 credit hour state and program accreditation requirements of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapist's Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy (COAMFTE). The state of Texas is increasing the required number of graduate hours to become a licensed professional counselor to 60 credit hours. The old degree program will be modified to reflect the MFT and MHC designations, increase the number of classroom and clinical practice hours, and change the CIP codes to meet the accreditation standards of the two agencies noted above. Students will then be able to earn the credentials as a licensed marriage and family therapist or a licensed professional counselor. The 60 credit hours of coursework reflect a comprehensive master's level curriculum for both degree programs.

The Faculty Roster Form submitted for the M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy indicates that faculty members are qualified and sufficient to teach the program. The three full-time and five part-time faculty members all have Ph.D. degrees in Marriage and Family Counseling with one having a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology. Faculty members for the M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling are also well qualified and sufficient in number. The six full-time and three part-time faculty members all have doctorates in counseling and/or psychology. One full-time faculty position is vacant.

Library and learning resources are adequate. Library services are available over 60 hours per week. The library provides access to roughly 342,000 books and 182,100 journals. Psychology represents approximately four percent of the overall collection. Materials related to marriage and family counseling and related social sciences represent approximately eight percent of the collection. The library also provides access to databases through consortia like TexShare, Amigos, and the Texas A&M Library Consortium.



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The prospectus does not provide a description of available student support programs. **Please provide a description of student support programs, services, and activities—general as well as specific—in place to support this initiative** (*Substantive Change of SACSCOC Accredited Institutions*, p. 26).

Physical resources are adequate for the programs. Existing classrooms and integrated technology are adequate to support the needs of the proposed programs. The University is in the process of building a second building to house the program beginning in fall 2014. The number of classrooms and the level of technology for use in the classrooms will be improved by the addition of this facility. Likewise, financial resources appear to be adequate for the new programs. The University already has strong enrollment in the counseling and psychology program.

The University has a clearly defined process for the evaluation and assessment of its programs. Every new degree program must develop an assessment plan that includes clearly defined expected outcomes. Once a new program is established, the program joins the other academic units in annually assessing student learning outcomes through the University's Continuous Improvement Process (CIP). The CIP process is documented using TaskStream, a common software system that allows annual plans, data, and results of analysis to be stored, managed, and shared from one place.

We defer action concerning the M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy and the M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs pending review of the above requested information. Please provide this information by June 16, 2014.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$300 to help defray the cost of reviewing the prospectus.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/LCS:efk

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Marc A. Nigliazzo, President
Dr. Crystal A. Baird

SACS COC

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES



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