



October 9, 2020

Dr. Marc A. Nigliazzo
President
Texas A&M University-Central Texas
1001 Leadership Place
Killeen, TX 76549

Dear Dr. Nigliazzo:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:
Program Closure
Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Counseling
Submission date:
4/28/2020
Implementation date:
1/1/2018
Case ID:
SC010564

The institution is closing the 48-credit hour Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree program in Counseling. The Texas Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors increased the required hours to 60, and the program no longer meets the academic requirements to attain licensure in Texas as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

Admission to the M.Ed. in Counseling was suspended spring 2018, and a teach-out plan was developed that would result in program completion by all current students by fall 2019. When an institution closes a program or instructional site, it has an affirmative obligation to seek closure approval from the Commission at the time the closure decision is made and prior to the cessation of instruction. The closure date is the date students are no longer admitted.

An advising pathway was devised for students interested in becoming school counselors through completion of the 60-credit hour Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC). Spring 2018, nine students were enrolled in coursework for the M.Ed. in Counseling, and five students were not currently enrolled but had taken coursework within the past year. All students were contacted by email/phone regarding a plan to complete their coursework for a degree. All five inactive students intended to pursue other academic/occupational activities.



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Of the active students, one withdrew from the program spring 2018, and one withdrew from the program fall 2018 to transfer to the M.S. CMHC program. Two of the students graduated 2018, one graduated spring 2019, and four graduated December 2019. One additional student who had completed requirements for School Counseling Certification but not for the M.Ed. in Counseling returned 2018 and graduated in 2019. Students did not incur any additional costs due to the closure of the program.

Faculty and staff will not be impacted by the closure. Per institutional policy, all degree requirements for the program will be taught for six years after the teach-out begins. All but one of the courses required for the M.Ed. in Counseling are part of other degree programs. The one non-shared course will continue to be offered as an elective in the M.S. CMHC program.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approves the late closure of the Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree program in Counseling.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Crystal A. Baird at 404-679-4501 or via email at cbaird@sacscoc.org.

Please include the Case ID number above in all submissions or correspondence about this substantive change.

Sincerely,

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

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/MAC:lp

cc: Dr. Jeffery L. Kirk, Dean, College of Education and Human Development
Dr. Crystal A. Baird