APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College: Education **Department:** Counseling, Educational Psychology and Foundations

Contact Person: Tawny McCleon **Mail Stop:** 9727 **E-mail:** tne1@msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Addition of Certification in School Psychology
Date Initiated: 9/15/2022 **Effective Date:** Fall 2023

New Degree Program Name: Certification in School Psychology
Major: Education **Concentration:** School Psychology (Campus 1, 2 & 5)

Summary of Proposed Changes:
The proposal request is to add a 29-credit hour certificate retraining program designed for working professionals from various fields (i.e., psychometry, special education, and school counseling) to purse alternate and advanced training in school psychology to Campuses 1, 2, and 5.

Approved: **Date:**

1/10/2023

Department Head

Donnie Pontfal Jr - Adc. Educ. Jan 9, 2023

JohnEric W. Smith, PhD Digitally signed by JohnEric W. Smith, PhD Date: 2023.01.16 09:02:40 -06'00'

Chair, College, or School Curriculum Committee

Kimberly R. Hall Digitally signed by Kimberly R. Hall Date: 2023.01.17 15:32:08 -06'00'

Dean of College or School

Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula

Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)

Chair, Deans Council

NEW GRADUATE DEGREE OUTLINE FORM

Use the chart below to indicate your new degree outline. Please list required College and Major Required Courses and if appropriate Concentration Courses. Graduate programs that wish to specialize beyond the Major must have at least two concentrations. Add additional rows as needed for programs with more than two concentrations. Expand rows as needed

PROPOSED New Degree

Degree: Certification in School Psychology
Major: Education
Concentration 1: School Psychology

Certificate in School Psychology

The School Psychology Certificate is a 29-credit hour advanced certificate retraining program designed for working professionals in the fields of psychometry, special education, and school counseling to pursue advanced training in school psychology. This advanced certificate program is designed to train individuals to provide comprehensive and integrated mental health and psychological services (i.e., assessment, intervention, and consultation) in the school setting. Appropriate candidates for this certificate program are educators and mental health providers with experience working in the PreK-12 setting.

For an applicant to be considered for admission in the School Psychology Certification program, the applicant

- Must hold a master's degree or higher degree (i.e., EdS, PhD) in psychometry, school counseling, special education, or related degree in applied psychology. The applicant's transcript must show evidence of courses in 1) developmental psychology/life span development, 2) psychological testing/test and measurement, and 3) abnormal psychology/atypical populations.
- Must have earned a GPA ≥3.0 in previous graduate credit hours with a minimum of 30 credit-hours earned.
- Must hold a current AA or higher license level with the State Board of Education of Mississippi (Mississippi Department of Education) in the endorsement areas of Psychometry (213); School Counselor (436); or Special Education (221 or 206).
- Must verify at least three years of full-time experience working in PreK-12 setting in the area of endorsement.
- Must meet Mississippi State University's graduate admissions requirements.

Students must develop an approved individualized plan of study to document skill development across the following areas: 1) data-based decision making and research, 2) consultation and collaboration, 3) student-level support, 4) system-level support, 5) professional issues, and 6) field-based experiences in school psychology. Students are required to take a minimum of 29 credit hours. Students may be required to complete additional coursework beyond the required coursework to ensure professional competency in all areas. For successful completion of the certificate program, all courses identified on a student's approved individualized plan of study must be completed earning a grade of 'B' or better.

Proposed Curriculum Outline	Required Hours
Certificate Courses:	
EPY 8133 - Crisis Prevention and Intervention in Schools and Related Settings	3
EPY 8690 - Supervised Experiences in School Psychology I	2
EPY 8780 - Internship in School Psychology	12
EPY 8933 - Integrated Psycho-Educational Assessment	3
EPY 9713 - Advanced Psychological Consultation: Theory and Practice	3
*Select one of the following:	
EPY 6133 - Data-based Decision Making in the Schools	3
EPY 9443 - Single Subject Research Designs in Education	
*Select one of the following:	
EPY 8773 - Assessment and Interventions for Academic Skills	3

EPY 8763 - Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis EPY 9723 - Psychology of the Atypical Child Select one of the following: EPY 9703 - Contemporary Legal, and Professional Issues in School & Educational Psychology COE 8073 - Cultural Foundations in Counseling	3
Total Hours	29

Justification (Campus 1, 2, & 5) and Student Learning Outcomes

Adding a certificate program in school psychology with availability at Campus 1 (Starkville), Campus 2 (Meridian) and Campus 5 (Distance Education) will address two needs in the State of Mississippi. First, it will allow certified individuals who have been working for years in a limited compacity of service delivery (assessment, counseling, OR teaching special education) to obtain advanced training in school psychology to make them better adept to provide comprehensive and integrated psychological services (i.e., assessment, counseling, intervention, AND consultation) in the school setting. Second, it will make the certificate more accessible to working professionals across the state of Mississippi as well as neighboring states.

Over the years, the profession of school psychology has changed from an assessment driven/special education eligibility role to a comprehensive and integrated service delivery model for mental health in the school setting. This shift in school psychology is driven by the increase in awareness of mental health difficulties among youth and adolescents, school violence, and trauma experiences in childhood; therefore, requiring the graduate training standards and certification requirements to change. These changes have led to two issues: 1) Increase in number of children identified in need of mental health services in the schools and 2) decrease in competency level of current practitioners (i.e., school counselors, psychometrist, and special education teachers) to provide comprehensive and integrated mental health services.

Mississippi State University (MSU) is the only institution in the state that currently offers the entry level degree in school psychology (Educational Specialist) and it would be the FIRST institution in the state and region (fourth in the U.S.) to offer a re-certification route for training in school psychology. For the past 10 years, the field of school psychology has experienced a shortage of school psychologists working in the field with the state of Mississippi having the 4th highest ratio per school psychologist-to-students. According to the National Association of School Psychologists (2021), the recommended ratio is 1:500; however, the national average is 1:1211. An analysis of data collected by the US Department of Education in 2020 revealed that Mississippi had a ratio at 1: 7178. Furthermore, this shortage has expanded to other fields in mental health. This program addition would allow MSU to become a leader of regional efforts and to join the national efforts to increase mental health services by producing individuals who are eligible for state-level licensure as school psychologists.

1. Will this Program change meet local, state, regional, and national educational and cultural needs?
Yes. For the past 10 years, the field of school psychology has experienced a shortage of school psychologists working in the field nation-wide. We believe this addition will meet the local, state, regional and national needs by making educational opportunities more accessible to individuals from various cultural backgrounds and socio-economic statuses.

2. Will this program change result in a duplication in the system?
No.

3. Will this program change/advance student diversity within the discipline?
Yes. This program addition will allow MSU to reach a broader base of individuals in Mississippi. Also, the offering at Campuses 1, 2, & 5 will allow more flexibility in course offering to attract the working professional and individuals from rural settings who desire to advance their training in fields of education and mental health

in Mississippi

4. **Will this program change result in the potential placement of graduates in MS, the Southeast, and the U.S.?**
   Yes. This program addition will result in an increase in the potential placement of certified school psychologists in MS. With flexible course offerings, students are more likely to be able to adapt current work schedules to course offerings to meet all the course requirements necessary for certification. They would be more likely to continue current employment during the program and afterwards.

5. **Will this program change result in an increase in the potential salaries of graduates in MS, the Southeast, and the U.S.?** Yes. This program addition will result in more graduates who are eligible for state-level certification as a school psychologist, and it will directly increase their certification level from AA to AAA within the Mississippi Department of Education. Also, we believe that this change will increase the demand for more school psychologists in the school settings; therefore, improving the job market for the field.

Learning outcomes: As this certificate is modeled after the requirements for the EdS degree in School Psychology, there will be no modification to the learning outcomes used with the original concentration in school psychology.

Support: Please see letters of support from program faculty from Campus 1 in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Foundations and the administration from Campus 2.

Proposed 4-letter Abbreviation:
Certification in School Psychology: CSPY

Effective Date: Fall 2023

Appendix 16: Intent to Offer, Modify, or Delete Certificate* Program

(Submit Appendix 16 in PDF format with signatures)

Institution: Mississippi State University – Meridian Campus

Date of Implementation: Fall 2023

Six-Digit CIP Code (& Four-Digit Sequence Code if modification/deletion): 422805 130802

Total Credit Hours: 29

CIP & Sequence codes: IHL Active Program Inventory

Program Title as will Appear on Academic Program Inventory: Certificate in School Psychology

☒ **Offer** ☐ **Modify** ☐ **Delete**

Responsible Academic Unit(s):
Counseling, Educational Psychology, & Foundations

Institutional Contact: Tawny E. McCleon, PhD
Phone: (662) 484-0467
Email: tmccleon@colled.msstate.edu

Vocational Certificate: **Yes**

Credit Bearing Program: **Yes**

Title IV Financial Aid Eligible: **No**

Which of the following best describes the certificate program:

Post-Master's

Program designed beyond the master's degree but does not meet the requirements for a doctoral degree

Program Summary:
This certificate program will offer a 29-credit hour coursework sequence that is designed as a professional re-training for working professionals in various fields (i.e., psychometry, special education, and school counseling) to pursue alternate and advanced training in school psychology. This certificate program is designed to train individuals to provide comprehensive and integrated mental health and psychological services (i.e., assessment, intervention, and consultation) in the school setting. The certificate program will allow these currently employed individuals to be eligible for an advanced and supplemental endorsement (AAA 451 School Psychologist) from the State Board of Education of Mississippi. Also, this certification will allow these individuals to expand mental health services provided in local school districts; thus, addressing the concerns of school safety, social and emotional learning, and early identification of students with academic, behavior, and emotional difficulties.

_____ _____
Institutional Contact Signature **Date**

_____ _____
Chief Academic Officer Signature **Date**

*Certificate programs added to the Academic Program Inventory must be credit-bearing and be vocational in nature with some professional benefit to program completers. Undergraduate certificates are eligible for Title IV financial aid programs. Certificate programs that are not credit-bearing or are lifelong learning in nature (i.e., photography, travel, etc.) with no professional component should not be included in the Academic Program Inventory.