

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Item Name: Request for New Academic Program for Northern Arizona University**

Action Item

**Requested Action:** Northern Arizona University asks the board to approve the new program request effective for the 2019-2020 academic year.

### Background/History of Previous Board Action

As provided in board policy, Academic Strategic Plans may be modified during the year with the approval of the Academic Affairs and Educational Attainment Committee.

- The Arizona Department of Health Services and the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) have designated much of Arizona as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. The Arizona state average for the ratio of mental health providers to population is 839:1. In 2016, the national average was 640:1. NAU, an established state-supported institution, has had recent conversations on the need to develop an applied doctoral-level practitioner program in Clinical Psychology to meet AZ behavioral health care needs. There are currently no state institutions in Arizona that offer a Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) program focused on preparing clinical psychologists. The closure of Argosy University in Phoenix has spurred us to act on these existing ideas to offer a PsyD in Clinical Psychology in the Phoenix area through the Department of Educational Psychology that is part of the College of Education. The EPS department has a long history of offering doctoral programs in health service psychology and has had doctoral programs in Counseling and/or School psychology leading to certification/licensure since the 1970's. They also have the experience of offering programs in locations across the state including the Phoenix area.
- There are several benefits to offering this program. First, this program addresses the behavioral health care needs in the state. Second, it will help to fill a void created with the departure of Argosy University in Phoenix. At any given time, there were over 100-125 students in behavioral health care practicum settings across the Phoenix area and in other areas of the state providing over 5,000 supervised hours of behavioral health services. This program will help to meet that need. Third, it addresses displaced Argosy students who will have an opportunity to apply to an established public institution that is stable and has a long history of offering successful, high quality academic programs.

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### **Discussion**

Northern Arizona University seeks to amend its Academic Strategic Plan for implementation in the 2019-2020 academic year. This request is for the following:

- **Doctor of Psychology, Clinical Psychology**

### **Committee Review and Recommendation**

The Academic Affairs and Educational Attainment Committee reviewed this item at its May 30, 2019 meeting, and recommended forwarding the item to the full board for approval.

### **Statutory/Policy Requirements**

ABOR Policy 2-223.A – the Academic Strategic Plan

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**ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**UNIVERSITY:** Northern Arizona University



**PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

**NAME OF PROPOSED DEGREE:**

Doctor of Psychology, Clinical Psychology  
College of Education  
Department of Educational Psychology  
Flagstaff, Arizona  
Catalog year 2019-2020

**PROGRAM FEE REQUIRED?** YES  NO

This program is designed to be self-supporting with tuition and program fees being used to offset costs of instruction including enhancing program quality resulting in meaningful learning experiences for students to practice in a state where the behavioral health needs are rapidly increasing and posing new challenges for all health service professionals. The program fee will enable the program to hire institutional personnel to assist with practicum and internship placements, operating expenses, assistance with preparing for the national licensure exam and specific learning experiences such as purchasing current psychological testing materials and test scoring technology including providing support for faculty teaching assessment courses. All of these experiences are necessary for students to be successful in the field. A portion of the fee will be used for financial set aside and scholarships for those students who demonstrate financial need. The cost of this program for in-state students will be well below the one private institution that offers this program in Arizona and slightly below the market rate for out of state students making this program extremely affordable.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

The Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) program in Clinical Psychology is designed to train prospective students in the delivery of ethical, culturally-competent and evidence-based diagnostic, intervention and assessment services that effectively meet the needs of diverse populations in diverse settings. To help ensure that students are adequately prepared, the curriculum is designed to provide for the meaningful integration of theory, training, and practice. The PsyD in Clinical Psychology degree program is designed to emphasize the development of attitudes, knowledge, and skills essential to the training of clinical psychologists who are committed to the ethical provision of quality services.

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)<sup>4</sup> (Retrieved May 5, 2019), the employment of Psychologists is projected to increase by 14% from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. Job prospects are best for those with a doctoral degree in an applied area (i.e., clinical, counseling, school, etc.). Number of jobs available in 2016 was 166,600. The increased demand for psychological services in schools, hospitals, mental health centers, and social service agencies should drive employment growth.

The Arizona Department of Health Services and the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) have designated much of Arizona as Mental Health Professional

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Shortage Areas. The Arizona state average for the ratio of mental health providers to population is 839:1. In 2016, the national average was 640:1.

This program is aimed at increasing the number of students with a Doctor of Psychology degree that leads to licensure as a psychologist. It is designed to meet the workforce demands in Arizona through the expansion and engagement of mutually beneficial partnerships with behavioral health agencies across the state.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT PLAN:

**Learning Outcome 1 (LO1):** Acquire knowledge of basic areas in scientific psychology including the field of clinical psychology, psychodiagnostics, psychometrics, psychological assessment, research, and statistics.

- **Concepts:** Basic areas in scientific psychology include affective, biological, cognitive, developmental, and social aspects of behavior and the history and systems of psychology: psychopathology, research, statistics, psychometrics, and psychological assessments.
- **Competencies:** Demonstrate conceptual and theoretical knowledge on the foundations of clinical psychology, synthesize this information, and apply this understanding to psychological functioning, diagnosis and treatment. Ability to administer and interpret psychological tests and apply basic knowledge in scientific psychology including psychopathology to the assessment process. Effective communication of assessment and treatment in oral and written reports for a range of purposes and audiences.
- **Measures and Assessment:** Clinical evaluation competency assessment; psychological reports and case studies with rubrics to demonstrate competency in these areas including ability to effectively communicate results.

**Learning Outcome 2 (LO2):** Students will demonstrate ethical behavior and deep commitment to the professional standards of practice, including cultural competence to effectively serve the needs of diverse populations in diverse settings.

- **Concepts:** APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct; cross-cultural theories and tenets, issues of diversity and the impact on human behavior and functioning.
- **Competencies:** Ability to articulate, critically evaluate, reflect and apply sound ethical reasoning in complex situations in health service settings, and demonstrate professional and ethical behavior which addresses the needs of diverse clients in the southwest and across multiple settings.
- **Measures and Assessment:** Comprehensive exams assessing level of knowledge and application of core topics; case studies with rubrics.

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**Learning Outcome 3 (LO3):** Students will demonstrate entry-level practice skills in integrated health service settings and develop strong identity as psychologists.

- **Concepts:** Knowledge of evidence-based assessment, intervention and treatment options including therapeutic, consultation and supervision skills.
- **Competencies:** Ability to integrate theory and practice, and apply these skills and concepts effectively in integrated healthcare settings.
- **Measures and Assessment:** Successful completion of practicums and internships; clinical evaluation competency and clinical comprehensive examinations

**Learning Outcome 4 (LO4):** Students will deepen their knowledge and critical thinking skills in a focused area of clinical psychology and demonstrate the ability to use these skills to evaluate evidence-based research for use in psychological practice and disseminate this information publicly. Students will also complete an applied research project to advance the field of applied psychology in a meaningful way.

- **Concepts:** Understand and apply research design and parameters of psychological research and conduct appropriate statistical analysis; communicating research.
- **Competencies:** Ability to identify and effectively utilize the methods of research in clinical psychology and utilize appropriate statistical analysis strategies to answer important research questions and communicate the results effectively.
- **Measures and Assessment:** Applied clinical research project paper, oral defense, and national psychology licensure exam (EPPP) scores.

**PROJECTED 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR ENROLLMENT: 70**

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