

APPENDIX K

Request for Authorization to Establish a Specialist in School Psychology Degree at Appalachian State University

Introduction

Appalachian State University notified the Office of the President of its intent to request authorization for a Specialist in School Psychology degree (CIP# 42.1701) in November 2004. ASU requests approval to establish the program in April 2005.

Program Description

ASU requests that the current Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) offered in the School Psychology program be converted from a certificate designation to a degree, Specialist in School Psychology (SSP), which is nationally recognized as the appropriate degree for 30 hours of coursework taken beyond the master's degree. The ASU School Psychology program is a 72-hour program accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and housed in the Department of Psychology. From its inception, the awarded terminal degree has been the MA degree and a Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS), which is awarded for the approximately 30 hours taken beyond the MA degree requirements. The coursework for the requested SSP degree will be the same as that for the current CAS.

Justification

Many states have rewritten their salary regulations in recent years resulting in ASU School Psychology graduates not being paid on the advanced degree salary schedule by departments of public instruction. Many states do not recognize the CAS as a degree. An SSP degree would have the advantage of making the depth and breadth of the ASU School Psychology program more apparent to state certification officers and prospective employers. Converting the CAS to an SSP degree is consistent with national trends in school psychology programs.

Resources

No additional resources are required to designate the existing certificate as a degree.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Specialist in School Psychology degree (CIP# 42.1701) at Appalachian State University effective April 2005.