

PROPOSAL: Create the Master of Arts in School Psychology program.

Background

The Faculty Senate Executive Board acting as the Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of the Master of Arts in School Psychology program offered by the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies in the College of Education and Human Development.

The program is needed in Michigan. In 2021 the Michigan State Legislature initiated a task force that was charged with creating an action plan to address shortages of special education professional in the state, including school psychologists. WMU's College of Education and Human Development received a three-year award to develop a School Psychology. WMU is well suited to offer this program because of existing courses in Special Education, Evaluation, Measurement and Research, and Behavior Analysis, as well as existing library resources to support development of this program.

This MA is designed because the Specialist in Education in School Psychology is the required degree for practice in public schools nationwide; however, many public school districts do not have an pay scale for this advanced degree. Instead districts often have a masters plus 20 or 30 credits option on their pay scales. This MA option allows our candidates to pursue compensation reflective of their earned degrees in school psychology.

Recommended Action

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