

# UConn

## NEAG SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

### Curricula & Courses Committee

To: Rachael Gabriel, Alex Freidus, Adam McCready, Mike Young, Jaci VanHeest, Ann Traynor and Dorothea Anagnostopoulos

From: John Zack, Chair

Date: May 14, 2024

Re: Minutes of the Curricula & Courses Committee Meeting held May 14, 2024

In attendance via Microsoft Teams: John Zack, Alex Freidus, Adam McCready, Mike Young, Ann Traynor, Dorothea Anagnostopoulos, and Diane Matteau

---

1) Approval of April, 2024 meeting minutes

- *John Zack began the meeting at 10:04am. Adam made a motion to adopt the April, 2024 minutes, Alex seconded, and all voted in favor. (5-0)*

2) Course Revisions

a) **EPSY 3235: The Resident Assistant Experience (CAR 24-25371)**

**Explanation:** Looking to change current 3-credit class to a 1-credit class as we reshape the use of the class experience as part of the RA position.

**Current Catalog Copy:**

EPSY 3235 The Resident Assistant

Credit: 3 credit

Catalog Description: Focuses on the development of college students as it relates to college residence hall life and the Resident Assistant position. Topics include leadership, community development, select (human) student development theories, and issues of social justice.

Students will develop a working knowledge of human development theory for college students and associated practical applications.

**Proposed Catalog Copy:**

EPSY 3235: The Resident Assistant Experience

Credits: 1 credit

Prerequisites: Open to Resident Assistants in their first year as an RA only

Grading Basis: Graded

Course Description: This course focuses on the development of individuals in the Resident Assistant (RA) position at the University of Connecticut. Throughout this course, students will explore the theoretical foundations of emotional intelligence, student and community development, DEI, conflict management and communication. Through a combination of discussions, experiential activities, case studies, and self-reflection exercises, students will have

the opportunity to deepen their understanding of emotional intelligence and develop practical skills that are essential in navigating the many components of the RA position.

**APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT:** April 5, 2024

**APPROVAL BY DEPT. HEADS:** April 8, 2024

**Not approved by C&C** – Zack sent an email for further clarification on this change.

**Additional Explanation received on 4/18/2024:**

First, when it was a 3-credit class it was split into a 1-hour lecture and a 2-hour discussion per week for all first year RAs. This proved to be problematic and impractical for many RAs as this is an additional commitment to their required coursework. With the addition of the RA position on their already busy schedules the class caused additional strain on them and therefore wasn't as effective as we had hoped. Through our assessment of the RA class the RAs felt the discussion was valuable and provided better learning opportunities. Similarly, they felt the lecture didn't provide much additional substance that could be used for their job.

One of the main rationales behind this adjustment is to enhance the course's accessibility and flexibility for the RAs. By reducing the credit hours, we aim to make the course more manageable for the RAs, while still providing content and maintaining the successful discussion component of the previous class. The approach will hopefully lean towards a better learning opportunity for RAs to further engage with the chosen topics, which will help them become more effective and well-rounded Resident Assistants.

In terms of content adjustments, we have reviewed the previous course curriculum and identified certain topics that could be condensed or integrated more efficiently without compromising the learning objectives. We will still focus on conflict management, student development, group development, DEI and interpersonal skills, which are all important to the RA position and were included in the previous class. We have removed some topics such as writing a learning outcome and creating a facilitation guide as those will no longer be required for RAs to do. Other topics have just been adjusted to approach the class with a focus on interpersonal skills, DEI and emotional intelligence which are needed for the success of RAs.

- *Zack revisited the course revision above and opened it up for discussion.*
- *Adam shared his concerns again about this course falling under EPSY and not EDLR. He feels that this item shouldn't be voted on until that is sorted out.*
- *After a lengthy discussion, Mike made a motion to table this item, Adam seconded, and all voted in favor. Dorothea will set up a meeting with EPSY and EDLR representatives to discuss.*

### 3) Program Revisions

#### a) **LPC Certificate (GPAR 24-RENZ-LKVGMR)**

**Explanation:**

Students coming into the LPC certificate are pursuing LPC licensure in CT. This licensure is heavily regulated (it has its own chapter in the CT general statutes). To pursue licensure, individuals need a master's degree in counseling, or a related field, and to show graduate coursework from an accredited institution in 13 core content areas. This certificate bridges the content area for the 4 most common areas accredited school counseling programs do not address in their regular curriculum. The Department of Public Health, which oversees the licensure procedures in CT looks for completion of content areas, not completion of degrees or certificates.

We are asking to change the language in the catalog copy which would allow students to waive up to 2 courses or 6 credits of the 18 credits. If students waived up to two courses, they would complete the LPC certificate for 12 credits, this still falls within the bylaws of the graduate school in regards to credit limits of certificate programs.

We are asking for the changes in the catalog copy for several reasons. First, the group of applicants who have expressed interest in the certificate are coming a wider variety of backgrounds (school psychology, addiction studies etc). The students from these varied master's degree programs are often bringing in different courses than school counselors. For example, individuals with a master's degree in addiction studies are coming into the certificate having completed the addictions and substance abuse course. The current language in the graduate school catalog does not allow for students to have flexibility or waive any of the courses. This could dissuade students from participating in the certificate. We have accepted 11 students who plan to start this summer, 5 of these students would qualify for the course waiver based on the previous coursework they have taken.

The second reason we are proposing this change is because of the LPC statute being updated in 2017. As the new catalog language reflects, the LPC statute was changed (somewhat recently), and the requirements for individuals who matriculated into a master's degree program after July 2017 are much more stringent than those who matriculated before that date. As the catalog copy goes onto say, individuals who matriculated before should reach out to the program coordinator. They will need to be advised on a case-by-case basis as much will depend on what they are bringing in from their master's degree program.

**Current Catalog Copy:**

The Licensed Professional Counselor Certificate is designed for those students who have already completed a master's degree in School Counseling, School Psychology, or a related mental health field at a regionally accredited institution. Applicants must have taken, or, be enrolled in a master's program requires coursework in the following content areas; human growth and development, social and cultural foundations, counseling theories, counseling techniques, group counseling, career counseling, appraisal procedures, research and evaluation, and completed a Practicum of at least 100 hours. The LPC Certificate consists of eighteen credits of specified coursework, at the conclusion of the coursework and clinical internships individuals can apply for the LPC-A certification from the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

**Requirements:**

The LPC Certificate requirements conform to the Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 383c (Professional Counselors), requirements from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Graduate School, and the Department of Educational Psychology. The LPC Certificate requires satisfactory completion of 18 credits maintaining at least a "B" average. The required courses are listed below, there are no elective courses in this certificate sequence.

**Required Courses:**

Professional Orientation to Mental Health Counseling

Addictions and Substance Abuse Counseling

Trauma and Crisis Counseling

Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders Internship (taken up to four times). Students will be placed in a clinical counseling internship for 300 hours for two summers (600 hours total for the certificate).

Internship requirement:

Students are required to complete a total of 600 internship hours (240 of those hours must be in direct service) at a clinical mental health setting. The internship complies with the Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 383c, Professional Counselors, and requirements established by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

**Proposed Catalog Copy:**

The Licensed Professional Counselor Certificate is designed for current graduate students or individuals who have already completed a master's degree in School Counseling, School Psychology, or a related mental health field at a regionally accredited institution and matriculated after July of 2017. (Students interested in the LPC who matriculated into a graduate program before July of 2017 should email the program coordinator). Applicants who complete this certificate may have the ability to pursue LPC licensure, depending on completion of other requirements as stipulated by the CT General Statutes 383c (Professional Counselors). Applicants must have taken, or, be enrolled in a master's program that requires coursework in the following content areas: human growth and development, social and cultural foundations, counseling theories, counseling techniques, group counseling, career counseling, appraisal procedures, research and evaluation, and completed a practicum of at least 100-hours. Students must complete 18 credits.

Required Courses:

EPSY 5322 (repeated for a total of 6 credits), 5323, 5324, 5625, 5626. Up to two of the following courses (maximum of 6 credits) may be waived with approval at the time of admission based on a student having taken equivalent courses: EPSY 5323, 5324, 5625, 5626. We will review transcripts individually in order to consider exemptions, but UConn cannot guarantee that any course from another institution will meet the criteria for the Department of Public Health; students are encouraged to reach out to the licensing authorities in the state with questions. A minimum of 600 hours of clinical internship in a clinical mental health setting is required as part of EPSY 5322 (6 credits total) and for licensure.

- *Zack reviewed the program revision above. No discussion was necessary, so Adam made a motion to approve, Mike seconded, and all voted in favor of the change. (5-0)*

**APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT:** April 12, 2024

**APPROVAL BY DEPT. HEADS:** April 12, 2024

**APPROVAL BY C&C COMMITTEE:** May 14, 2024

**APPROVAL BY NEAG FACULTY:** May 22, 2024

- *The meeting adjourned at 10:39am.*