

To: Elizabeth Boling, Associate Dean for the School of Education Graduate Studies

From: Susan C. Whiston, Counseling/Counselor Education Coordinator

Date: April 3, 2014

Re: Degree Name Changes

Within the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology, there is the Counseling program, which currently offers a Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) degree in Counseling and Counselor Education. The Counseling program faculty would like to request a degree name change for the Ed.S. degree. We would like to request that the Ed.S. degree be changed from the Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) in Counseling and Counselor Education to a Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) in Mental Health Counseling.

The changing of the degree name to Mental Health Counseling is consistent with the accreditation of the Ed.S. degree by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), which states that the Ed.S. program is accredited in Mental Health Counseling. In addition, this name change is related to recent modifications in Tricare/Medicaid regulations, which state that reimbursement for mental health services can only be provided by non-licensed personnel when the degree is in Mental Health Counseling or Clinical Mental Health Counseling. In order to be licensed as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in the state of Indiana, graduates must complete 3,000 hours of post degree clinical work. As most agencies in Indiana bill mental health services through Tricare/Medicaid, these agencies are now not hiring our graduates because the degree name is not in Mental Health Counseling. Therefore, the degree name change is critical to the graduates of the Ed.S. program.