

February 22, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D. 
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) Certificate

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve a new Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) Certificate in the Neag School of Education.

BACKGROUND:

According to Connecticut General Statutes (chapter 383c), a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) may engage or practice in professional counseling: "The practice of professional counseling includes, but is not limited to, engaging in the independent practice of professional counseling." This would enable individuals with their LPC to open their own private practices, and charge insurance for counseling services. The LPC in Connecticut is overseen by the Department of Public Health. Currently in Connecticut and nationwide, there is a shortage of LPC's in the workforce, including over 900 LPC openings in Connecticut in February 2022. The need and demand for individuals trained in counseling is only going to increase as the state and nation recover from the COVID pandemic.

The Licensed Professional Counselor Certificate is an 18-credit minimum online program completed over that occurs in the summer. Individuals who apply for this certificate will need to meet strict admissions criteria and commit to summer coursework and clinical internships (please see the admission requirements section for more details). Individuals who successfully complete the certificate program will be able to apply to the Connecticut Department of Public Health for their LPC-A (Licensed Professional Counselor - Associate) certification. This certification acknowledges that the individual has completed the coursework and graduate school clinical internship requirements but will still need to complete 3,000 hours of post-graduate supervised counseling work to be able to apply for the full LPC licensure. The LPC Certificate requirements conform to the Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 383c (Professional Counselors) and requirements from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Graduate School, and the Department of Educational Psychology.

Request for New Academic Degree Program

General Information

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| Name of degree program: | Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) Certificate |
| Name of sponsoring Department: | Department of Educational Psychology |
| Name of School/College | Neag School of Education |
| Type of Proposal: | New |
| Type of Program: | Post-Master's or Sixth Year Certificate |
| Location: | Online |
| Anticipated Initiation Date: | Fall 2023 |
| Program Payment Type: | Fee-based |
| CIP Code: | 51.1508 |

Justification for the New Program

What is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)? According to Connecticut general statutes (chapter 383c), a Licensed Professional Counselor may engage or practice in professional counseling: "The practice of professional counseling includes, but is not limited to, engaging in the independent practice of professional counseling." This would enable individuals with their LPC to open their own private practices, and charge insurance for counseling services. The LPC in Connecticut is overseen by the Department of Public Health.

Currently in Connecticut and nationwide, there is a shortage of LPC's in the workforce. For example, there were over 900 LPC openings in Connecticut in February 2022. The need and demand for individuals trained in counseling is only going to increase as the state and nation recover from the COVID pandemic. The levels of trauma, anxiety, isolation, and social anxiety that children and adults are experiencing is unprecedented, and an adequate workforce of trained licensed counselors to meet the needs is simply not available. This certificate is a logical extension for the Counselor Education program because the plan of study for students in the master's program includes much of the content which is required for the LPC. The law requires that individuals pursuing an LPC have completed at least sixty hours in counseling or a related mental health field at a regionally accredited institution of higher education. In addition, specific coursework needs to be completed in the following areas.

The list below are the required content areas which the current master's degree program in School Counseling and Counseling Psychology includes in the plan of study. Human Growth and Development, Social and Cultural Foundations, Counseling Theories, Counseling Techniques, Group Counseling, Career Counseling -Appraisals or Tests and Measurements, Research & Evaluation, 100 hour practicum.

The following content areas are also required for the LPC, and will be the focus of the new courses being offered as part of the certificate: -Professional Orientation to Mental health Counseling -Addiction and Substance Abuse -Trauma & Crisis Counseling -Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental and Emotional Disorders -600 hour Clinical Mental Health Internship (taught by a faculty member licensed or certified as a professional counselor).

The certificate is designed to enable current and former graduate students in school counseling, as well as current school counselors, to participate. Accordingly, all coursework and clinical experiences will be conducted over the course of at least two summers (or longer, if the individual would like to spread the coursework over time). To successfully complete the certificate, students must complete a)600 hours of

internship in a clinical mental health setting. (Please note, that this internship can be completed in two summers with students doing 300 hours per summer, or in up to four summers), and b)12 credits of coursework in the following: a)Professional Orientation to Mental Health Counseling b)Addictions and Substance Counseling c)Trauma & Crisis Counseling d)Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorder (Please note, this coursework can be completed over the course of two summers, or spread out to accommodate the students schedule).

We provide here, examples of how a student may structure their certificate program over two summers and over three summers to show that the certificate has a flexible schedule to accommodate students with differing demands on their time. Example 1: Sample course structure for a two-summer program Summer 1: 9 Credits - Professional Orientation to Mental Health Counseling (Summer Session 1, 3 credits);Addictions and Substance Counseling (Summer Session 2, 3 credits);Internship (300 hours) (Summer Session 3, 3 credits); Summer 2: 9 Credits -Trauma & Crisis Counseling (Summer Session 1, 3 credits);Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders (Summer Session 2, 3 credits); Internship (300 hours) (Summer Session 3, 3 credits). Example 2: Sample course structure for three summers: Summer 1 - 12 credits -Trauma and Crisis Counseling (summer 1, 3 credits) -Professional Orientation to Mental Health Counseling (summer 1, 3 credits) -Addictions & Substance Abuse Counseling (summer 2, 3 credits) -Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders (summer 2, 3 credits) Summer 2 - 3 credits - Internship (300 hours) (summer session 3 - 3 credits) Summer 3 - 3 credits - Internship (300 hours) (summer session 3 - 3 credits)

Are there similar programs in CT or elsewhere?

Several Clinical Mental Health master's degree programs are available in CT. Students who complete one of these programs would be eligible for the LPC. The following Connecticut Schools have a MS or MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling: - Central Connecticut State University, M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling; Fairfield University, M.A. in Clinical Health Counseling; Southern Connecticut State University, M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling; University of Bridgeport, M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling; University of Saint Joseph, M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. When individuals graduate from these programs they are known as a LPC-A, or LPC Associate. Per the Connecticut General Statutes, 383c, "An applicant for a license as a professional counselor associate shall submit to the Commissioner of Public Health evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having (1) earned a graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling as part of a program of higher learning accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, or a successor organization, or (2) (A) completed at least sixty graduate semester hours in counseling or a related mental health field at a regionally accredited institution of higher education that included coursework in each of the following areas: Human growth and development; social and cultural foundations; counseling theories; counseling techniques; group counseling; career counseling; appraisals or tests and measurements to individuals and groups; research and evaluation; professional orientation to mental health counseling; addiction and substance abuse counseling; trauma and crisis counseling; and diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, (B) completed a one-hundred-hour practicum in counseling taught by a faculty member licensed or certified as a professional counselor or its equivalent in another state, (C) completed a six-hundred-hour clinical mental health counseling internship taught by a faculty member licensed or certified as a professional counselor or its equivalent in another state, and (D) earned from a regionally accredited institution of higher education a graduate degree in counseling or a related mental health field." Individuals who are LPC-A's have completed all the coursework, and graduate school supervised clinical experiences outlined by the Department of Public Health, and have applied for LPC-A status. They will still need to have 3,000 hours of supervised postgraduate work to

become an LPC. Graduates from the master's programs listed above will be able to apply for the LPC-A, through the CT-DPH immediately after graduation, then will need to complete 3,000 hours of supervised counseling to earn the full LPC credential.

In Connecticut, there are two in-person LPC Certificate programs designed for individuals who have a master's degree in School Counseling:

1. Southern Connecticut State University: Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Post-Master's Certificate and
2. Central Connecticut State University: Advanced Official Certificate Program in Professional Counseling Both of the certificate programs are designed for individuals who have graduated with their master's in school counseling (or a related degree). Both take place during the regular academic year. When individuals complete these certificates they will be able to apply for their LPC-A, and will need to find a supervisor to oversee their 3,000 post-graduate hours to become a LPC.

What are the desired learning outcomes of the program?

Students will have the knowledge and skills that allows them to achieve the following objectives (which are aligned with the identified CACREP standards for Clinical Mental Health Counseling):

1. Demonstrate the ability to effectively work with and counsel individuals from diverse or underrepresented communities (CACREP Standard 5.C.2.j, 5.C.3.e);
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact on crises and trauma on an individual (CACREP Standard 5.C.2.f, 5.C.3.b);
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the diagnostic process and procedures utilized in the counseling process (CACREP Standard 5.C.2.d, 5.C.3.a);
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills and counseling process when dealing with addictions or substance abuse (CACREP Standard 5.C.2.e, 5.C.3.b);
5. Understand the history and development of the clinical mental health profession, as well as the role the counselor plays in different settings (CACREP Standard 5.C.1.a)

Program Description

The Licensed Professional Counselor Certificate is at least an 18 credit online program completed over that occurs in the summer. Individuals who apply for this certificate will need to meet strict admissions criteria and commit to summer coursework and clinical internships (please see the admission requirements section for more details). Individuals who successfully complete the certificate program will be able to apply to the Connecticut Department of Public Health for their LPC-A (Licensed Professional Counselor - Associate) certification. This certification acknowledges that the individual has completed the coursework and graduate school clinical internship requirements but will still need to complete 3,000 hours of post-graduate supervised counseling work to be able to apply for the full LPC licensure. Program 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 for the LPC Certificate are: Professional Orientation to Mental Health Counseling; Addictions and Substance Abuse Counseling; Trauma and Crisis Counseling; Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders; Internship (taken at least twice). Students will be placed in a clinical counseling

internship for a specified number of hours in the 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. Distinctive Features: The certificate program has several distinctive features compared with the other two certificate programs in the state (offered at Central and Southern). UConn's certificate will be fully online and all classes and clinical experiences will occur in the summer. The certificate can be completed in a minimum of two summers or extended so that an individual completes one course per summer. The intention of running this program in the summer is so that current graduate students and practicing school counselors can participate while not having to add a full year of coursework to their graduate programs or to take a leave of absence from work. Students will complete two clinical internships over the summer, 300 hours each summer. The internships will be close to, if not full time, for eight weeks. Thus, the summer courses will be hosted online to accommodate the student's internship schedules. Coursework and the clinical internship schedules will accommodate the schedule of current graduate students, and individuals working in public schools.

Proposed Graduate Catalogue 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 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 a practicum of at least 100 hours. At the conclusion of the coursework and clinical internships individuals can apply for the LPC-A certification from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Students must complete 18 credits.

Required Courses: EPSY 5625, EPSY 5323, EPSY 5322 (must be repeated for a total of 6 credits), EPSY 5324, EPSY 5626.

Faculty Involvement

Dr. Sara Renzulli, Ph.D., LPC, NCC
Dr. Diandra Prescod, Ph.D., LPC, NCC
Dr. Latoya Haynes-Thoby, Ph.D., LPC, NCC

Enrollment and graduate projections

The certificate is designed to accommodate between 12 and 40 students, and can be completed in a minimum of two summers, but could be extended if students needed additional time. The table below details enrollment projections for the first 4 years of the certificate program. Start Date/Enrollment Projection: Summer 2023 12 Students; Summer 2024 24 Students; Summer 2025 24 Students; Summer 2026 24 Students

Program Evaluation

The program will utilize the following evaluative markers and measures to track effectiveness:

1. Each course in the certificate program will have a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) which will be filled out in Task Stream after the summer session is concluded. Students will complete a self-evaluation mid-way through each internship experience.

2. Internship site-supervisors will complete an evaluation of the student intern mid-way through the internship experience.
3. At the mid-way point in the certificate program (when students have completed two courses and the first internship experience), students will be evaluated by faculty to determine if they are making satisfactory progress.
4. The certificate program will also send surveys to those who have graduated to see if they have found employment which utilizes their LPC.

Program Administration

1. There are several key administrative components to the certificate, which will be handled by Dr. Renzulli. Admissions: Dr. Renzulli will ensure that applicants meet the requirements for admission, audit their transcripts and arrange interviews with the counseling faculty.
2. Teaching Courses: Dr. Renzulli will work with the department head of Educational Psychology to determine who will teach the summer courses for the certificate.
3. Internship Placements / Agreements: Dr. Renzulli will work with each student to secure a summer internship placement. This process will start immediately after the student is admitted into the program.
4. Evaluations: Dr. Renzulli will work with the Neag School Director of Assessment to send out evaluations to students, site supervisors, alumni, and set up the KPI's in Task Stream.

Funding and Financial Resources Needed

No funding is currently needed for the certificate other than allocation of faculty time to develop courses.

Consultation with other potentially affected units

Consultations have already taken place with CETL, School Psychology, the School of Social Work and UConn Health.

Who can apply to this program?

Internal applicants (current UConn students enrolled in another UConn degree or certificate program), External applicants (individuals who are not currently UConn students) - School counseling students and professionals.

Anticipated term and year of first enrollment

June 2023

Admission Requirements

A: Required Coursework / minimum grade in required coursework. Completed or scheduled to take coursework in the following content areas at the graduate level from an accredited higher education institution is required for admission to the program: Human growth & development; -Social and cultural foundations; Counseling theories; Counseling techniques; Group counseling; Career counseling; Appraisals or tests and measurements; Research and evaluation; Practicum, (at least 100 hours). Students need to have earned at least a B in all of these courses.

B: Graduate school GPA. Graduate school GPA of 3.3 or above.

Term(s) to which students will be admitted



Summer

Program Director Name

Sara Renzulli, Assistant Professor-in-Residence, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology