

TRANSMITTAL

DATE: January 24, 2003

TO: Cindy Todd
Senate Council

FROM: Lissa Holland
Graduate Council

The Graduate Council met on October 7, 2002, and approved the following:

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Behavioral Science

Certificate in Medical Behavioral Science

The proposed certificate requires students successfully complete four hours in two required courses, an orientation course (BSC 620) and a methods course (BSC 745) as well as nine hours in three electives (9 hours) and at least one hour in an independent research course (BSC 790). As the graduate courses for this certificate program are already in place and offered by the Department of Behavioral Science, no new courses need be proposed to implement this proposal. In making the present concentration an official certificate, students' transcripts will show not only their course work but also the awarding of the certificate status.

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Department of Behavioral Science
Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Medical Behavioral Science

Overview

As a basic science department of the College of Medicine, the Department of Behavioral Science has a three-fold mission in the areas of research, teaching, and service. First, the Department conducts research in various areas of medical behavioral science, thereby enhancing understanding of many aspects of human behavior in their relevance to health and disease. Second, the Department provides instruction to medical students on concepts from the behavioral sciences that are critical for the provision of excellent patient care and for functioning in the rapidly evolving health care system. The educational mission also includes an extensive commitment to working with graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from various disciplines who are seeking research training in medical behavioral science. Basic behavioral science instruction is also delivered to selected health professional programs, particularly, Dentistry, Nursing, Physical Therapy, and Pharmacy. Finally, faculty provide service for the institution, society and professional organizations by volunteering their efforts. The Department's commitment to graduate education will be illustrated further below.

No graduate degree is offered independently by the Department of Behavioral Science. However, the department is quite active in graduate education. It cooperates with the doctoral programs in Gerontology, Anthropology, Educational and Counseling Psychology, Psychology, Sociology, Communications, Nursing, Nutritional Science, Kinesiology and Health Promotion, and Geography to offer health/medical behavioral specializations in the students' basic disciplines. Sixty-eight graduate students have chosen such a specialization in the past five years.

In the 2000-2001 academic year, 21 students were being financially supported by the Department. These funds are derived from the department's NIMH, NIDA, and DOD training programs, from departmental research grants, from the vice-chancellor's fellowship pool, and from graduate school fellowships. The majority of these students have traineeships, fellowships, or are research or teaching assistants.

The majority of program graduates find employment in academic departments of their basic disciplines. In those positions, they emphasize teaching and research in health/medical aspects of the discipline. It is also common for these individuals to establish research and teaching connections with nearby medical centers. Other graduates select postdoctoral positions, though this remains a less frequent route. The Department has helped guide 68 students to their Ph.D. degrees and 16 to their M.A. degrees in the past five years.

The NIMH, NIDA, and DOD training program grants support six postdoctoral fellows annually. These fellows typically are drawn from the behavioral science disciplines and are seeking further research training in the medical behavioral area. Occasionally, health professionals seeking further behavioral science and medical behavioral research experience accept fellowships; the latter have been individuals with doctorates in nursing science. In one instance, the department accepted a postdoctoral fellow who was supported by a Lyman T. Johnson Minority Postdoctoral Fellowship.

In the past five years, fourteen postdoctoral students have been supported by the NIMH, NIDA, and the DOD training programs, ten were women and two were minorities. In addition, there has

been one postdoctoral scholar supported by a research grant, and one postdoctoral fellow by research grant salary savings.

Graduate Certificate Associates or Affiliates

The Department of Behavioral Science currently has in its budget 13 tenure-track faculty lines, two of which are now vacant. Three additional faculty have primary, tenure-track appointments in the department, but are budget elsewhere. In addition, the department has two emeritus faculty, Drs. Haley and Straus, as well as 12 joint appointees, 4 adjunct and three voluntary faculty. All primary, tenure-track faculty have graduate faculty status and are listed on Table 1 with their topical research interests. Of the two most important required courses: 1) responsibility for the orientation course is rotated among 12 primary faculty; 2) responsibility for the methods course is usually taken by those with specific expertise (Michael Andrykowski – ethics; Mitzi Johnson – quasi-experimental and survey design; Thomas Kelly – experimental design; Craig Rush – biobehavioral pharmacology methods; Nancy Schoenberg – qualitative methods).

Graduate Certificate Director

Since the original awarding of the NIMH training grant 40 years ago, the Department has had a Director of Graduate Studies appointed by the Chairman of the Department and as recognized by the Graduate School. The Director recommended for the proposed certificate curriculum would be the same person appointed as the Director of Graduate Studies appointed by the Department Chairman and the Dean of the Graduate School. Currently, Dr. Mitzi Johnson holds this position

Admission Requirements

To be accepted into the Certificate in Medical Behavioral Science, a student must first be admitted to the University of Kentucky Graduate School as a doctoral student in a doctoral program (usually in a social or behavioral science department) and complete the Certificate application form. Postbaccalaureate (non-degree) and master's-only students are not eligible for admission.

Certificate Curriculum

The Department of Behavioral Science proposes to offer a Graduate Certificate in Medical Behavioral Science designed for students who are enrolled in a doctoral program in a basic academic field. This program typically will admit doctoral students from programs in Anthropology, Communications, Educational and Counseling Psychology, Geography, Gerontology, Health and Physical Education, Nursing, Nutritional Science, Psychology, and Sociology. These students often come to the University of Kentucky to work with our faculty and to obtain training in Medical Anthropology, Medical Sociology, Health Psychology, and Health Communications which are subspecialty fields within each of these disciplines.

The Certificate is designed to provide students with:

An orientation to a multidisciplinary approach incorporating the basic theories and methods from their disciplines with other social and behavioral sciences with identification of areas of convergence and interrelation in content, theories, and methods.

An orientation to health and medical settings, including an enculturation to the attitudes, values, professional interrelationships, and educational objectives of health personnel and organizations, and the nature of behavioral science research in these areas.

Research training designed to equip each student with basic skills and approaches to research design, data acquisition, data analysis, and manuscript and research grant preparation in medical behavioral science through collaboration with ongoing research projects.

The Requirements for completion of the Graduate Certificate in Medical Behavioral Science are:

1. Successful completion of a minimum of thirteen credit hours of graduate course work in Behavioral Science course with a GPA of 3.00 or better, specifically: a required three-credit course in research methods in medical behavioral science (BSC 745: Research Methods in Medical Behavioral Science), a required one-credit course that is designed to orient students to the medical setting (BSC 620: Orientation to Medical Behavioral Science), and nine hours of electives (see listing in Table 2) approved by the Director of Graduate Studies of which at least three credit hours must be from a course outside of the student's basic discipline.
2. Participation in personalized, supervised research activities with a faculty member from the department including experimental, survey, and case study methods applied to research questions related to health and mental health earning credit in BSC 790: Research in Medical Behavioral Science.

A student must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the set of courses required for the graduate certificate in order to be awarded the certificate.