

June 2011

## **DRAFT: Educational Specialist in School Psychology Eastern Washington University Moderate Degree Change**

### **Proposed Change Description and Rationale**

Eastern Washington University (EWU) proposes to change the degree title of its M.S. in School Psychology degree to Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) in School Psychology. The change requires Board consideration because it involves raising the degree level from M.S. to Ed.S. If approved, the change would take effect Fall 2011. No new students would be admitted to the M.S. program; however, current M.S. students would be able to choose between graduating with an M.S. or an Ed.S. degree. This change is necessary because the Ed.S. degree level more accurately conveys the length and depth of the program.

### **Staff Analysis and Recommendation**

With passage of HB 1477 and signed into law by the Governor on April 20, EWU now has authority to grant the Ed.S. degree. Ed.S. programs typically require three years of full-time study, placing them somewhere between master's and Ph.D. programs in terms of length and depth. At 107 quarter credits, Eastern Washington University's M.S. in School Psychology program currently requires the same level of effort from students as would an Ed.S. degree. In fact, the National Association of School Psychologists calls it a "specialist level" program in published reviews. Moreover, both external reviewers supported changing the M.S. program's degree level to Ed.S.

The proposed change meets moderate degree change criteria, since it alters the degree title but not other aspects of the program. The new title would benefit students and employers by clearly communicating the extent of the program's academic and field work, and it would benefit the community by enhancing EWU's ability to recruit high-caliber students.

After careful review of the proposal and supporting materials, HECB staff recommends approval of the Educational Specialist in School Psychology degree at Eastern Washington University. The HECB's Education Committee discussed the proposal during its June 8, 2011 meeting and recommended approval by the full Board.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-16**

**WHEREAS**, Eastern Washington University proposes to offer an Educational Specialist in School Psychology degree; and

**WHEREAS**, Eastern Washington University was granted authority to award the Ed.S. degree with the passage of HB 1477 signed into law by the Governor on April 20, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, The degree would result from changing the degree level in EWU's M.S. in School Psychology to Ed.S. in School Psychology; and

**WHEREAS**, The change would benefit students and employers by clearly indicating the level of academic and field work required; and

**WHEREAS**, The change would benefit the community by enhancing Eastern Washington University's ability to recruit high-caliber students; and

**WHEREAS**, The change meets moderate degree change criteria;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Educational Specialist in School Psychology degree at Eastern Washington University, effective June 30, 2011.

Adopted:

June 30, 2011

Attest:

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Ethelda Burke, Chair

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Earl Hale, Vice Chair