

September 2011

Educational Specialist in School Psychology University of Washington Moderate Degree Change

Proposed Change Description and Rationale

The University of Washington (UW) proposes to change the level of its existing Master of Education (M.Ed.) in School Psychology degree to an Educational Specialist degree (Ed.S.) in School Psychology. If approved, the change would take effect Fall 2011. No new students would be admitted to the M.Ed. program; however, current M.Ed. students would be able to choose between graduating with an M.Ed. or Ed.S. degree.

The change would not require a change to the curriculum since the current Master of Education degree already meets the requirements for an Educational Specialist degree. The University of Washington is requesting this change because the Educational Specialist degree level more accurately conveys the length and depth of the curriculum.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation

Ed.S. programs typically require three years of full-time study – placing them between the usual requirements for master’s and doctoral programs in terms of length and depth. At 124 quarter credits, the M.Ed. program currently requires a level of student effort commensurate with an Ed.S. The National Association of School Psychologists recognizes this by classifying the UW’s M.Ed. as a specialist-level program. Furthermore, both external reviewers support changing the degree level to Ed.S.

The proposed change meets moderate degree change criteria since it alters the degree level 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 the UW’s ability to recruit high-caliber students.

After careful review of the proposal and supporting materials, Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) staff recommends approval of the Educational Specialist in School Psychology degree at the University of Washington. The HECB Education Committee discussed the proposal during its September 6, 2011 meeting, and recommended approval by the full Board.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

917 Lakeridge Way SW • PO Box 43430 • Olympia, WA 98504-3430 • (360) 753-7800 • FAX (360) 753-7808 • www.hecb.wa.gov

RESOLUTION NO. 11-20

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

WHEREAS, The degree would result from changing the degree level of the university's Master of Education in School Psychology to Educational Specialist 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 the 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 the University of Washington, effective Fall Quarter, 2011.

Adopted:

September 29, 2011

Attest:

Earl Hale, Vice Chair

Bill Grinstein, Member