



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

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October 30, 2009

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Dr. Luther F. Carter
President
Francis Marion University
P. O. Box 100547
Florence, SC 29502

Dear Dr. Carter:

Thank you for your letter of September 28, 2009, conveying the Application for Level Change for the proposed addition of the Specialist in School Psychology (SSP) degree program to begin in August, 2010. While most level changes must be approved by the Board of Trustees, Commission policy allows for staff review and approval of changes from Level III (Master's degree) to Level IV (Specialist).

The University currently offers a 69 semester-hour MS in Applied Psychology with a School Psychology Option. Graduates of the program are eligible to be certified by the South Carolina Department of Education as a School Psychologist II and as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist through the National School Psychology Certification Board. A more common model for that kind of certification is a master's plus specialist combination.

The proposed Specialist degree will draw on courses currently included in the MSAP program plus one new course, all of which will be taught by the current faculty. Faculty qualifications appear appropriate. No new library or learning resources will be required to support the program, and existing physical facilities, including the new Richardson Center for the Child, appear adequate to support the program. No new financial resources will be required.

I approve the change to Level IV and include the Specialist in School Psychology degree in the scope of the current accreditation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/SLA:mlm

cc: Dr. Rudolph S. Jackson
Dr. Charlene Wages, Vice President for Administration ✓