

Department of Psychology
Master of Science Program
Program Performance Review 2022
Response to Dean Summary and Rec

M.S. program faculty members are pleased that the Dean views the 2022 Program Performance Review as validating "that the PSYC MS program is a valuable part of the graduate curriculum at CSUF," that the program "prepar[es students] well for clinical professions or to enter PhD programs," that "the Department's decision to ground the program in [the] scientist-practitioner model is a sound one," and that the "program 'increases access for diverse student populations.'"

The Dean's report divides recommendations into two categories—those dealing with coordination and communication with the Psychology Department and those dealing with the program's curriculum. Many of the Dean's recommendations have already been accomplished or are in the process of being addressed. Some of them are easily addressed, while others are part of an ongoing multi-year effort by the program to review and revise the curriculum. Below, the program responds to the recommendations and provides timelines for action on those recommendations.

Department Coordination and Communication

1. The program will deliver an informational presentation to the Department about the MS program.

Action: This presentation will be delivered at a Psychology Department faculty meeting during the fall '22 semester.

2. A non-clinical faculty member will be added to the MS Graduate Studies Committee.

Action: A non-clinical faculty member has been added to the MSGS Committee as of fall '22.

3. Elect a co-coordinator who has "demonstrated cultural competency." Update the description of the MS coordinator in the department's Administrative Handbook to reflect the process of choosing the coordinator, enumerating the coordinator's duties, and stating how the coordinator will be compensated.

Action: The Department will hold an election for a new co-coordinator during the fall '22 semester. The MS Graduate Studies Committee has made revisions to the Administrative Handbook, which will be forwarded to the Department Chair.

4. The MSGS will meet regularly and make public the schedule of those meetings. It will also "hold...an annual or semi-annual meetings that include all faculty who teach in the program."

Action: The MSGS committee plans to continue its practice of meeting on Fridays prior to Department faculty meeting. It will make public this schedule. The

program also plans to hold an annual meeting for all faculty who teach in the MS program, starting in spring '23.

Curriculum

1. "The program will evaluate and, where needed, revise syllabi of core PSYC MS courses, and key elective courses" to "provide students with cultural competency and reflect the new 2022 scope of practice laws for the LMFT."

Action: The MSGS committee currently is in the process of reviewing syllabi, in particular for evidence that culturally competent language and content are integrated into all courses; this review will be completed by the end of fall '22. This review of syllabi is part of an extensive, multi-year process of revising the MS curriculum overall. This revision is planned to be completed by spring '26.

2. The MSGS Committee will replace Psyc 510 with an M.S.-specific research class that includes material taught in Psyc 465, thus removing Psyc 465 as a prerequisite.

Action: This class will need to be developed and fit into the program's course cycle. This class will be added to the curriculum during the '24-'25 academic year.

3. The program will "remove the LPCC from the MS Program."

Action: While, initially, no longer qualifying students to get LPCC licensure appeared to enable students to graduate more quickly, information obtained during the PPR process makes it unclear whether this change would greatly benefit students. (a) MFT licensure now requires 60 units of coursework, the same as LPCC, so there would be no reduction of units. (b) Many students who are not pursuing the LPCC take LPCC-required clinical classes as electives, anyway, so dropping the LPCC would not greatly change elective course patterns. (c) The primary benefit of dropping the LPCC would be a reduction of the face-to-face client hours required in Fieldwork classes from 280 to 225. This reduction of hours would benefit some students but might hinder other students' career plans. The MSGS committee is concerned the dropping the LPCC option might reduce the number of applications to the program. The MSGS committee plans to seek more information from students about the advantages and disadvantages of dropping the LPCC option—including whether that would have affected their choice to attend the program—and will make a final decision by the end of the spring '23 semester.

4. The program will drop the GRE as an admission requirement.

Action: The Curriculum change regarding this is already submitted. The program has also emailed Brenda Hernandez about making this change in the online application. And the Department is removing mention of the GRE from the MS program website.

5. "The program will ask the department to search for a new tenure track clinical faculty member with expertise in family therapy, particularly serving a Latinx clientele." The program should also "reincorporate those faculty" "who have clinical expertise and were originally hired to participate in the MS program but have since stopped teaching in the program." "Before considering a new hire, it is important to complete this faculty needs assessment and complete curricular changes."

Action: As of fall '22, all tenure-track faculty hired to teach in the MS program have been added to the MSGS Committee. Their interest in again teaching in the program remains to be determined. If curricular changes must be completed before a new faculty member can be hired, it may be three or more years before a new clinical search can be conducted.

6. "The program will clarify and make more transparent the student evaluation process, which, though rare[ly], can result in remediation. Explore using the BBS template."

Action: The program added information to the current version of the MS Student Handbook about evaluation and remediation. At the orientation for incoming students, the program provided students with the evaluation form faculty complete at the conclusion of the fall semester. The program has been considering having a second formal evaluation of students at the end of their second semester in the program; the program will consider using the BBS template as part of this assessment. This process will be formalized by the end of the spring '23 semester. The program also continues its mentor group program, in which all first-semester students meet regularly with a program faculty member to discuss concerns and receive support outside of the classroom setting.

7. "The program will clarify and elaborate thesis expectations."

Action: This item has been completed.

8. "The program will revise the fieldwork contract to add the expiration date of supervisors' licenses."

Action: This is in the process of being completed.

9. "The program will continue efforts to provide an inclusive environment in which students feel supported and valued in response to reports of microaggressions.... They will continue having an elected graduate student representative attend MSGS meetings." "We also want to make sure that faculty aware that they need to report any suspected incidents of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation to HR using the 'DHR Misconduct Reporting Form.'"

Action: The program relishes the diversity of its students and continually strives to provide an inclusive environment. The program soon will be holding an election for a new student rep who will attend MSGS Committee meetings. The Committee has valued the contributions of student representatives. The committee members have also discussed and underscored the necessity of

reporting to HRDI incidents of discrimination and harassment. The program will add a statement to its page on the Psychology Department website stating the program's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.