

UNIVERSITY of
NORTHERN COLORADO



Date: 05/23/06

To: Licensed Psychologists seeking the Colorado Department of Education License in School Psychology

From: Robyn Hess

RE: UNC Respecialization Program for Doctoral Level, Licensed (or License Eligible) Psychologists

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the School Psychology Respecialization Program at the University of Northern Colorado. As the Respecialization Program Coordinator, I would like to explain the background and procedures behind this program.

Colorado Licensed Psychologists may secure the CDE License in School Psychology if a director of a Colorado School Psychology program provides an institutional recommendation that the applicant has met the educational and experiential requirements consistent with those of a school psychologist. The language outlining this option are described in CDE's most recent licensure requirements (see below).

- 11.06 (1) (e) if an applicant holds a valid license, issued by the Colorado State Board of Psychologist Examiners, per department of regulatory agency rules, or is eligible to sit for licensure examinations, that applicant shall provide an institutional recommendation from the professional education unit of an accepted Colorado institution of higher education with an approved school psychology program, verifying that the applicant has acquired the specified competencies listed in these rules, including completion of an appropriate internship, and has achieved a passing score on the national school psychology examination.

In order to insure that applicants have the training and experience consistent with these requirements, UNC has developed a respecialization program. Eligible program candidates must be licensed as psychologists in the state of Colorado (or be eligible to sit for the licensure exam) and have documented two years of full-time psychological practice, at least half of which (1500 hours) is with children and adolescents. Through a careful review of the individual's dossier, we will establish that the individual has:

- demonstrated competence in the assessment of students' social, emotional, educational and cognitive status, and school and family contexts, as these effect student's school adjustment;
- demonstrated understanding of instructional practices that support the education of typical and exceptional learners and the organization and operation of schools;
- demonstrated understanding and skill in consultation including building trusting and collaborative relationships with school staff, parents and students to develop, implement, and monitor the effectiveness of intervention programs;
- demonstrated understanding of school psychological practice and professional issues including legal and professional issues governing the practice of school psychology.

Requirements that an applicant has not already met can be completed through the UNC School Psychology Respecialization program.

UNC's School Psychology Respecialization Program uses the following procedure in making this verification:

1. Candidates prepare a folio of documentation for UNC in accordance with the included School Psychology Respecialization Program application form. The folio will not be returned to the Candidate.
2. A faculty panel (2-3 members) will review each Candidate's folio and determine which requirements have been met and which have not been satisfactorily met. For those not met, we specify the coursework or experiences the Candidate needs to complete before providing institutional recommendation to CDE. In most cases, the program of study will include 4 graduate courses taken through UNC (see enclosed brochure). This program of study will also generally include a full academic year, full-time internship in School Psychology as specified in the rules governing the implementation of the Educator Licensing Act of 1991, amended in 2002. For those who have had an APA-approved internship focused directly on children and adolescents, NASP has given us the option of waiving some of the intern hours providing the individual can demonstrate similar experiences to those provided in a school psychology internship. Specific programs of study may vary depending upon the particular training and experience of the candidate. After the review, we will send a letter describing this review and the Program of Study to the Candidate.
3. If the Candidate decides to pursue the program of study as described, he or she signs the letter and returns a copy to our program. Once this contract is signed, there is no additional negotiation around the Program of Study. Therefore, it is important that your dossier completely address your previous coursework/experiences.
4. Once the program of study is agreed upon and a signed letter of agreement is in our files, the Respecialization Program Coordinator will sign a temporary teaching eligibility form (TTE) as requested by the Candidate.
5. Upon completion of all coursework in the Program of Study, most Candidates will complete their internship in a district where they are already employed as a school psychologist under

temporary license. Candidates register for Internship Credit through UNC during this year, and participate in all School Psychology Internship required activities. Their official title must reflect their status as a School Psychology intern during that year. As a School Psychology Intern, Candidates may obtain a CDE intern license to replace their TTEs.

6. Candidates are required by Colorado rules to earn passing scores on the National School Psychology Examination. Currently, a passing score is 660 or above. Most candidates take this examination during the fall or spring semester of their internship year; study materials are available through the program.
7. Once Candidates have: (a) completed their programs of study, (b) completed full-year, full-time internships in school psychology, and (c) obtained passing scores on the National Examination in School Psychology, they are eligible for institutional recommendation. Our licensure officer, Vicky Stromberger, will have your programs of study on record and will sign off on these upon receipt of your CDE application paperwork.
8. Contact Information:
 - Candidates may contact me for more information by calling 970-351-1636 or emailing me at Robyn.Hess@unco.edu