

Truman State University
School of Health Sciences & Education
Department of Education

Proposed Master of Arts in
School Counseling Program

Contact Information

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Gale "Hap" Hairston
Director, Education Preparation
Division of Teacher Quality and Urban Education
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Jefferson State Office Building
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

Dear Mr. Hairston:

Thank you and Mr. Bragg Stanley so much for taking the time to meet with Dr. Sam Minner, Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Education at Truman State University and me at the beginning of May regarding "re-activating" the Master of Arts in School Counseling Program at Truman State University. In keeping with the materials you provided to us we are now submitting a written proposal to "re-activate" the School Counseling Program at Truman State University.

Please find enclosed:

- a Needs Summary and Impact Assessment;
- a curriculum matrix illustrating the courses and experiences required by Truman State University to address the competencies in the MoSTEP Standards, including a syllabus for each school counseling course in the prescribed program of study;
- a current vita from each instructor for the proposed professional education courses; and
- a letter from the Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Education indicating that the institution will support the school counseling program with sufficient personnel, facilities and financial resources to assure its compliance with the standards.

If you are in need of any additional information and/or materials to assist you in your review of the School Counseling Program at Truman State University please do not hesitate to contact me at 660-785-4403 or via email at cjmaglio@truman.edu.

Thanks again for assisting us in working toward "re-activating" Truman's School Counseling Program.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Maglio, Ph.D.
Professor of Counseling
Department of Education
School of Health Sciences and Education
Truman State University

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Needs Summary and Impact Assessment

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Proposed Master of Arts in School Counseling Program**

Needs Summary and Impact Assessment

Since inactivation of the Counseling program there has been continued interest from both current Truman students as well as teaching professionals around the area as to if and when the program would be reactivated because of the need to train school counselors in the Northeast Missouri area. In addition, superintendents from districts throughout the Northeast area have continued to call requesting Counseling graduates who were consistently sought out in the past. The Admissions office at Truman also reported frequent and consistent inquiries in regard to the Counseling program and frequently comments on how Truman's School Counseling graduates who are now in high school counseling positions in districts throughout the state were some of Truman's best recruiters. Alum counselors who completed the School Counseling Program at Truman State University tend to be great "recruiters" for all of Truman's programs

In the proposed format the "re-activated" Master of Arts in School Counseling Program would best service student and district needs by preparing students to be eligible to apply for both K-7 and 8-12 Counselor certifications upon completion of all required elements of the program.

In September of 2008 a needs assessment regarding the potential "re-activation" of the Counseling Program as a School Counseling Program specifically geared toward MO k-12 counselor certification was sent to school counselors in 19 districts that are within realistic driving distance to Truman State University.

Of the 19 districts counselors at 12 districts responded for a 63% response rate. Sixteen counselors from 12 districts responded to the survey. Two counselors responded that there was no one interested in Truman's counseling program at their school. The remaining 14 counselors responded that 25 teachers within their various districts had expressed great interest in pursuing such a degree and that they would like more information as soon as it was possible. Following the survey a number of teachers emailed regarding their interest in the program. Included below are a number of their requests and comments:

- "I have heard from multiple people that Truman may be bringing back the counseling program. I was told that you were the person to ask. Any idea about this or when it may happen?"

- "Before noon I had 4 positive responses wanting more information [about the counseling program]. I copied and pasted your letter to the faculty and asked they respond to me and I would send forward the numbers. Keep us informed as to the progress of the program."

- "I know of a couple of people that live in KV who have talked to me extensively about my degree and wishing there was a program still available. I feel that a MA School Counseling Program at TSU is a much needed program. In our NE district alone we had a huge amount of turnover this year and have at least 2 positions filled with people who

have bachelor's degrees because they couldn't fill their positions with qualified personnel. The projected numbers for the next few years is only to get worse.”

-“I am interested in obtaining some additional hours in this program. Thank you notifying me of this program that may be offered by Truman.”

There appears to be significant interest in the proposed counseling program.

Resources needed for the School Counseling program: In regard to staffing the Counseling Program, ideally the program could be efficiently run with two (2) full-time faculty but could also be effectively run with one (1) full time faculty and numerous adjunct faculty. (This model is used at a number of other schools and appears to be working quite well). Given the number of graduates of Truman’s counseling program there are currently many fully certified school counselors living in the area. It does not appear that it would be a problem to locate and hire highly qualified adjunct instructors for a number of the courses. With one full time faculty and qualified adjunct faculty, given the proposed structure of the program it does not appear unreasonable for the program to be able to handle a maximum of 20 students in each cohort. In addition to personnel, the Counseling program would also need to have a small space that can be used as a counseling lab in which some type of technology that allows students to be watched is available in the room. In the past this was easily accomplished by using closed-circuit TV linked to a small closet. Videotaping equipment would also need to be available for student use.