

The GCCC agreed to review and vote on an Advanced Certificate Studies Certificate: Clinical Mental Health Counseling proposal by the School of Applied Human Sciences (Counseling program).

**I. School of Applied Human Sciences (Counseling Program)**

**Agenda Item – Advanced Studies Certificate**

- 28 NASCERT Clinical Mental Health Counseling Advanced Studies Certificate

G. Olivares held a pre-Meeting on February 3 with R. McNeal, S. Coon, D. Davis-Gage, R. Kidwell, and A. Schmiesing in attendance. After a successful consultation, the pre-meeting members approved the proposal and it was moved forward for full consideration by GCCC members.

D. Davis-Gage provided the following narrative explaining the proposal.

The 18-hour Advanced Studies Certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling will allow school counselors who graduated from an accredited program to complete the educational requirements for becoming a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in the state of Iowa (and most likely many other states). The courses for this certificate consist of **existing** courses in the course catalogue. This will allow school counselors to gain additional training in mental health to serve students in the schools as well as address the shortage of mental health counselors in the state. The 15-month online format has the potential to engage working professionals from across the state of Iowa. At this point, no other university or college allows counselors to return to programs to recertify. Clinical mental health counselors play a pivotal role in providing mental health and wellness services across the lifespan. They are uniquely skilled with a background in mental health diagnosis and treatment, developmental theory, and wellness and prevention practices. The program plans to start admission this summer.

**G. Olivares moved to vote on the Advanced Studies Certificate: Clinical Mental Health Counseling proposal for the School of Applied Human Sciences on February 15, 2022. G. Olivares asked GCCC members to respond with their vote via email by February 17, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.**