STAFF REPORT: ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION  
CONSENT CALENDAR

Institution: University of Connecticut

Item: Modifications to the Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts (M.A.), and Sixth Year Certificate Programs in Educational Psychology in the Neag School of Education

Date: March 1, 2012

Background

The Department of Educational Psychology in the Neag School of Education conducted a program review in the 2010-2011 academic year. The faculty agreed that the current degree structure has caused various levels of confusion among faculty, student, and the University administration. It is not clearly aligned to form effective pathways for graduate students who may wish to pursue their terminal degrees in a seamless manner, from their master’s Field of Study through their doctoral Field of Study.

As instructional technology has become an important and critical literacy skill in education, a closer collaboration between the faculty in cognition and instruction, and those in educational technology will provide the Neag School with a strong edge on the national platform by merging the two fields into a coherent one.

Therefore, the Neag School of Education proposes the following eight modifications:

Doctoral Level

1. Merge two existing Fields of Study – “Educational technology” and “Special Education” – into another existing Field of Study, (“Educational Psychology”), under the name of “Educational Psychology.”
2. Convert and merge an existing Field of Study – “Educational Technology” – and an existing Area of Concentration – “Cognition and Instruction” – into a new Area of Concentration, under the name of “Cognition, Instruction, and Learning Technology.”
3. Convert the existing Field of Study – “Special Education” – to an area of Concentration under the same name.

M.A. Level

1. Merge two Fields of Study – “Educational Technology” and “Special Education” – into another existing Field of Study, (“Educational Psychology”), under the name of “Educational Psychology.”
2. Convert the existing Field of Study – “Special Education” – to an area of Concentration under the same name.
3. Convert the existing Field of Study – “Special Education” – to an area of Concentration under the name of “Special Education.”
4. Rename an existing Area of Concentration – “Cognition and Instruction” – to “Cognition, Instruction, and Learning technology.”

Sixth-Year Level

1. Merge two existing Areas of Concentration – Cognition and Instruction” and “educational Technology” – into one Certificate Program under the name of “Cognition, Instruction, and Learning technology.” The third existing Area of Concentration – “Special Education” – will remain unchanged.