

Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

To: The UVM Faculty Senate

From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair

Date: December 7, 2018

Re: Approval of a proposal for a new direct entry option into the existing Master of Arts in Psychology submitted by the College of Arts and Sciences in conjunction with the Graduate College

At its meeting on December 6, 2018, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the actions recommended in the following memo.

The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal for a new direct entry option into the existing Master of Arts in Psychology from the Department of Psychology (College of Arts & Sciences) in conjunction with the Graduate College. The Department of Psychological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee and Dean, and Dean of the Graduate College all voiced support for the new direct entry option. If approved by the Faculty Senate, the option will become available in fall 2019.

Currently, students pursuing a PhD in Psychology must earn a Master of Arts as part of their requirements. The Department of Psychological Sciences in conjunction with the Graduate College requested to add a stand-alone direct entry option for the MA in Psychology, with concentrations in General/Experimental Psychology and Clinical Psychology. Since the MA in Psychology will use the existing curriculum and UVM already grants a MA in Psychology, this does not create a new degree program. Students in the doctoral program will still continue to earn a MA in Psychology as part of their requirements.

The new entry pathway is aimed at students who wish to strengthen their credentials in order to be competitive for doctoral programs, students who wish to pursue careers that require research skills, or students who wish to gain an understanding of research as it pertains to intervention and prevention. A main goal of a new direct entry option for the MA in Psychology is to create a standalone Master's program to complement the PhD program, training select students who may be interested in a PhD program at UVM or elsewhere. An additional goal is to be able to offer an Accelerated Master's Program* for select UVM undergraduates. Few accelerated Master's programs in Psychology exist at our regional competitor institutions. However, undergraduate students are increasingly interested in taking an extra, fifth year and finishing with both a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree. Thus, a direct entry option for the MA in Psychology is likely to help attract and retain high-quality students.

**The program cannot request an AMP until there is a direct entry to the existing MA in Psychology. Once requested the AMP will undergo the usual approval process for such programs (unit-level and Graduate College Executive Committee).*