**Terminal Degree Policy**

**Department of Psychology**

**Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Department of Psychology to hire faculty holding an earned doctorate in Psychology (Ph.D. or Psy.D.) as the terminal degree from an accredited institution.

**Acceptable Degrees**

Terminal degrees in subdisciplines of psychology that currently contribute to comprehensive Psychology programs across the US are acceptable. Examples include: Applied Psychology, Biological Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Counseling Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Educational Psychology, Experimental Psychology, Forensic Psychology, General Psychology, Health Psychology, Individual Differences and Evolutionary Psychology, Industrial Psychology, Lifespan Developmental Psychology, Neuropsychology, Organizational Psychology, Personality Psychology, Quantitative Psychology, Social Psychology, and Sport Psychology. International equivalents to these also are accepted.

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of fields of study within the discipline, the following related degrees also are considered acceptable terminal degrees for faculty teaching graduate and post-baccalaureate course work:

Ph.D. in Biostatistics

Ph.D. in Child and Family Therapy

Ph.D. in Neuroscience

Ed.D. in Educational Psychology

Acceptable degrees for faculty teaching baccalaureate courses also include a master’s degree, including 18 hours in the subdisciplines/areas above or in the following:

M.A. in Psychological Research

M.A. or M.S. in Educational Psychology

M.Ed. in Counseling

**Exceptions**

Special circumstances may require employment of faculty who do not hold the terminal degree, but are appropriate based on The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges standards. Exceptions are rare and available only to faculty who demonstrate extraordinary skills, credentials, and experience appropriate to the discipline. An example of a justifiable exception would be an individual holding a masters’ degree who possesses strong quantitative research skills, extensive experience working in the areas of clinical, counseling, human factors, or industrial psychology or who has made extraordinary scholarly contributions to the psychological literature.

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