

RIVIER LAUNCHES NEW FIVE-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

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(From: *Rivier Today*, Fall 2007)

The Psychology Department introduced a new program that will allow students to earn both their bachelor's and master's degrees in five years of study. It is the only five-year psychology program in the state of New Hampshire.

Beginning this fall, senior psychology students who have been accepted into the program will be able to take graduate coursework, offering a more time-effective and cost-efficient path to a graduate degree in either general or clinical psychology. The courses will all be offered during the day. "Our vision for year five of the program is one of collegiality; students developing a sense of mutual support and identity," says Dr. Paul Cunningham, Divisional Chair of Sciences. "This is a new concept here—we're going along with other five-year programs."

Seven new courses have been developed at the 600 level; many of the 500 level courses already existed at the 400 level. "We've added additional work, objectives, and projects, and increased the content, making them more rigorous," says Cunningham.

The program has also offered the education and psychology departments an opportunity to collaborate. The master's in clinical psychology incorporates existing graduate education courses; students who wish to apply for state licensure to practice psychotherapy may continue on in Rivier's CAGS program in mental health counseling.

Cunningham says the five-year program balances science and practice. "Students will understand statistics and research methods as well as the practices of psychology," he says. "This makes them much more attractive candidates for Ph.D. or Psy.D. programs." ■

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