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Communications

November 17, 2015

Master of Arts in Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling to Begin Fall 2016

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The School of Psychology and Counseling at Gardner-Webb will relaunch the Master of Arts in Marriage, Couples and Family Counseling program at the University's Charlotte, N.C., campus next fall. The program will be offered in addition to other established graduate counseling programs, such as school and mental health counseling.

“Healthy marriages and strong families are essential components of a well-functioning society,” said Dr. Jasmine Graham, assistant professor of mental health counseling and director of the program. “The strength and stability of these relationships are increasingly challenged and as a licensed marriage and family therapist, students will be equipped to provide effective services to marriages, couples, and families with varying degrees of therapeutic needs.”

Graham believes the 69-semester hour coursework, while similar to the University's current Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling, will benefit potential students by giving them a chance to focus their counseling skills.

“This MA program gives prospective students yet another choice for advancing their career goals,” Graham offered. “Our practicum and internship classes will give students a first hand opportunity to work with clients. Students graduating from the new program will be eligible to apply for licensure as a licensed professional counselor and as a licensed marriage and family therapist.”

Gardner-Webb's professional counseling programs are qualified by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The updated Master of Arts in Marriage, Couples and Family Counseling degree program has been designed within a traditional face-to-face model, which officials believe creates an appropriate level of intimacy and mentorship for students.

“Whether as a licensed professional counselor who specializes in marriage, couples and families or as a licensed marriage and family therapist, a graduate of the program would be prepared to fulfill their professional calling to counsel both couples and families,” Graham

shared. “Family is considered the domestic church, where people first learn about faith. We do intentionally include a spirituality component in our classwork and course assignments.”

The fall-start program has been designed in line with CACREP’s standards for Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling programs and the application for CACREP accreditation has been submitted. The program is also designed in line with licensing requirements for both the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) credentials.

For more information on this program contact the GWU Office of Graduate Admissions at 704-406-4363.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University was founded in 1905 and seeks a higher ground in higher education – one that embraces faith and intellectual freedom, balances conviction and compassion, and inspires in students a love of learning, service, and leadership.