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Psychology adds two new graduate programs

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Dr. McHale outlines the importance of infant mental health in a regional forum at All Children's Hospital.

Psychology, traditionally the most popular major at USF St. Petersburg, is adding two new graduate programs and is now seeking applicants.

A new Master's Degree in Psychology was developed in response to both student demand and acute needs locally and across Florida, said James McHale, Chair of the USFSP Psychology Department.

“More importantly, a central thrust of our program and of many of our program’s active research faculty is on what psychologists call risk, resilience and prevention,” McHale said.

“We are beginning to recognize that if we do not intentionally create a systematic and comprehensive strategy for minimizing adverse childhood experiences and for supporting all children and families during the earliest years, there will be long-term costs – to the individual, their families, their communities – and taxpayers. Prevention and early intervention are critical – as is the creation of new knowledge to help foster the resilience of both children and adults, and the capacity to thoughtfully interpret and analyze merits of existing and new programs.”

The best-consideration deadline for applications is Dec. 31. USFSP is also offering GRE Prep courses, with a rebate to students who apply fully by Dec. 31. The prep courses start soon, with the first of four beginning Saturday, Sept. 29.

“We look forward to helping contribute to the health of our region and state through the new M.A. Program, and to welcoming our first cohort of graduate students in August 2013,” McHale said.

Meanwhile, a fully online Graduate Certificate program in Infant-Family Mental Health is now available, with classes beginning in January 2013.

The program was inspired by needs in the region, and by remarkable breakthrough discoveries about infant brain development from birth to age 3 and how early social experiences shape the infrastructure of the brain, McHale said.

“We designed the program to appeal both to recent B.A. graduates who want to develop relevant knowledge and competencies to better qualify for entry-level positions in our region serving infants, toddlers, and their families, and to in-field professionals looking to build their own skills in these areas,” McHale said. Because it is fully online, he said, it will also appeal to working professionals and to students from outside Florida.”

No GRE is required for program admission. The best-consideration deadline for applications is Dec. 1, 2012.



James McHale, Psychology Department chair