



February 14, 2020

## **Southern Utah University – Out-of-Mission Program Proposal: Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in Clinical Psychology**

Southern Utah University (SUU) is proposing a new Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.), a professional doctoral program in Clinical Psychology. The Psy.D. program is intended to prepare students for professional licenses and the ability to practice psychotherapy and psychological testing in Utah and other states. A doctorate in Clinical Psychology meets licensing requirements to practice methods of psychotherapy and psychological testing throughout Utah and in many other states.

Per Regents Policy R312.4.2, a doctoral degree is considered out-of-mission for a regional university like Southern Utah University. Regional universities have a mandate to “emphasize teaching, scholarly, and creative achievements that complement teaching and community service” and that “contribute to the quality of life and economic development at the local and state levels.” Policy states that SUU may provide “career and technical education, undergraduate associate and baccalaureate programs and select master’s degree programs to fill regional or state workforce demands.” As a clinical doctorate, the proposed Psy.D. program is practice-oriented rather than emphasizing original research as is typical for Ph.D. programs. No other institutions in Utah provide a Psy.D. in clinical psychology.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee will hear discussion from Southern Utah University and the Office of the Commissioner on workforce and economic needs in regards to mental health practitioners, licensing, and the value of a Psy.D. as well as evaluations of the proposed academic program from other USHE institutions.

### **Commissioner’s Recommendation**

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee has the responsibility of determining whether the proposal should be forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.