MEMORANDUM

TO: Ed.S. Students

FROM: Dr. Alan Bakes, Coordinator of Programs in Counseling
Department of Educational Studies, Leadership, and Counseling

DATE: November 20, 2013

RE: Requirements for Professional Counseling Licensure (Kentucky – LPCC)

The Murray State University Counseling program designed the current 60 credit hour Ed. Specialist Degree in School Counseling to build on the 48 credit hour Master's program in School Counseling by adding 12 additional credits to reach the necessary 60 credit hours for Licensure.

The State Counseling Licensure Board recently stated that in order for students graduating from a 48 credit hour Master's Program in School Counseling to be eligible for Professional counseling licensure, they will need to demonstrate additional field hours in clinical mental health settings and have a degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

These changes are necessary to ensure that licensed counselors will be eligible for hiring by Federal Government supported agencies like the Veterans Administration and the government health care agency Tri-Care. These agencies have only recently begun to hire professional counselors and legally can only hire those who have a "Clinical Mental Health" degree.

As a counseling program, we have worked hard to prepare all students with sound counseling skills. We believe in our students and want them to have every professional opportunity available to them. Therefore, we want to advise you on the requirements the licensure board has indicated will qualify our graduates to be eligible for licensure.

To ensure that any School Counseling student who is desirous to be eligible for mental health counseling licensure in addition to their school counseling certification, we recommend the following:

1. Students currently enrolled in the Ed.S. School Option will need to contact Graduate Admissions to change their current program from an Ed.S. in School Counseling to the Ed.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.
2. Students will need to meet with their program advisor for help applying their 48 hour school counseling Master's coursework toward the Ed.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.
3. Students will need to take CNS 618, Issues in Mental Health Counseling, CNS 625, Legal & Ethical Issues, CNS 752 Trauma and Crisis, CNS 694 Advanced Counseling Techniques, CNS 722 Addictions Counseling and CNS 734 Marriage, Couples and Family Counseling.
4. Students will also take CNS 794 and CNS 795 in an agency setting (beyond the 750 hours accrued in the Master's program).

Upon completion of these requirements, a student will receive a second degree, the Ed.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and will be eligible to apply for the Licensed Professional Counseling Associate (LPCA) credential in Kentucky.