



Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

Meeting Date: **June 11, 2026**

Agenda Item: **2.21**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

Committee: **Academic & Personnel Committee**

Action Item: **Addition of a minor in Child and Adolescent Counseling - PSC**

The Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor is designed to provide students with essential foundational knowledge in the area of child and adolescent counseling. The minor prepares students for graduate studies in counseling or for careers in the helping professions, working with children and adolescents. The minor is particularly relevant for students majoring in Psychology, Criminal Justice, or Education, but is open to students in any discipline.

The System Office recommends approval of the Addition of a Minor in Child and Adolescent Counseling at Peru State College.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Child Adolescent Counseling Minor - PSC

Peru State College

Proposal to Add: Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor

1. Descriptive Information

- A. Name of Institution: Peru State College
- B. Name of Program: Minor in Child and Adolescent Counseling
- C. Degrees/credentials to be awarded graduates of the program: Minor in Child and Adolescent Counseling
- D. Other programs offered in this field by the institution: None
- E. CIP code: 42.2803
- F. Administrative units for the program: School of Professional Studies
- G. Proposed delivery site(s) and type(s) of delivery, if applicable: On Campus and Online
- H. Proposed date (term/year) the program will be initiated: Fall 2026 or Fall 2027
- I. Description of Program:
 The Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor is designed to provide students with essential foundational knowledge in the area of child and adolescent counseling. The minor prepares students for graduate studies in counseling or for careers in the helping professions, working with children and adolescents. The minor is particularly relevant for students majoring in Psychology, Criminal Justice, or Education, but is open to students in any discipline.

Outcomes

Graduates of the Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor will:

1. Understand the common mental health and behavioral health issues demonstrated by children and adolescents.
2. Understand the impact of abuse and neglect situations on child development.
3. Apply common therapy techniques to the populations of children and adolescents.
4. Understand the ethical issues in counseling with children and adolescents.
5. Communicate verbally and in writing the ability to apply their skills in diagnosis, intervention and prevention of mental health and behavioral health issues.

Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor

CORE REQUIREMENTS			Credits
COUN	300	Professional Ethics	3
COUN	310	Techniques of Counseling	3
COUN	390	Group Work	3
COUN	440	Techniques in Child and Adolescent Counseling	3
EDUC	365	Child Abuse Neglect Detection	3
SOC	340	The Family	3

ELECTIVES			
Choose one of these two courses:			
PSYC	380	Adolescent Psychology	3
CJUS	410	Juvenile Delinquency	3
Total Credits			21

EXISTING COURSES:

COUN 300 Professional Ethics | 3 credits

This course introduces students to the profession of chemical dependency/addictions counseling with an emphasis on professional ethics and issues in alcohol and drug counseling. Students study the NAADAC ethical guidelines as well as histories and philosophies of ethical code development in related fields such as medicine, psychology, and social work. Students will also investigate how ethical issues are practically resolved through interviews with professionals in the field of addiction. Various populations-at-risk are studied, and specific professional and ethical issues relating to these populations will be explored.

COUN 310 Techniques of Counseling | 3 credits

This course will study the fundamental theories, principles, and techniques of counseling are presented as they apply to education, psychology, and social work practices. Practical experience in the use of numerous counseling techniques will also be provided and practiced in role play format.

COUN 390 Group Work | 3 credits

This course surveys the physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of a variety of populations that are at-risk for addictions, compulsions, and dependence, particularly focusing on alcohol and drugs. The etiological, behavioral, cultural, and demographic conditions and belief systems of various addictions are explored.

EDUC 365 Child Abuse Neglect Detection | 3 credits

The content of this course will cover a broad range of topics dealing with child abuse and neglect issues as related to the public schools, the juvenile justice system, and the community at large. The course will emphasize the relationship between child abuse and juvenile delinquency. A further emphasis will be placed on equipping the student to obtain competent detection and reporting skills, skills dealing with the treatment of victims, and the prevention of abuse and neglect.

SOC 340 The Family | 3 credits

This course provides an examination of the role of the family in contemporary society with an emphasis on the factors influencing the family structure, functions, and roles, and their implications for both the community and individuals at varying stages of the family life cycle.

PSYCH 380 Adolescent Psychology | 3 credits

This course examines the cognitive and psycho-social aspects of adolescence. It examines ageappropriate developmental events, barriers to progress, and development facilitation. Prerequisite: PSYC 121

CJUS 410 Juvenile Delinquency | 3 credits

This course focuses on the nature and extent of delinquent acts and status offenses historically, theoretical approaches to explain why these behaviors develop including environmental/contextual approaches to explanation, and how the justice system and society legally respond. A variety of

cultural and social factors related to delinquency are examined, along with program implications for prevention and intervention. Prerequisite: CJUS 110

NEW COURSE:

COUN 440 Techniques in Child and Adolescent Counseling | 3 Credits

This course examines theories, techniques, and factors related to counseling children and adolescents, including typical and atypical development, legal and ethical concerns, adaptations to counseling interventions, and special considerations in working with minors. Prerequisite COUN 310

2. Centrality to Role and Mission

The mission of Peru State College is to provide students of all backgrounds access to engaging educational experiences to strengthen and enrich communities, Nebraska and the world. The Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor prepares students to pursue graduate studies in counseling or careers working with children and adolescents through the helping professions locally, regionally, and nationally.

3. Evidence of Need and Demand

A. Need for the program:

Currently there is not a course or program at Peru State College that focuses on the specific mental health and behavioral health needs of children or adolescents and the treatment of such. This proposed minor will offer students a specialized concentration in counseling and prepare them for careers or graduate programs that focus on children and adolescents.

Child and adolescent counseling is a high-demand, long-term growth career both in Nebraska and nationwide. Nebraska's faster-than-average growth, combined with provider shortages and expanding youth mental health initiatives, makes the state especially favorable for employment — particularly for counselors wishing to work with children, families, schools, or rural communities.

B. Demand for the Program:

Currently within the Peru State College Psychology program, an increased number of students are interested in working with children and adolescents, whether through school psychology or private practice routes. These students are in need of additional coursework in child and adolescent-specific topics. Growing demands in the school psychology and child/adolescent mental and behavioral health fields have resulted in increased job prospects for which graduates of this minor will be prepared. The minor also prepares students for graduate studies in counseling and other disciplines that support the helping professions.

4. Adequacy of Resources

A. Faculty and Staff Resources:

With the exception of one new course, all courses in the proposed minor are currently being offered by qualified full-time and adjunct faculty. There are no anticipated effects on existing courses, staffing, or budgets. The new course will fit into the workload and schedule of an existing full-time Psychology faculty member. Students can complete the Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor by taking courses already offered and where there is existing capacity. Academic advising will be provided by full-time faculty and the online academic advisor in the School of Professional Studies.

B. Physical Facilities:

The physical facilities to be utilized for this proposed minor are sufficient for instruction.

C. Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources:

Instructional equipment and informational resources necessary for the proposed minor are already in place and available. Examples include instructor computers and laptops, Internet access and connectivity, a learning management system (Canvas) for course delivery, IT/Computer Services support, and assistance from the Academic Technology department.

D. Budget Projections for the first five years of program:

No additional expenses are anticipated to implement this minor. Revenue is expected to be neutral or negligible, as students are likely to use elective credits to complete the Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor as opposed to taking significantly more credit hours beyond what is required for their degree.

5. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

At this time, a Minor in Child and Adolescent Counseling does not exist within the Nebraska State College System. Public and private institutions in Nebraska offer graduate degrees in Counseling; however, they do not focus specifically on child and adolescent counseling.

6. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education

The proposed Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor at Peru State College is consistent with the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education's (CCPE) Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education and helps the state advance three major goals: 1) Meeting the Needs of Students, 2) Meeting the Needs of the State, and 3) Meeting Needs by Building Exemplary Institutions.

1) The Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor meets the educational needs of students by fostering critical thinking, leadership, and effective communication while preparing graduates to be successful employees and responsible citizens. The Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor offers lifelong learning opportunities that are responsive to student and workforce needs.

2) The Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor meets the needs of the state by developing knowledgeable, trained, and skilled members of the workforce for both rural and urban areas of the state and nation. The program serves the state by developing and nurturing future leaders of Nebraska and preparing individuals for productive, fulfilling lives.

3) Aligned with the mission of Peru State College, the addition of the Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor contributes to the exemplary nature of the institution. Through innovative teaching, applied learning, and efficient use of the state's resources without additional expenses, the program will effectively meet the educational needs of students and the state. Students who complete the Child and Adolescent Counseling Minor will be well-prepared for graduate studies in counseling and/or careers in the helping professions, working with children and adolescents.