

## **ATTACHMENT A: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON UCD'S PROPOSED Psy.D.**

This supplemental information is unrelated to the proposed degree's fit with the institution's statutory role and mission. The following is summarized from UCD's proposal:

### **EVIDENCE OF NEED**

Workforce Demand: According to the U.S. Department of Education there are approximately 550 licensed school psychologists in Colorado. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics the field of clinical counseling and school psychologists is projected to grow by 21.9% during the 2010-2020 decade. The employment growth rate in Colorado is projected to match that predicted for the nation. Moreover, there has been a documented shortage of school psychologists in the state of Colorado and there are many open positions currently available. Graduates of the current Ed.S. in school psychology program have a 100% hire rate. All of our program's graduates have obtained a job in the public schools following graduation and many are hired even before they graduate. There is no indication that this trend will change if the Ed.S. program is replaced with a Psy.D. program.

Student Demand: Despite a 100% hire rate for our graduates for the last two years, the Ed.S. program has experienced declining application numbers and enrollment. According to the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), as well as informal surveys, this is currently a trend experienced by School Psychology specialist programs both in Colorado and across the country with programs reporting declines of 30%-50%. Nationwide, the number of specialist level programs in school psychology has decreased while the number of Psy.D. programs in School Psychology has grown from 6 at the beginning of 2011 to 14 today. Doctoral programs in School Psychology are attractive to potential students for a variety of reasons. Graduates of doctoral programs earn higher salaries in the school setting than do individuals with specialist degrees. An additional advantage of the Psy.D. degree is that doctoral level school psychologists have additional professional opportunities including teaching in higher education and licensure by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) to practice as a psychologist privately or in clinical settings.

### **DUPLICATION**

There are currently 14 School Psychology Psy.D. programs in the United States. The vast majority of these programs are in the northeastern part of the country and only 3 are offered by public institutions (Rutgers; SUNY Albany; Southern Maine). There is no other Psy.D. program in School Psychology in the state of Colorado.