

Reaction Paper #3

As I was reading chapter 4 in the first edition of *School Psychology for the 21st Century*, I noticed that MSPP was not posted on their list of training programs. Feeling a bit offended for my beloved school, I decided to check out the second edition of this book. I was very happy and felt proud to see it listed under training programs that offer MA/CAGS degrees. As I continued to scan the list I found out that MSPP was not listed under the doctorate level. Guess I will have to wait for the third edition of this book. In addition to the listing or not listing of MSPP, the second edition provided NASP's 2010 standards whereas the first edition provides the 2000 standards. I guess that would make sense since the first edition was published in 2006.

Both Merrel et al (2006) and Tharinger et al (2008) encourage students to go for their doctorates as opposed to obtaining only a specialists degree. I must say, their arguments for why one should continue their education is rather convincing. I found myself questioning whether my choice of obtaining the MA/CAGS degree is sufficient. While a MA/CAGS degree is sufficient, they explain that it is merely the foundation and that a doctorate level education provides a more specific knowledge base. I am not sure that I would be able to continue school but I am equally unsure if I will be ready after my internship.

Merrel et al talked about the various programs throughout the United States and Canada and that they all differ from each other. They explain the importance of finding a school that fits the philosophy and focus you are interested in prior to applying. Looking back on my own experience, I knew I was interested in school psychology but did not know the differences in philosophies. It just so happens that I ended up at MSPP which turns out to be the perfect place for me. What if things had gone differently? Similarly, in applying for an internship Merrell

discusses that it is helpful to know areas of interest and whether the schools can incorporate them into your experience. What if I am still not sure what area I am most interested in? How do I go about finding the right internship placement? Seeing as how I am already in the process of locating an internship placement for next year, I suppose I am relying on my belief that things will fall into place the way they are supposed to. I am not sure that this is the most beneficial method. What if by the end of next year I am still unsure what area of school psychology I am most interested in? Is that an indicator that I am in need to continue my education or that I need to be in the field to find my way? One thing I am sure of is that I am not ready to give up the support from my peers and the faculty at MSPP. Maybe that in itself is a sign.

One final thing that struck me as I was going through the readings was a statement from the State Credentialing Procedures standard 5.4. It states that “adequate professional support should be provided to all credentialed school psychologist.” I might be confused on this topic but I find it interesting that there is a standard on supervision yet it is a problem in the field. If I decide not to continue my training towards a doctoral level degree, I am planning on participating in the supervision that will offered through MSPP.

References

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- National Association of School Psychologist (2010). Standards for the Credentialing of School Psychologists. Bethesda, MD. Retrieved from http://www.nasponline.org/standards/2010_standards.aspx

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