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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Texas Wesleyan University offers new master's degree in psychology  
specializing in mental health counseling  
*Graduate degree unique to Tarrant County***

FORT WORTH, March 24 – This fall Texas Wesleyan University will offer a Master of Science in Psychology with a specialization in mental health counseling – a first in University history, and the only degree program of its kind in Tarrant County. Currently students at Texas Wesleyan University can receive a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in psychology but must go elsewhere to earn a graduate degree to fulfill their Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) requirements. According to Dr. Michael Ellison, director of the psychology department at Texas Wesleyan University, the new program will benefit the University and the community, bringing more “culturally competent counselors” to the clinical workplace.

“We hope to serve the community and our graduate students at the same time,” says Ellison. “Eventually, we hope to (create and maintain) a polytechnic community mental and chemical-dependency health facility.”

The facility offers students in the new graduate psychology program at Texas

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Wesleyan hands-on experience working with patients and provides a much-needed medical service to the surrounding community.

Texas Wesleyan’s Master of Science in Psychology with a specialization in mental health counseling, consists of 48 hours of course work, with a minimum of 300 hours of practicum experience. This program meets the eligibility requirements for the LPC credentials, which is awarded by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors. In addition to maintaining a specific GPA and completing the prerequisite courses, applicants must have a bachelor’s degree and successfully complete the application and interview process.

The Texas Wesleyan Department of Psychology is currently accepting applications for fall enrollment. For more information or application materials contact Pennie Clayton by phone at (817) 531-7564, by fax (817) 531-7563 or by e-mail [pclayton@txwes.edu](mailto:pclayton@txwes.edu).

“We are looking for 40 to 50 students (for the program),” says Ellison. “Most of them will already be in the helping professions, like caseworkers ... others will be current students and alumni.”

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