

**SFAC Request for Base Funding Augmentation  
Counseling and Psychological Services  
2008-2009**

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Base funding is requested for a full-time Assessment/Clinical Postdoctoral Fellow.

**\$51,731 including salary, benefits, and additional expenses. This position was one-time funded for FY2008-2009, and thus would take no additional funding over what was provided for FY2007-2008.**

**AND**

Base funding is requested for a full-time licensed Psychologist with expertise in Military Trauma.

**\$67,612 including salary, benefits, and additional expenses.**

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**TOTAL: \$119,343**

**Justification for both positions:**

- Staffing is poor compared to other Texas and national universities and the staff to student ratio is well below the level recommended by our accrediting agency, the International Association of Counseling Services.
- Counseling center usage has increased each year.
- The severity of problems seen at CAPS continues to grow each year.
- Incidents such as the Virginia Tech shootings highlight the need for sufficient mental health practitioners on campus.
- The number of requests for Learning Disability Assessments and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Assessments has increased dramatically. This testing is inordinately time-consuming, taking as much as 10 hours of an examiner's time for one-on-one testing, scoring, and report writing. In private practice this testing can cost up to \$2,000.
- The anxieties created by events like 9/11, the Iraq war, Virginia Tech, two major hurricanes, the faltering economy, unemployment, and life in the twenty-first century, increase the need for counseling services, psycho-educational programs, and crisis intervention. Assessment takes enormous time away from other needed services. A postdoctoral fellow is a cost efficient way of increasing staffing in assessment.
- We are aware of budget shortages and the need to prioritize. We are also sensitive to the enormous recent increases in costs to students in attending UH. Our requests are motivated by our anticipating a large increase in the number of students who are returning veterans of the Iraq and/or Afghanistan wars. We anticipate that the funding increase needed will be offset through increasing enrollment of veterans. The new G.I. Bill takes effect August 1, 2009 and provides free tuition, fees, and even some housing allowance, leading some to estimate that we could enroll as many as a 1,000 new veterans as students, many suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injuries. Houston is a popular site for returning Veterans, many of whom are expected to have serious concerns.