Reiss-Davis Graduate School

Public Notice to Community

It is with mixed emotions that we share with you that the board of directors of Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services has made the difficult decision to close the Reiss-Davis Graduate School effective August 31, 2025. The board has partnered with WSCUC-accredited Southern California University of Health Sciences (SCU) to provide currently enrolled students with the opportunity to complete their PsyD degrees. In addition, SCU is planning to offer a new doctoral program in Psychodynamic Psychology to continue the Reiss-Davis legacy.

We recognize the long history of Reiss-Davis Graduate School, which was originally established as the Graduate Center for Child Development and Psychotherapy in 1976 in Los Angeles, and which merged with the Reiss-Davis Child Study Center in 2008. In 2020, the renamed Reiss-Davis Graduate School obtained initial accreditation from the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). Throughout this time, the board of directors of Vista Del Mar has confronted the financial challenges in meeting the operating expenses of Reiss-Davis as a stand-alone educational institution. As a result, Vista Del Mar identified Southern California University of Health Sciences (SCU) as the most appropriate partner for the short- and long-term future of Reiss-Davis.

With that in mind, Reiss-Davis has secured a Teach-Out Agreement with SCU that will allow our students who are currently enrolled to complete the Reiss-Davis Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in Psychodynamic Child Psychology and Psychotherapy program through SCU within a specified time frame.

Students who opt to finish the RDGS legacy program at SCU will officially become SCU students and begin classes on August 11, 2025.

In Fall 2026, SCU will begin accepting new students into a revitalized “Reiss-Davis PsyD in Psychodynamic Psychology” (pending WSCUC approval), with an updated curriculum that honors the history and mission of the Reiss-Davis program, including its emphasis on child development and psychodynamic, neurobiological, and trauma-informed perspectives.

Reiss-Davis and SCU have prepared a FAQ sheet with more details about the teach-out and new doctoral program. The FAQ along with updates about the transition are posted on the Reiss-Davis website: https://www.reissdavis.edu/accreditation.html

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