



Department of Counselor Education
Program Evaluation Results and Actions
March, 2014

Site supervisors who completed Department of Counselor Education program evaluations indicated that the following training areas need improvement:

- 1) Training area need: Assessment and Diagnosis

Plan for improvement: A strategic plan will be developed immediately to identify a location for the counseling lab which will allow for further supervised, hands-on diagnosis opportunities.

- 2) Training area need: Prevention/Intervention

Plan for improvement: A required Crisis and Disaster Counseling course has been added in addition to a required Substance Abuse Counseling course. Both of these courses address prevention and intervention. Additionally, there has been a service-learning component added to the Applied: Pre-Adolescent Counseling Course which will allow all mental health counseling students to attain hands-on prevention/intervention experience with elementary age children in an inner-city school.

- 3) Training area need: Ease of Application and Paperwork Requirements

Plan for improvement: Ease of Application and Paperwork Requirements has been addressed by the hiring on Amanda Barudin, M.Ed., LMHC, our first full-time Fieldwork Director, who has made numerous improvements to the fieldwork application process.

Recent graduates who completed the Department of Counselor Education 2013 Exit Survey indicated that Overall program areas that need improvement according to recent graduates include:

- 1) Program improvement suggestion: Academic Advisement

Plan for improvement: It was determined that faculty need more information about how academic advisement can be improved. We will add a question about this in the next Exit Survey. In the meantime, faculty have agreed to strive to be more available to their advisees.

- 2) Program improvement suggestion: Facilities and Resources

Plan for improvement: A strategic plan will be developed immediately to identify a location for a proper, state-of-the-art counseling lab which will allow for further supervised, hands-on learning opportunities.

3) Program improvement suggestion: Program Duration

Plan for improvement: The department has improved program duration significantly with multiple course offerings throughout the year, including summer in addition to decreasing the Mental Health Counseling Program Internship hours from 900 to 600.

4) Program improvement suggestion: Assisting in internship placement and employment

Plan for improvement: The department provided a Resume Writing Workshop and has hired a Fieldwork Director who plays a more active role in assisting with site placements that often become employment opportunities. Our Fieldwork Director also trains interns with regard to post-graduate licensing procedures. We are working on ways to outreach to alumni for employment enrichment. Additionally, the department is in the process of creating Career/Job Moodle Sites, which will include job postings for each of the main program areas (mental health, school counseling, and student affairs), as well as general information on resume writing tips and job interview tips. This Career/Job Moodle site will be maintained by our Director of Fieldwork.

5) Program improvement suggestion: More weekend classes

Plan for improvement: Faculty were encouraged to consider offering a course in a weekend format. Many of our courses are offered in a Thursday/Saturday model.

6) Program improvement suggestion: More role plays, interactive learning:

Plan for improvement: A strategic plan will be developed immediately to identify a location for a proper, state-of-the-art counseling lab which will allow for further supervised, hands-on learning opportunities. Additionally, the department recently created program specific Theories and Techniques courses that include more applied practice. Further, a Service Learning component has been added to the required Applied: Pre-Adolescent course which will involve interactive learning with students in an inner city elementary school.

7) Program improvement suggestion: Special Education and IEP training

Plan for improvement: The department now has a required course in Special Education in the School Counseling program and have incorporated a section on Special Education into the Service-Learning Applied: Pre Adolescent course.

8) Program improvement suggestion: More activities to promote student cohesion

Plan for improvement: This is an area that is challenging for us as most of our students commute from substantial distances and are not all on campus the same day. We have a very active chapter of Chi Sigma Iota that includes fund raising and professional development activities designed to promote cohesion. Additionally, we have moved to an admissions process that requires applicants to be on campus together. We hold an Ice Cream Social at the beginning of fall semester and a department-wide Graduation

Celebration each May. The department plans to survey students to help determine how to more fully address this important area.

- 9) Program improvement suggestion: (Specifically for the School Counseling Program)
Consider requiring students to complete practicum/internship hours in both middle and high school settings.

Plan for improvement: This model is ideal and is encouraged, but cannot be mandated.