

2021 Counseling Programs Report
University of Missouri-St. Louis
December 2021

The faculty of the University of Missouri-St. Louis Counseling programs (all CACREP- accredited) are dedicated to engaging in ongoing program assessment and evaluation to continuously improve the learning experiences of our students. As part of this process, we provide an annual report on our program evaluation activities.

Ongoing Program Evaluation Activities

- Review of programs and curricular offerings
 - Counseling program faculty meet at least monthly to discuss programmatic issues related to evaluation, including intentional curriculum design, remediation and gatekeeping, admissions decision making, and assessing the effectiveness of programs in light of the program mission
- Survey of Counseling program graduates to assess perceptions of program quality and counselor preparedness
 - These surveys are conducted every three years. Please see 2021 results below.
- Assessment of student learning and performance on program-related standards
 - We examine scores on the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) to assess how well students are prepared in each of the eight core curriculum areas designated by CACREP
 - Similarly, we examine student results for the National Counselor Examination to assess student preparedness in the eight core curriculum areas
 - For School Counseling students, we examine scores on the MEES and the MOCA
 - Qualitative and quantitative (GPA, progress through the program) data about students are shared regularly in program meetings where student dispositions and the development of their professional identities are discussed in light of the mission and objectives of our program.
- Site supervisor trainings and evaluations
- Review of Counseling Review Board referrals
- Advisory board meetings
 - Boards (The School Counseling Advisory Board and Doctoral Service and Leadership Committee) meet to discuss program requirements, standards, and clinical training. Feedback from program graduates, site supervisors, and/or professional members of the counseling community is critical to our continued improvement.

Highlights for 2021

2020-2021 Vital Statistics

- There were 232 students in the MEd program (168 CMHC, 64 School Counseling) and 27 students in the PhD program
- In 2020-2021, 42 students graduated from the CMHC program, 15 students graduated from the School Counseling program, and 7 students received their PhDs

2021 Counseling Programs Report
University of Missouri-St. Louis
December 2021

- The completion rate for the school counseling program was about 76%, with 92% of graduates passing the certification exam and 92% obtaining jobs in the field
- The completion rate for the CMHC program was about 80%, with 97% of graduates passing the licensure exam and 95% obtaining jobs in the field
- The completion rate for the PhD program was about 70%, with 98% of graduates obtaining jobs in the field

Evaluation Results

- CPCE: For the 2021 calendar year, our students had a 98% pass rate on the CPCE exam.
- NCE: For the 2021 calendar year, our students had a 97.5% pass rate on the NCE exam.
- MEES: In the 2020-2021 academic year, school counseling candidates had a 100% pass rate on the School Counselor Performance Assessment within Missouri's Educator Evaluation System (MEES).
- MOCA: In the 2020-2021 academic year, school counseling candidates had a 92% pass rate on the School Counselor Missouri Content Assessment (MOCA).

Graduate Certificates - based on program evaluation activities

- Our main curricular update in the past year was adding several new graduate certificates to help highlight specialized focus areas in student training. These certificates use existing course offerings. With careful planning of electives and/or field experience, students may complete a graduate certificate while completing their degree (these become "stack-on" options). The current 12 credit hour graduate certificates include the *Couple, Marriage, and Family Counseling Graduate Certificate* and the *Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Graduate Certificate*. Additional certificates are under review.
- We now offer a 15 credit hour *Post-Masters School Counseling Graduate Certificate* designed for CMHC alumni or doctoral students who have completed a mental health degree and would like to complete the training and clinical requirements for Missouri school counseling certification. This certificate was designed to offer a clear pathway to K-12 school counseling certification for clinical counselors. This certificate uses existing course offerings. After passing state certification examinations, students who complete the graduate certificate may be recommended for DESE certification by UMSL officials.

2021 Alumni Survey Results

In 2021, 127 UMSL Counseling Program alumni responded to a short survey about their perceptions of the training they received in our programs. About 44% of respondents were School Counseling graduates, 55% were CMHC/Community Counseling graduates, and 1% were PhD graduates. Here are some highlights of the survey results:

- 99% of alumni would recommend our Counseling Programs to prospective graduate students
- 76% of alumni felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared as professional counselors
- 92% of alumni felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared in knowledge of ethical issues

2021 Counseling Programs Report
University of Missouri-St. Louis
December 2021

- 77% of alumni felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared in sensitivity of multicultural issues with clients
- 72% of alumni felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared in development of their theoretical orientation
- 87% of alumni felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared in skills for working with individuals

We would also like to highlight that we have made changes over the years based on alumni responses. When looking at responses of graduates from the last ten years (2011-2021), we note that some areas of curricular focus have tracked with improved alumni preparation responses. For example, 88% of alumni from the last ten years felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared in sensitivity to multicultural issues with clients. Overall, respondents also gave us great qualitative data about the strengths of the program and suggestions for program improvements. Stay tuned for future changes based on these results.

Counseling and Social Advocacy Center

The Counseling and Social Advocacy Center (CSAC) continues to offer clinical services to members of the UMSL and broader community. In 2020-2021, 84 counselors provided over 4,735 hours of counseling services. After pivoting to telehealth at the start of the pandemic last year, we now plan to continue to offer the option of telehealth for clients in Missouri. We are also responding to the needs of stakeholders by offering the CMHC Practicum course during the summer to improve continuity of services provided by the counselors-in-training through the CSAC.

We are also responding to the needs of alumni, students, and community members through several initiatives housed in the CSAC, including the Play Therapy Institute @ UMSL and the Grief Outreach Center. The Play Therapy Institute @ UMSL hosted a Summer Series of four workshops offering 12 hours of continuing education for graduate students and mental health professionals in 2021. This October the Play Therapy Institute @ UMSL received a renewal of a 3-year accreditation as an Approved Provider of Play Therapy Education from the Association for Play Therapy. This status indicates we are providing graduate training and supervised clinical experiences and advancing play therapy research and scholarship. The Grief Outreach Center, with support by a grant from Mid-America Transplant, provides individual and group grief counseling services and several outreach events each semester that are open to all. More information about clinical services, training, and events can be found on the CSAC website: <https://csac.umsl.edu/>

Other Program News

Additional adjustments have been made to processes based on ongoing program evaluation. These include:

- This year we added a Zoom interview as a component of the admissions process for incoming masters students. Admissions decisions made by program faculty include evaluation of each applicant's career goals, aptitude for graduate study, interpersonal skills, and respect for cultural differences via written and oral responses.

2021 Counseling Programs Report
University of Missouri-St. Louis
December 2021

- Doctoral students now have an option of completing a traditional dissertation written as 4 or 5 chapters or a multiple article dissertation. The new multiple article dissertation option allows students to prepare several manuscripts that are nearly ready to submit to targeted journals. These multiple articles center on a unified theme for research study.

Thank you for reading our report! If you have comments and/or questions or would like to offer suggestions, please contact Dr. Emily Brown at brownemily@umsl.edu.