

**2019 Counseling Programs Report
University of Missouri-St. Louis
September, 2019**

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 results below for the 2018 survey.
- 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 meetings and trainings
- Review of Counseling Review Board referrals
- Advisory board meetings
 - Three boards (School Counseling, CMHC, and PhD) 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.
 - Please let us know of your interest in serving on one of our Advisory Boards!

Highlights for 2019

National Evaluation Results

- CPCE: For the 2018-2019 school year, our students had a 100% pass rate in Fall 2018, a 93.8% pass rate in Spring 2019, and a 100% pass rate in Summer 2019
- NCE: For the 2017-2018 school year, our students had an 85.7% pass rate in Fall 2017 and an 82.4% pass rate in Spring 2018

State Evaluations

- MEES: For the 2018-2019 school year, our school counseling students had a mean score of 36.20 (SD = 4.14) out of 40 on the state school counselor evaluation system
- MOCA: The pass rate for our School Counseling students for the 2017-2018 school year was 94%

2017-2018 Vital Statistics

- There were 219 students in the MEd program (150 CMHC, 69 School Counseling) and 33 students in the PhD program
- In 2017-2018, 35 students graduated from the CMHC program, 30 students graduated from the School Counseling program, and 6 students received their PhDs
- The completion rate for the school counseling program was about 94%, with 93% of graduates passing the certification exam and 92% obtaining jobs in the field
- The completion rate for the CMHC program was about 92%, with 99% of graduates passing the licensure exam and 99% obtaining jobs in the field
- The completion rate for the PhD program was about 85%, with 98% of graduates obtaining jobs in the field

Recent Curriculum Changes – based on program evaluation activities

We added two new courses:

- *CNS ED 6060: Helping Relationship Skills*. This curriculum change was implemented in order to enhance the development of counseling skills for the students in the program prior to their enrollment in Practicum courses.
- *CNS ED 6630 Career Development in K-12 Schools*. This elective course provides a focus on postsecondary transitions. We anticipate changes to include additional focus on career development in elementary and middle schools.

Two courses were significantly revised:

- *CNS ED 6280: School Counseling Field Experience* had some significant revisions in structure and assessment in Fall 2018 because of changes at the state level for school counselor certification requirements. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) embedded the School Counselor Candidate Performance Evaluation tool into field experience (internship) in all Missouri universities with School Counseling programs. University and Site Supervisors complete two formative and one summative evaluation during the 300-hour field experience to provide feedback to counselors-in-training about progress in these standards. Students need a passing score on the summative field experience in order to be eligible for Missouri school counselor certification. We developed a tool used in CNS ED 6280 called the “School Counselor Candidate Evidence Record” in which students complete a self-evaluation and document progress on each of these 10 quality indicators prior to the university and site supervisor evaluations at three points throughout the semester. This change increased formal feedback for school counseling students during this course.
- *CNS ED 6840: Counseling Sexual Minorities* had a title change to *Counseling Sexual and Gender Minorities*. In addition, the course content was amended to include more

intentional focus on transgender and gender diverse individuals.

One course was dropped:

- *CNS ED 6000: Personal and Professional Development in Counseling*. This course was replaced by CNS ED 6060 (see above) in order to enhance the development of basic counseling skills in our students prior to enrollment in practicum.

2018 Alumni Survey Results

In 2018, 252 UMSL Counseling Program alumni responded to a short survey about their perceptions of the training they received in our programs. About 45% of respondents were School Counseling graduates, 50% were CMHC/Community Counseling graduates, and 5% were PhD graduates. Here are the highlights of the survey results:

- 96% of alumni would recommend our Counseling Programs to prospective graduate students
- 81% of alumni felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared as professional counselors
- 90% of alumni felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared in knowledge of ethical issues
- 85% of alumni felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared in sensitivity of multicultural issues with clients
- 82% of alumni felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared in development of their theoretical orientation
- 89% of alumni felt well-prepared or extremely well-prepared in skills for working with individuals

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.

Thank you for reading our report! If you have comments and/or questions or would like to offer suggestions, please contact Dr. Susan Kashubeck-West at susankw@umsl.edu