

## **2017 Counselor Education Faculty Survey Observations and Plans for Improvement**

The Counselor Education faculty met in September 2017 to discuss the overall survey results of students who graduated in May 2017, alumni from 2015, employers of the 2017 graduates, and site supervisors from the past 3 years. In addition, we reviewed the CPCE comprehensive exam results and job placement statistics for our graduates.

The following strengths were highlighted:

- Our students continue to perform well nationally on the CPCE Comprehensive Exam and have high employment rates in a variety of career and clinical mental health settings.
- Site supervisors report that our practicum and internship students possess basic counseling skills, are professional and ethical in exchanges, and well-trained when they come to internship.
- Site supervisors report being satisfied with the interactions between themselves and the faculty supervisors.
- Employers rate our students very high on professional behaviors, and gave all good or higher ratings on the various knowledge and skills domains rated, with the highest areas rated in career development, multicultural, treatment planning, ethical knowledge, and crisis counseling.
- Our alumni from 2015 also rated the program as good or higher on all program elements rated. The highest ratings were on relevance to their career goals, preparation to address ethical concerns, the faculty's interest in helping students, and preparation to work with clients from diverse backgrounds.

In comparing our 2015 alumni to our 2014 alumni, we noted slight decreases in ratings among many variables. We also noted that there were large standard deviations in many of the items, suggesting that there were extreme ratings present. Although all areas for the 2015 alumni and current employers were rated as good or above, the faculty discussed the results from each of these reports and noted that we would like to increase our ratings in the areas of mentorship, students feeling comfortable sharing feedback with faculty about the program, and advisement, especially with respect to licensure as areas of concern for our 2015 alumni. With regards to strengthening our students prior to practicum and internship, we noted room for improvement with diagnosis and treatment planning. Our strategies to improve in these areas include:

- We moved from having faculty place mental health students into their clinical sites to allowing them to choose their sites and apply for them directly. We have heard that our current interns are very pleased with having more control over this process.
- Given that supervisors suggested students have more roleplaying opportunities prior to practicum and internship, we will mention this at faculty meeting and send that request to instructors.

- [The program will strengthen the training on diagnosis and treatment planning in relevant courses; the program, in working in the student organization, will invite a panel of guest speakers to talk about diagnosis, treatment planning and professional development issues.](#)
- To better prepare students for the professional expectations of practicum and internship experience, the clinical coordinator will send a list of reminders to students in their first spring semester outlining professional demeanor expectations.
- We plan to work more closely with the student organization to encourage more feedback to the faculty.
- The coordinators for both programs plan to meet with the entering cohort during the fall semesters to field questions, advise on program plans, and so forth.
- We are planning for major professors/advisors to meet more regularly (at least once a semester) with student individually for mentoring.
- We are going to ask the instructor of the Introduction to Mental Health course to spend more time specifically on licensure and mental health counseling

A major change occurred for counselor education in 2017 when we had two retirements of faculty who were previously core faculty for our program. To adjust to this change, and give us the requisite minimum of three core faculty, Dr. Pfeiffer has become the third member of our core counselor education program, specifically working with the clinical mental health program.