

Western Carolina University Counseling Program Outcomes Data Report 2018-2019

Programs

Western Carolina University's Counseling Program includes two separate but related and integrated degree programs:

M.A.Ed. in School Counseling (SC), and

M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC)

Both programs are CACREP accredited (through October 2023) and lead graduates toward the post-Master's Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) licensure, and for SC only, K-12 School Counseling licensure through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Enrollment

In 2018-2019, we had an average of 68 total (full-time and part-time) students enrolled in our program:

Fall 2018 – 73 (52 CMHC, 21 SC)

Spring 2019 – 63 (45 CMHC, 18 SC)

This represents an average ratio of faculty to student ratio of 1:9 (CACREP compliance = 1:10)

Student Scholarship and Related Awards

2 recipients of WCU Graduate School in-state tuition awards

2 recipients of WCU School out-of-state tuition awards

1 recipient of WCU Mary Deck/Break by the Lake scholarship

1 recipient of WCU Dan Saddler scholarship

1 recipient of WCU Carole Hearn Curtis scholarship

23 recipients of WCU Graduate Assistantship positions

6 recipients of WCU Graduate School Excellence Award

Service Counseling Groups

Students in COUN 635: Group Counseling led 14 distinct counseling groups in schools and agencies in Western NC.

Licensure Exams

National Counselor Exam (NCE) – Among 21 test takers (17 CMHC; 7 SC) in April 2018 and October 2018, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate. The national average pass rate for 2018 was 90%.

Praxis II: Professional School Counseling – Among 5 SC test takers in September 2018-August 2019, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate. The national average pass rate was 91.35%.

Graduation and Job Placement Rates

In the Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialty track, there were 17 graduates (August 2018- 1, December 2018- 2, May 2019- 14). This represents a 95% completion rate (one student voluntarily withdrew for personal or career reasons before graduation). Of these graduates, 100% found job placement within three months of graduation.

In the professional School Counseling specialty track, there were 7 graduates (August 2018- 0, December 2018- 3, May 2019- 4). This represents an 82% completion rate (two students voluntarily withdrew for personal or career reasons before graduation). Of these graduates, 82% found job placement within three months of graduation (i.e., one graduate had not acquired employment).

Overall, the combined graduation rate of both specialty areas within the Counseling program (total 24 students) was 90%. The combined job placement rate within three months of graduation was 96%.

Program Modifications Based on Data Findings

Based on site supervisor and Counseling Program Advisory Board feedback, the site supervisor evaluation forms for both practicum and internship were aligned and revised to more clearly assess students' knowledge and performance of CACREP core and specialty domains via academics, clinical skills, professional disposition, and supervision relationship. In addition, the Counseling program purchased cameras for the Group counseling course to enhance students' training and access to equipment, and to ensure privacy of group counseling recordings. Also, the professional school counseling faculty created a supervision course for school personnel, offered in Summer 2019, to address recent legislative changes and requirements for professional school counselors. Finally, faculty have an ongoing review of our process to identify and address student concerns that may lead to additional supervision or remediation plans. No changes were made to the remediation process during the 2018 – 2019 academic year. All of these actions will help to ensure best practices in student training and gatekeeping of our profession.