

Western Carolina University Counseling Program Outcomes Data Report 2020-2021

Programs

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

M.A.Ed. in School Counseling (SCH), 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 Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC) licensure, and for SCH students the K-12 School Counseling licensure through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Enrollment

In 2020-2021, we had an average of 81.5 total (full-time and part-time) students enrolled in our program:

Fall 2020 – 86 (58 CMHC, 28 SCH)

Spring 2021 – 77 (46 CMHC, 31 SCH)

FTE: Fall 2020: 86 students (67 FT [43 MH; 24 SCH] & 19 PT [15 MH; 4 SCH]) = FTE 67 + 9.5 = 76.5 students with 7.5 faculty = 1 faculty to 10.2 students (1:10).

Spring 2021: 77 students (58 FT [34 MH; 24 SCH] & 19* PT [12 MH; 7 SCH]) = FTE 58 + 9.5 = 67.5 students with 7.5 faculty = 1 faculty to 9 students (1: 9).

*includes 5 school counseling-licensure only students Fall 2020

This represents an average ratio of faculty to students of 1:9.6. CACREP compliance student to faculty ratio is 1:12.

Student Scholarship and Related Awards

9 recipients of WCU Graduate Excellence Award

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

24 recipients of WCU Graduate Assistantship positions (Fall and/or Spring)

Licensure Exams

National Counselor Exam (NCE) – Among 25 students (20 CMHC, 5 SCH) in Spring 2020 and Fall 2020, WCU yielded a 96% pass rate.

Praxis II: Professional School Counseling – Among 5 test takers in September 2020-May 2021, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate.

Graduation

In 2020-2021, WCU Counseling 23 students graduated:

August 2020 – 0 CMHC, 0 SCH

December 2020 – 9 CMHC, 1 SCH

May 2021 – 12 CMHC, 1 SCH

This represents an overall 88% completion rate due to four students (1 CMCH, 3 SCH) withdrawing after their first semester or during their first year due to personal reasons. Per track, this is a 95% CMHC completion rate and 67% SCH* completion rate.

*Note: the low SCH completion rate reflects a small SCH class size in 2018 (N = 9), which had 6 graduates after the withdrawal of the 3 aforementioned students.

Job Placement

Among the 23 graduates in 2020-2021, we were able to obtain job placement information for 20 (87%). Of these, 100% (17 graduates) who sought employment in a professional counseling role within 3 months of graduation were employed as professional counselors (15 CMHC, 2 SCH).

Three graduates chose not to pursue employment in the counseling field immediately after graduation.

Program Modifications Based on Data Findings

Beginning Fall 2021, and in response to our site supervisors and Advisory Council's suggestions for online, field placement paperwork (e.g., contracts, evaluations, etc.), the program will use the Tevera software platform to streamline field placement courses. This platform will assist with materials needed during field placement courses and students' record-keeping for post-graduation licensure.