

The 2018-2019 Annual Report for the Counseling Program at West Virginia University

The academic year 2018-2019 was a good year for the counseling program at West Virginia University. The program graduated 8 students in the school program and 10 students in the clinical mental health program. The program had a 100% pass rate for those who took the Praxis II for school counselors and a 100% pass rate for those who took the National Counselor Examination. Fifty-eight students are currently enrolled in the program; this includes first year students, second year students, and a few part-time students who are full time students in WVU's sport psychology doctoral program. One highlight of this year was Dr. Joanna White's six-hour presentation on play therapy. Dr. White is a graduate of our program and former president of the Association for Play Therapy and will be inducted into the College of Education & Human Services' Hall of Fame this fall. The average GPA for the incoming class of 26 students is 3.55. The average GRE score is 295. The faculty have begun working on starting a doctoral program in Counselor Education & Supervision, which we hope to have up, and running by Fall 2021.

Current faculty members include:

Dr. Ed Jacobs—Coordinator

Dr. Christine Schimmel—Coordinator of the school program; Associate Department Chair, Field Placement Coordinator

Dr. Monica Leppma—Advisor to the Counseling Student Organization

Heidi O'Toole—Teaching Instructor

Dr. Jeff Daniels—Department Chairperson

The program also has outstanding adjuncts who teach and supervise for us.

The Department is in the process of actively searching for a full-time faculty member who has a school counseling background who will start in Fall 2020.

Summary of Program Evaluations

Each year recent graduates, their employers, supervisors of our students, and our current students are surveyed to assess their perceptions of their training experiences and preparedness for work in the field. Overall, the evaluations received in our last review were positive with many compliments regarding the program. There were suggestions for ways to improve the program, which included improving some of the courses and focusing more on school counseling. Faculty are engaged in conversations about how to address these improvements. . The program and its' faculty remain committed to maintaining a program where students enjoy their learning experiences while becoming competent, skilled practitioners. Below are a small sample of responses.

Strengths

100% of responding second year students said that they *Strongly Agreed* or *Agreed* that the program generated enthusiasm for the counseling profession.

100% of responding first year students said they *Strongly Agreed* or *Agreed* that they would recommend the program to others.

90% of responding alumnae said that they *Strongly Agreed* or *Agreed* that the faculty did a good job preparing them to be a counselor.

100% of responding site supervisors said that they *Strongly Agreed* or *Agreed* that they would recommend the WVU program to others.

100% of responding site supervisors said that they *Strongly Agreed* or *Agreed* that they were pleased to be affiliated with counseling program at WVU.

Areas for Improvement

Only 40% of responding second year students said *Agreed* that they understood several career counseling theories. (10% *Strongly Disagree*, 10% *Disagreed*, and 40% were *Neutral*) (This is unfortunate but understandable given the course they had was taught by adjunct who had many technical issues with the e-campus platform.)

Program Modifications

This year we have adjusted two courses that were rated as weak during years past. Dr. Barbara Brady agreed to teach our career class which was in need of improvement. She will bring an enhanced school perspective since she is the former president of the American School Counseling Association (ASCA). We also improved our ethics course by having Dr. Elizabeth Simpson teach the summer course. Dr. Simpson is a faculty member in the Clinical Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling program. We reorganized our student counseling organization. Affiliation with the national counseling honorary had proved to be difficult for our students to fully benefit from membership. The current president, a second-year counseling student, is committed to developing the Counseling Student Organization into an active, meaningful organization.

Closing Comments:

The faculty thanks all who are a part of this program in some way. The faculty continue to work hard to make the WVU program one of the best in the country. We are committed to training outstanding school and clinical mental health counselors. We remain optimistic about the future of the program and believe that 2019-2020 will be a productive academic year.