

Psychology MA – Clinical Track Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 17th

4:00PM

Members present: David Solomon (Coordinator of MA program), Cathy Grist (Professor in Human Services), Amanda Metze (Supervisor at Carolina Pediatric Therapy, Practicum Site), Heather Styles-Turbyfil (PsyD Student), Kasey Morey (Recent Graduate from PsyD Program)

Absent: Aaron Plantenberg (Practicum Supervisor at CAPS), Jay Manolo (Practicum Supervisor at CAPS) – Aaron and Jay met with David Solomon last week to give program feedback as they couldn't make this meeting.

Guests: None

Minutes:

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Welcome from David Solomon
- b. Introductions
- c. Advisory Board Purpose

2. Current Program Status

a. Summary of program data:

Of 12 students in this year's graduating cohort, 5 are continuing to PhD programs, 5 are continuing to PsyD programs (including WCU's) and 2 are going for LPA licensure. Three of these students are delaying graduation until summer to complete theses that were impacted by COVID-19.

b. Reviewed recent changes to program curriculum (e.g., addition of an advanced developmental course, changing the assessment sequence such that students do not have internal practicum until year 2, and adding the requirement that students take at least 2 hours of internal practicum credits)

c. Gave brief review of suggestions made by program reviewers in the current 5-year program review process. For example, they suggested inclusion of a multicultural or diversity course, as well as clarifying the "purpose" of the program as in its current model we prepare students to do one of three things (LPA, PsyD or PhD). Gave a brief review of the feedback given by Aaron and Jay in an informal meeting last week since they were not able to attend the formal meeting. They also suggested adding in a multicultural course and asked for some changes to be made on the practicum supervision evaluation form to make it more appropriate for MA students as it was based on the PsyD practicum supervision evaluation form.

d. Summary of board feedback:

1. The board expressed support for the current model of the program and its goal to help students to either go to a doctoral program or become licensed. The board felt that versatility was one of the strengths of the program.
2. Some members of the board supported the inclusion of a multicultural course, while others felt it could be made option for students depending on their personal professional goals. David Solomon advised that several students who were interested in

multicultural issues elected to take the multicultural course in the PsyD program as their elective. All students who continue on in WCU's PsyD Program take multicultural as part of that program.

3. The board agreed that the changes in the assessment sequence (particularly moving the requirement for doing two assessments in Fall of year 2 to one) would be helpful for students and made since given that they had more time Spring year 2 to do additional ones.

4. Amanda Metze suggested that we increase the number of assessment instruments our students are trained in (particularly adding some for children younger than 6)

5. Cathy Grist stated that it would be useful have clearer criteria about what constitutes a 680 project.

3. Follow-up Tasks

a. David Solomon will, in collaboration with Jon Campbell to make improvements to the practicum supervision evaluation form.

b. David Solomon will make alterations to the Assessment I course for the Fall 2021 semester to introduce additional assessments through a course project.

c. David Solomon will develop a draft Psy 680 Syllabus to share with the rest of the clinical faculty and other faculty members who mentor research for feedback.

d. David Solomon will share additional feedback with the rest of the clinical faculty at the summer faculty to discuss additional changes to course sequence.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55