

Western Carolina University Counseling Program Outcomes Data Report 2021-2022

Programs

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

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 Professional Counselor (LCMHC) licensure, and for SCH students the K-12 School Counseling licensure through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Enrollment

In 2021-2022, we had an average of 88 total (full-time and part-time) students enrolled in our program:

Fall 2021 – 95 (52 CMHC, 39 SCH + 4 SCH licensure-only)

Spring 2022 – 81 (48 CMHC, 32 SCH + 1 SCH licensure-only)

FTE: Fall 2021: 95 students (60 FT [34 MH; 26 SCH] & 35 PT [18 MH; 13 SCH + 4 SCH LO]) = FTE 60 + 17.5 = 77.5 students with 6.5 faculty = 1 faculty to 11.9 students (1:11.9)

Spring 2022: 81 students (52 FT [31 MH; 21 SCH] & 29 PT [17 MH; 11 SCH + 1 SCH LO]) = FTE 51 + 14.5 = 65.5 students with 5.5 faculty = 1 faculty to 11.9 students (1:11.9)

This represents an average ratio of faculty to students of 1:11.9. CACREP compliance is 1:12.

Student Scholarship and Related Awards

1 recipient of WCU Carole Hearn Curtis scholarship

1 recipient of WCU Dan Saddler scholarship

24 recipients of WCU Graduate Assistantship positions

6 recipients of WCU Graduate Excellence Award

2 recipients of WCU Graduate School in-state tuition awards

5 recipients of WCU Invest in Teacher's Award

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

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

Licensure Exams

National Counselor Exam (NCE) – Among 13 students (10 CMHC, 3 SCH) in Spring 2021 and Fall 2021, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate.

Praxis II Subject Test: School Counselor – Among 12 test takers in Fall 2021- Spring 2022, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate.

Graduation

In 2021-2022, WCU Counseling graduated 23 students and 4 students completed the school licensure-only pathway:

August 2021 – 0 CMHC, 0 SCH

December 2021 – 4 CMHC, 6 SCH (+ 3 sch licensure-only completions)

May 2022 – 6 CMHC, 7 SCH (+ 1 sch licensure-only completions)

This represents an overall 94% completion rate (1 CMHC and 1 SCH student did not complete the program), resulting in a 95% completion rate for CMHC and 93% for SCH students.

Job Placement

Among the 23 graduates in 2021-2022, 100% of those seeking job placement in a professional counseling role obtained employment within 3 months of graduation. Nineteen were employed as professional counselors (7 CMHC, 12 SCH) and four were not seeking employment or working in a different field at time of contact.

Program Modifications Based on Data Findings

From input from the program's stakeholders (faculty, students, site supervisors, alumni, employers) the program began using the Tevera software platform in Fall 2021 to streamline field placement courses based on suggestions from site supervisors at the Advisory Council meeting and students in practicum and internship. This platform houses all field placement documents (e.g., contracts, supervisor evaluations, final and weekly hour-logs, etc.), and students have life-time access to assist while pursuing licensure post-graduation. Additionally, this platform streamlines site supervisor access to students' documents such as contracts and supervisor evaluations. Last, this enhances program data collection and analysis of student learning outcomes. This modification was informed by requests from site supervisors and supported by faculty and student input. The program will continue using this platform and seeking feedback from stakeholders regarding its use and determine if its features can assist in data collection for assessing our program objectives/student learning outcomes.