

Western Carolina University Counseling Program 2014-2015 Data Report

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 2017) 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 2014-2015, we had an average of 64 total (full-time and part-time) students enrolled in our program:

Fall 2014 – 67 (43 CMHC, 24 SC)

Spring 2015 – 61 (39 CMHC, 22 SC)

This represents an average ratio of (FTE*) faculty to (FTE*) students of 1:10.

(*FTE = Full-time equivalent)

Graduation

In 2014-2015, we graduated 21 students:

August 2014 – 1 CMHC, 0 SC

December 2014 – 3 CMHC, 3 SC

May 2015 – 10 CMHC, 4 SC

This represents a 96% completion rate. 100% of the students leaving the program without completion did so of their own initiative (e.g., changes in personal life and/or career goals).

Licensure Exams

National Counselor Exam (NCE) – Among 22 test takers in 2014-2015, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate.

Praxis II: Professional School Counseling – Among 3 test takers in 2014, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate.

Job Placement

Within 3 months of graduation, job placement into a counseling professional role for 2014-2015 graduates was 90%.

Professional Development

Students presenting at conferences:

1 Western Carolina University 3-Minute Thesis Competition, Fall 2014

3 North Carolina School Counselor Association, Fall 2014

12 North Carolina Counseling Association, Spring 2015

2 Cross-Cultural Counseling and Education Conference, Spring 2015

29 Western Carolina University Counseling Program Coming Full Circle, Spring 2015

Needs assessments conducted by students:

6 area mental health agencies

11 area public schools

Group counseling series facilitated by students:

3 area mental health agencies

1 university

10 public schools

Scholarship awards

- 1 National Board of Certified Counselors fellowship
- 1 WCU Graduate School summer research grant
- 1 North Carolina Invest in Our Teachers scholarship
- 1 WCU College of Education and Allied Professions fellowship
- 5 WCU College of Education and Allied Professions scholarships
- 2 WCU Graduate School in-state tuition awards
- 2 WCU Graduate School out-of-state tuition awards

Program Modifications Based on Data Findings

The WCU Counseling Program graduation exit survey and 3-Year program evaluation revealed overall satisfaction with all program objectives. However, one area, while satisfactory overall, was not rated as highly as others: Diagnosis and treatment planning. A complete overhaul of the corresponding COUN 667: DSM and Treatment Planning course occurred in Spring 2015.