

Western Carolina University Counseling Program 2017-2018 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 2023) and lead graduates toward the post-Master's Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) licensure, and for SC, K-12 School Counseling licensure through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Enrollment

In 2017-2018, we had an average of 67 total (full-time and part-time) students enrolled in our program:

Fall 2017 – 70 (50 CMHC, 20 SC)

Spring 2018 – 63 (44 CMHC, 19 SC)

This represents an average ratio of faculty to students of better than 1:10

Professional Development

In 2017-2018, students participated in at least 79 distinct activities of professional development above and beyond course requirements (e.g., attendance and presentations at conferences and workshops). Additionally, students in COUN 635: Group Counseling led 13 distinct counseling groups to schools and agencies in western NC.

Student scholarship and related awards

2 recipients of WCU Grad School in-state tuition awards

1 recipient of WCU School out-of-state tuition awards

1 recipient of WCU Graduate School Tuition Award

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

25 recipients of WCU Graduate Assistantship positions

Graduation

In 2017-2018, WCU Counseling graduated 26 students:

August 2017 – 3 CMHC

December 2017 – 5 CMHC

May 2018 – 11 CMHC, 7 SC

This represents a 96% completion rate (1 student who began the program in Fall 2016 withdrew voluntarily before graduation).

Licensure Exams

National Counselor Exam (NCE) – Among 21 test takers in April 2017 and October 2017, WCU yielded a 95% pass rate.

Praxis II: Professional School Counseling – Among 7 test takers in October 2017-May 2018, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate.

Job Placement

Among the 26 graduates in 2017-2018, we were able to obtain job placement information for 23 (88%). Among these 23 graduates, 21 sought counseling jobs and of those, 76% (16) were employed as professional counselors, 19% (4) were still looking for counseling positions (some had declined offers), and 5% (1) employed in a related field.

Program Modifications Based on Data Findings

Benefits from changes made to COUN 615: Cross Cultural Counseling in Spring 2017 held through Spring 2018. Specifically, student satisfaction with the course at course end increased 13%, graduating students' satisfaction with their learning in social and cultural diversity increased from 55% to 100%, and the pass rate on the cross cultural portion of the program comprehensive exam increased from 85% to 100%.

Additionally, based on feedback from site supervisors and low response rates on surveys to site supervisors and employers, the program objectives (student learning outcomes) were reduced from 16 to 10.