

Western Carolina University Counseling Program Outcomes Data Report 2019-2020

Programs

Western Carolina University's Counseling Program includes two separate but related and integrated degree programs: M.A.Ed. in School Counseling (PSC), 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 PSC students the K-12 School Counseling licensure through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Enrollment

In 2019-2020, we had an average of 75 total (full-time and part-time) students enrolled in our program:

Fall 2019 – 78 (54 CMHC, 24 PSC)

Spring 2020 – 72 (50 CMHC, 22 PSC)

This represents an average ratio of faculty to students of 1:8.5

FTE: Fall 2019: 78 students (@ 60 FT [43 MH; 17 PSC] & 18 PT [11 MH; 7 PSC]) = 69 FTE [48.5 MH; 20.5 PSC] students with 7.5 faculty = 1 faculty to students (1:9). CACREP compliance is 1:10.

Spring 2020: 72 students (@ 51 FT [37 MH; 14 PSC] & 21 PT [13 MH; 8 PSC]) = 61.5 FTE [51 MH; 10.5 PSC] students with 7.5 faculty = 1 faculty to 8.2 students (1:8). CACREP compliance is 1:10.

Service Counseling Groups

Students in COUN 635: Group Counseling led 17 distinct counseling groups to schools and agencies in western NC.

Student Scholarship and Related Awards

2 recipients of WCU Graduate School in-state tuition awards

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

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

27 recipients of WCU Graduate Assistantship positions (Fall and/or Spring)

Licensure Exams

National Counselor Exam (NCE) – Among 14 students (13 CMHC, 1 PSC) in April 2019 and October 2019, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate.

Praxis II: Professional School Counseling – Among 8 PSC students in October 2019-May 2020, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate.

Graduation

In 2019-2020, 28 WCU Counseling students graduated:

August 2019 – 1 CMHC, 1 PSC

December 2019 – 3 CMHC, 0 PSC

May 2020 – 16 CMHC, 7 PSC

This represents a 94% completion rate for the program; 100% completion rate for CMHC students and 78% for PSC students (two PSC students who began the program in Fall 2018 withdrew in their first year).

Job Placement

Among the 28 graduates in 2019-2020, we were able to obtain job placement information for 26 (96%), with one graduate who did not respond, and one graduate who passed away. Of the 26 graduates (18 CMHC, 8 PSC), 92% of graduates (N = 24) found professional counseling jobs within three months of graduation. Specifically, 17 CMHC (94%) and 7 PSC (88%) graduates were employed, with two graduates (1 CMHC, 1 PSC) still looking for employment.

Program Modifications Based on Data Findings

As of Summer 2020, COUN 645: will only be offered in Summer sessions. As of Fall 2020, Comprehensive exams will return to being program-administered, rather than completing the CPCE. Starting Spring 2021, COUN 670: Research in Counseling will now be offered in addition to EDRS 602: Methods of Research.