

Western Carolina University Counseling Program 2016-2017 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 only, K-12 School Counseling licensure through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Enrollment

In 2016-2017, we had an average of 63 total (full-time and part-time) students enrolled in our program:

Fall 2016 – 68 (49 CMHC, 19 SC)

Spring 2017 – 58 (44 CMHC, 14 SC)

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

(*FTE = Full-time equivalent)

Graduation

In 2016-2017, WCU Counseling graduated 26 students:

August 2016 – 0

December 2016 – 5 CMHC, 5 SC

May 2017 – 14 CMHC, 2 SC

This represents a 93% completion rate (2 students who began the program in Fall 2015 withdrew before graduation).

Licensure Exams

National Counselor Exam (NCE) – Among 24 test takers in October 2016-April 2017, WCU yielded a 92 % pass rate.

Praxis II: Professional School Counseling – Among 10 test takers in May 2016-September 2017, WCU yielded a 100% pass rate.

Job Placement

Among the 26 graduates in 2016-2017, we were able to obtain job placement information for 20 (77%). Among these 20 graduates, job placement into a professional counseling role within 3 months of graduation was 95% with 1 graduate still actively seeking counseling work.

Employer satisfaction with alumni

In a Spring 2017 survey of employers of our graduates, 100% indicated satisfaction with their hired counselor and that they would hire another WCU Counseling graduate in the future.

Professional Development

In 2016-2017, students participated in at least 196 distinct activities of professional development above and beyond course requirements (e.g., attendance and presentations at conferences and workshops).

Student scholarship and related awards

2 recipients of WCU Graduate School in-state tuition awards
2 recipients of WCU Graduate School out-of-state tuition awards
5 recipients of WCU Invest in Teachers scholarships
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
24 recipients of WCU Graduate Assistantship positions
1 recipient of WCU research grant

Program Modifications Based on Data Findings

After feedback from (1) anecdotal evidence from students; (2) course evaluation data; and (3) graduation exit survey data, COUN 615: Cross Cultural Counseling was significantly restructured beginning Spring 2017 to include a clinical co-instructor model. Preliminary data (student anecdotal and course evaluation) indicate positive increases in student perception of learning in the area of cross-cultural counseling.