



**School Psychology Graduate Program
Advisory Board Virtual Meeting
May 13, 2021**

WCU SSP Program Mission Statement

The WCU School Psychology graduate program will produce high quality graduates who *solve problems* through data-based decision making; *lead change* at the individual and systems level; and respectfully and collaboratively *support others*.

School Psychology Planning Committee

Program Director: Ethan Schilling, Ph.D., NCSP
Candace Boan-Lenzo, Ph.D.
Lori Unruh, Ph.D.

Advisory Board Members

Lisl Whitted, Henderson County
Marquessa Hotchkiss, Buncombe County
Catherine Gantt, Swain County Retired
Cindy Phipps, Jackson County
Melinda Rogers, Haywood County
Stephanie Stiles, Macon County
Susan Wilson, Yancey County Retired
Carole Sorrenti, WCU Adjunct
Kathleen Armstrong, WCU Adjunct

Advisory Board Student Representatives

Nathan Bossing, 1st year cohort
Vanessa Salazar, 2nd year cohort

Meeting Agenda Notes

Ethan shared the Advisory Board report and reviewed the following information with the group (see attached):

1. Current Student Cohort Updates
 - a. Asked for feedback from the group re. keeping our students in the state for internship
 - i. NC salary increases
 - ii. Chance of being hired after graduation
 - b. Discussed what has been done to prepare students for assessments during COVID and need for additional support from practicum supervisors in the Fall
 - c. Asked for feedback re. Recruitment needs for a more diverse but also in-state applicants
 - i. Recruiting Local teachers & EC teachers
 - ii. Grow-your-own partnerships with local school districts
 - iii. Program Video for use in future recruitment
 - d. Discussed with the group the idea of doing away with the GRE scores as a requirement
 - i. Agreed that this needs to be considered
 - ii. May actually be a hindrance to local teachers
 - iii. One alternative would be a more structured personal statement
 - e. Discussed ability to provide more scholarships to our applicants
 - i. Consider talking with the scholarship contacts in the college about setting this up in the future (already aware of a scholarship opportunity that exists for foreign applicants)
2. Program Accreditation and Continuous Improvement Report (CIR) Updates
 - a. Discussed how the Advisory Board will be involved with CAEP accreditation requirements (i.e., providing feedback on recruitment plan)
 - b. Discussed current CIR goals related to increasing counseling and behavioral consultation skills in students
 - c. Also discussed previous CIR goal of students completing research requirements in a timely manner
 - i. Recommendation was provided that research hours continue to be an option for students as an elective in their 2nd year
3. Discussion of Ongoing Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic (in our program and in local schools)
 - Impact on Classes
 - Practicum Impact
 - Internship Impact
 - University Plan for Next Year
4. New Initiatives/Areas of Focus in local Districts that we should be aware of as trainers?
 - a. Discussed district plans for next year related to returning from COVID especially for students with emotional mental health concerns

- b. Summer School for many students that will be fully face-to-face (6 weeks either ½ or full day)
- c. Mental Health funds are probably not going to go to new SP positions
- d. MTSS efforts for behavior as well as social emotional learning will be more of a focus beginning July 1 – discussed importance of including more related to this in the training of our students.

2020-2021 Important Program Updates

Current Student Data

1st Years: 6 currently enrolled (7 had initially enrolled but 1 did not continue in the Spring)

Avg. GRE	Avg. UG GPA	Diversity	Other
301	3.64	2 Male 5 White 1 Hispanic	All 6 are doing well in their first year and will be beginning practicum work in the Fall.

2nd Years: 6 currently enrolled (cohort started with 7 but 1 left due to COVID situation; with option to continue at a later date)

Avg. GRE	Avg. UG GPA	Diversity	Other
300	3.57	0 Male 3 White 1 Black 1 A. Indian 1 Hispanic	All 6 have obtained internship placements for next year (see below)

2021/2022 Internship Placements

- Macon County Schools (NC)
- Cleveland County Schools (NC)
- Denver Public Schools (CO)
- Kodiak Island School District (AK)
- Eugene School District (OR)

3rd Years: 6 currently enrolled (Originally 7 but 1 decided to quit during her internship year due to health challenges as well as some other complications)

Avg. GRE	Avg. UG GPA	Diversity	Other
301	3.47	1 Male 5 White 1 Asian	Internship has gone well for this group (despite COVID challenges) with a few exceptions 1 will be asked to complete an additional semester of internship to demonstrate greater competency 1 got far behind in submitting program requirements (due to extenuating circumstances) and will be finishing up by the Fall semester

2020-2021 Internship Placements

- Thompson School District (CO) (position offered for next year)
- Rowan Salisbury Schools (NC) (position offered for next year)
- Loudon County Schools (VA) (position offered for next year)
- Alamance-Burlington Schools (NC) (position offered for next year)
- Sarasota County Schools (FL) (position offered for next year)

Other Students

- 1 student who left internship is being given the option to graduate with a Masters Degree (MA in general psychology with a concentration in school psychology)
- 1 student in our 1st year group is planning on applying to the PsyD program after her 2nd year

2021 Incoming Cohort: goal is always 8 to 10 students

Avg. GRE	Avg. UG GPA	Diversity	Other
296	3.34	3 Males 5 White 2 Black 1 Hispanic 1 A. Indian	Greater focus on diversity recruitment this year Beginning to transition to a more holistic review of applications; Less emphasis on GRE All 1 st Year students will have a Full GA (big factor in recruiting consistent numbers)

Accreditation & Program Continuous Improvement Activities

- NASP program approval good through Fall 2025
- CAEP Accreditation self-report has been submitted with feedback received
 - Work will be done this summer to incorporate that feedback
 - Site visit will occur in the Fall 2021 semester
- 2020/2021 WCU Continuous Improvement Report Goals
 - Improved performance on Behavioral Case Studies during Practicum & Internship
 - Improved student skills and confidence in providing individual and group counseling services
 - Goal included on our previous CIR: Increasing number of students who complete program research requirements on time
 - Making progress but there are still some students who struggle to stay on top of this
 - Some positive:
 - 4 of our students (2 1st Years and 2 2nd Years) received summer research assistantships this year
 - One of our 2nd Year students (Amy Childers) received 2nd place in WCU's 3 minute thesis competition; will be representing WCU at the UNC System's **Tar Heel Three Minute Thesis Competition**

2020-2021 Program Faculty Transitions

- ✓ Mickey Randolph is in her 1st year of phased retirement (3 year process) and is no longer teaching school psychology courses
- ✓ Ethan Schilling has transitioned into Program Director role this year (with much appreciated support from both Lori and Candace)
- ✓ Several current Psychology Department faculty and adjunct faculty have backgrounds that we hope will allow for support to the school psychology program until another school psychology faculty member can be hired.

Other Possible Future Program Plans/Activities

- ❖ Advocate for more faculty lines to support the SSP Program!
- ❖ Greater emphasis on diversity and social justice issues
- ❖ Greater emphasis on service learning throughout the program
- ❖ Make revisions to Practicum & Internship Requirements to reflect increased MTSS practices
- ❖ Development of a Supervisor Handbook for Practicum & Internship
- ❖ Development of a more structured Recruitment Plan (Required for CAEP Accreditation)