

Program Plans: Outcomes and Assessment Methods



Program (EHS) - HCCP - Counseling (MS) - 194

Program Mission Statement: The Oklahoma State University M.S. Program in Counseling is designed to prepare professional counselors who are knowledgeable in counseling theories and techniques, who can translate counseling theory into effective counseling practice, who are committed to respecting diversity among people, and who ascribe to the highest of ethical standards and practice. The program incorporates teaching in counseling, pedagogical, and psychological theory, research, and practice into a practitioner-based training program that allows graduates to apply knowledge in these areas to their practice in school and clinical mental health settings in the community. Consistent with the land-grant tradition of Oklahoma State University, the Program is committed to the outreach and training of students from Oklahoma and elsewhere who represent diversity in gender, race, ethnicity, sexual/affective orientation, culture, rural, suburban or urban backgrounds, socioeconomic status, religious/spiritual affiliation, and ability status. Both the mental health counseling and school counseling options are accredited by the Council for Accreditation for Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The College of Education, Health and Aviation at OSU is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs (NCATE).

Outcome: Professional/Ethical Behavior, Competencies, Progress

Graduates will demonstrate an ability to behave professionally and ethically, develop knowledge of social and cultural diversity, human growth, learning and development, career and lifestyle development, helping relationships, group work, assessment, research and program evaluation, and demonstrate timely progress towards degree completion.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

Outcome Type: Skills

Assessment Methods

Rating of Skills - On a yearly basis, every M.S. student is evaluated by the entire CPSY faculty on 9 criteria that are tied to CACREP Accreditation Standards. The specific criteria in the rubric are included below. Students are evaluated as having “exemplary performance,” “satisfactory performance,” or “concerns” on each criterion. The results provide a measure of the extent to which students are achieving the development of knowledge and skills described in the mission of the program as well as national standards set by our accrediting body. All students were evaluated on the following criteria:

- a) While in the program, behave professionally and ethically. Professional identity, including history of the profession, roles of counselors, organizational structures, ethics, standards, credentialing, public policy, advocacy, and emerging issues in the profession.
- b) Social & cultural diversity, including multicultural trends, counseling strategies, theories, competencies, and contextual factors for working with diverse populations, and counselors’ roles in social justice and advocacy.
- c) Human Growth and learning, development, and transition, both normal and abnormal, for individuals and families across the lifespan.
- d) Career and lifestyle development, including theories, models, assessment and counseling strategies, information resources, program planning and administration, and emerging issues in a changing world of work.
- e) Helping Relationships, including counselor and consultant characteristics, and counseling, consulting, and systems theory, processes, and skills for working with families, children, and adults.
- f) Group Work, including group development, group dynamics, and group counseling theories, methods, and skills.
- g) Assessment, including basic principles of testing and assessment, case conceptualization, diagnosis, diversity factors related to assessment, and individual and group approaches to assessment and evaluation.
- h) Research and program evaluation, including research methods, basic statistics, needs assessment, and program evaluation.
- i) Timely progress towards degree completion. (Active)

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Outcome: School Counselor Knowledge

Graduates will demonstrate knowledge and understanding expected by all School Counselors as measured by the Certification Examinations for Oklahoma Educators.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

Comprehensive, Certification, or Professional Exam(s) - Graduates of the School Counseling Option of the M.S. Counseling take the Certification examination for Oklahoma Educators, Test 039, for School Counselors. The state returns results to OSU, which include final results as well as comparisons to examinees from other institutions. Graduates are assessed in the following six subareas:

- a) Human Development and Learning
- b) Assessment and Evaluation
- c) Counseling and Group Guidance
- d) Educational and Career Planning
- e) Guidance Programs and Professional Knowledge
- f) Constructed Response (Active)

Outcome: Mental Health Counseling Knowledge

Graduates will demonstrate knowledge and understanding expected by all Mental Health Counselors by results from the licensure examination.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

Comprehensive, Certification, or Professional Exam(s) - Eligible students and alumni in the program take the National Counselor Examination. The National Board for Certified Counselors returns the results of the examination to the institution as well as comparisons to other CACREP and non-CACREP programs across the country. Graduates are assessed in the following eight areas:

- a) Human Growth and Development
- b) Social and Cultural Diversity
- c) Helping Relationships
- d) Group Work
- e) Career Development
- f) Assessment
- g) Research and Program Evaluation
- h) Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice (Active)

Outcome: Preparation for Employment

Graduates will be prepared for employment in the field of counseling or related fields.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

Outcome Type: Skills

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Assessment Methods

Survey - All current students are asked to complete a survey of program effectiveness at the end of every Spring semester. The survey is anonymous to encourage honest and forthright participation by every student in the program. Timing of the survey allows a snapshot of student experience in the program from the completion of two semesters throughout their time as graduate students. (Active)

Outcome: Prep for Success in Grad Studies

Graduates will be prepared for success in further graduate studies.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

Outcome Type: Skills

Assessment Methods

Survey - The alumni survey is distributed to graduates in an attempt to evaluate the overall graduate experience. This survey includes questions related to how well the graduate program prepared the graduate for his/her current vocational position as well as how well the graduate program prepared graduates for further graduate study. (Active)