



COLLEGE OF
PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Department of Counseling

Annual Report for CACREP Accredited Programs
Program Assessment and Evaluations

2018 - 2019

MS in SCHOOL COUNSELING

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School Counseling Annual Program Report

The Masters of Science degree in School Counseling (SCHC) is designed to successfully prepare students to become school counselors with a clear professional and ethical identity. Our students are equipped to design, create, implement and evaluate comprehensive developmental school counseling programs that meet the needs of the 21st century P-12 student’s academic, career, and social/emotional development. With this mission in mind, our school counseling students are placed in P-12 school settings to complete a minimum of 750 hours over a 3 semesters time span while engaged in their Practicum and internship experiences.

The SCHC program at Mercer University is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) under the 2009 standards.

Enrollment

The demographic data for students enrolled in the SCHC program during 2018-2019 provided below shows that of the 99 school counseling students, 89% are females with the majority being African American and White between the ages of 25 – 29 years old.

| <i>College of Professional Advancement MS in SCHC Program Enrollment Demographics</i> | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| Race/Ethnicity | Female | Male | Total |
| Asian | 4 | 1 | 5 (5%) |
| Black or African American | 41 | 5 | 46 (46%) |
| Hispanic/Latino | 1 | 1 | 2 (2%) |
| Two or more races | 1 | 0 | 1 (1%) |
| Unknown | 8 | 1 | 9 (10%) |
| White | 33 | 3 | 36 (36%) |
| Total by Gender | 88 (89%) | 11 (11%) | <u>99</u> |
| Age | Female | Male | Total |
| 1. < 25 | 13 | 1 | 14 (14%) |
| 2. 25-29 | 51 | 2 | 53 (53%) |
| 3. 30-34 | 4 | 3 | 7 (7%) |
| 4. 35-39 | 6 | 5 | 11(11%) |
| 5, 40-44 | 8 | 0 | 8 (8%) |
| 6. 45-49 | 3 | 0 | 3 (3%) |
| 7. 50 and Over | 3 | 0 | 3 (3%) |

Acceptance Rates

For the calendar year of 2018-2019, the SCHC program admitted 10% of the students who **applied**, only 8% actually enrolled in the program.

| Semester | Inquired | Applied | Admitted | Enrolled | Admissions Rate |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| 2018 Fall | 157 | 49 | 15 | 15 | 9% |
| 2019 Spring | 53 | 19 | 7 | 4 | 7% |
| 2019 Summer | 60 | 24 | 6 | 4 | 6% |
| TOTALS | 270 | 92 | 28 | 23 | 8% |

Retention and Graduation

From Fall 2018 to Summer 2019 (August 2018 – August 2019), the Mercer University SCHC program graduated 38 students (16 in Fall 2018; 20 in Spring 2019; 2 in Summer 2019). The graduation rate for the program is at 61%.

National Test, State Test and Exit Examination

National Test

The **National Counselor Exam** (NCE) serves as the licensing exam for the State of Georgia. While SCHC students are not required to take the NCE for practice as a professional in the Georgia public schools, they are encouraged to do so should they wish to be licensed; All school counseling students who took the exam were successful in passing it, thus maintaining an overall pass rating of 100% during both the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 testing. A table is provided below.

2018 – 2019 Mercer University NCE Pass Rate

| | Passing Score | CMHC | | | SCH | | | CRC | | | Overall | | |
|-------------|---------------|------|----|--------|-----|---|------|-----|---|------|---------|----|--------|
| Fall 2018 | 85 | 19 | 17 | 89% | 1 | 1 | 100% | 1 | 1 | 100% | 21 | 19 | 90.5% |
| Spring 2019 | 85 | 31 | 31 | 100.0% | 8 | 8 | 100% | 5 | 5 | 100% | 44 | 44 | 100.0% |

State Test

SCHC students are expected to take the **Georgia Assessment for the Certification of Educators** (GACE) School Counseling content tests (103 and 104), before graduating and to be endorsed for certification from the State by Mercer University. This is the test that serves as the certification exam for the State of Georgia. Thirty-three students took both GACE 103 and 104 tests during the period of September 2018 to August 2019. All Mercer students were successful in passing the state certification exam, giving the Program a 100% pass rate for the fifth year in a row. See the results in the charts below.

| College of Professional Advancement MS in SCHC Program GACE Results | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Test: 103 School Counseling Test I | | | | | | |
| Examinees: Admitted | | | | | | |
| Test Year: SEP-2018 TO AUG-2019 | | | | | | |
| Program: Mercer University | | | | | | |
| Examinee Attempts: Highest Score | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Statewide | | | Program | | |
| | # Examinees | # Passing | % Pass | # Examinees | # Passing | % Pass |
| Total | 352 | 329 | 93 | 33 | 33 | 100 |
| | <i>SUBAREA I. FOUNDATIONS</i> | | | | | 48 - 49 |
| | 1. UNDERSTANDS THE HISTORY AND ROLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR | | | | | 12 - 13 |
| | 2. DEMONSTRATES UNDERSTANDING OF FUNDAMENTAL THEORIES OF HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT | | | | | 12 |
| | 3. UNDERSTANDS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS IN THE FIELD OF COUNSELING | | | | | 12 |
| | 4. UNDERSTANDS MAJOR LAWS AND POLICIES AFFECTING STUDENTS AND SCHOOL COUNSELORS | | | | | 12 |
| | <i>SUBAREA II. MANAGEMENT</i> | | | | | 11 - 12 |
| | 1. UNDERSTANDS FUNDAMENTALS OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT | | | | | 11 - 12 |
| | | | | | | |
| Test: 104 School Counseling Test II | | | | | | |
| Examinees: Admitted | | | | | | |
| Test Year: SEP-2018 TO AUG-2019 | | | | | | |
| Program: Mercer University | | | | | | |
| Examinee Attempts: Highest Score | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Statewide | | | Program | | |
| | # Examinees | # Passing | % Pass | # Examinees | # Passing | % Pass |
| Total | 354 | 324 | 92 | 33 | 33 | 100 |
| | <i>SUBAREA I. DELIVERY OF SERVICE</i> | | | | | 48 |
| | 1. UNDERSTANDS FUNDAMENTAL THEORIES AND PRINCIPLES OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING | | | | | 36 |
| | 2. UNDERSTANDS THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION | | | | | 12 |
| | <i>SUBAREA II. ACCOUNTABILITY</i> | | | | | 12 |
| | 1. UNDERSTANDS FUNDAMENTALS OF PROGRAM EVALUATION AND DATA-DRIVEN ACCOUNTABILITY | | | | | 12 |
| | | | | | | |

School Counseling Program Exit Exam

SCHC students must take and successfully pass the **Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination** (CPCE) to matriculate through the program. During the 2018-2019 year, students in all of the counseling programs, including SCHC, achieved an overall pass rate of 100% for the Fall 2018 test and a 95% pass rate for the Spring 2019 testing.

2018 – 2019 Mercer University

Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE)

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Fall 2018 | 100% - All Programs |
| Spring 2019 | 95% - All Programs |

Employment Data

Graduates are asked to inform the Program Coordinator once they have obtained a job. This is done to obtain important program content feedback from the graduates' immediate supervisor or employer. A total of 31 of the 38 graduates have obtained a job as a school counselor in a P-12 school setting, a school-based mental health counselor, or a child and adolescent mental health counselor in Georgia, Illinois and Florida. This gives the SCHC program an employment rate of 81%.

Site Supervisor SCHC Program Evaluation

At the end of the Spring 2019 semester, a survey was sent to site supervisors who were supervising SCHC students in the internship (n = 22) courses. All site supervisors responded to the survey indicating a response rate of 100%. The results indicate that the site supervisors were very pleased or satisfied with the quality of the education and training that our students are experiencing in the School Counseling program. No site supervisor indicated dissatisfaction with the program preparation of school counselors and would be willing to host another Mercer SCHC student for an internship experience.

| | Site Supervisor Training | Communication with University | Will Host Another Mercer Student |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Very Satisfied | 6 (27%) | 4 (18%) | 22 (100%) |
| Satisfied | 12 (55%) | 15 (68%) | 0 |
| Neutral | 4 (18%) | 3 (14%) | 0 |
| Dissatisfied | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Very Dissatisfied | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | | | 22 |

The following tables below reveal the results of the feedback provided by the 22 site supervisors, specific to the SCHC program in preparing the students in the content areas needed for the profession. It is important to point out that all 22 of the site supervisors believed that the program had prepared the SCHC interns for the profession of school counseling. Most of the site supervisors (86%), were very satisfied with the overall quality of the SCHC program, while 14% (3) were satisfied.

| | Counseling Theory | Group Counseling | Interpersonal Skills | Therapeutic Skills | Multicultural Competence | Ethics & Law | Research Analysis |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Very Satisfied | 20 (91%) | 20 (91%) | 18 (82%) | 17 (77%) | 20 (91%) | 13 (59%) | 22 (100%) |
| Satisfied | 2 (9%) | 2 (9%) | 4 (18%) | 5 (23%) | 2 (9%) | 9 (41%) | 0 |
| Neutral | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dissatisfied | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Very Dissatisfied | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | |

| | Substance Use & Abuse | Special Populations | Professionalism | Quality of Program |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Very Satisfied | 18 (82%) | 10 (45%) | 21 (95%) | 19 (86%) |
| Satisfied | 4 (18%) | 12 (55%) | 1 (5%) | 3 (14%) |
| Neutral | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dissatisfied | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Very Dissatisfied | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | | | | 22 |

Feedback specific to the quality of the internship experience revealed a positive response with the majority indicating a satisfied or very satisfied rating. The SCHC faculty is committed to improving the overall experiences for all site supervisors by addressing the concerns noted in the survey report.

Student and Graduate Program Evaluation

During the Spring 2019 semester, a request for a program/curricular evaluation was sent to students and recent graduates of the school counseling program. In total, 23 individuals indicated that they were current students or graduates of the school counseling program, however only 14 respondents were noted. The individuals were asked to rate their level of satisfaction in eleven area (see chart below).

Overall, students and alumni's satisfaction with the program and its offerings were mixed. The faculty in the Program is committed to giving extra attention to all areas noted in an attempt to provide all students with the most rewarding experience as possible. Last year there appeared to be more students/alumni satisfied than this year's respondents. It is also important to note that the number of respondents for this year was less than those who completed the survey last year. Qualitative feedback was very similar to last year's where students and graduates liked the small class size in the SCHC specialty courses and a desire to see more sections of courses being offered in a format that allows for more online engagement to create flexibility with scheduling.

Students and Graduates Evaluation 2018-2019

| | Degree of Difficulty of Coursework | Current Course Offerings | Time of Day Courses Offered | Time of Day of Practicum/Internship Courses | Orientation to Program | Advisement |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|------------|
| Very Satisfied | 8 (57%) | 3 (21%) | 3 (21%) | 2 (14%) | 6 (43%) | 3 (21%) |
| Satisfied | 5 (36%) | 7 (50%) | 8 (57%) | 6 (43%) | 7 (50%) | 3 (21%) |
| Neutral | 1 (7%) | 3 (21%) | 1 (7%) | 3 (21%) | 1 (7%) | 3 (21%) |
| Dissatisfied | 1 (7%) | 0 | 2 (14%) | 2 (14%) | 0 | 3 (21%) |
| Very Dissatisfied | 0 | 1 (7%) | 0 | 1 (7%) | 0 | 2 (14%) |

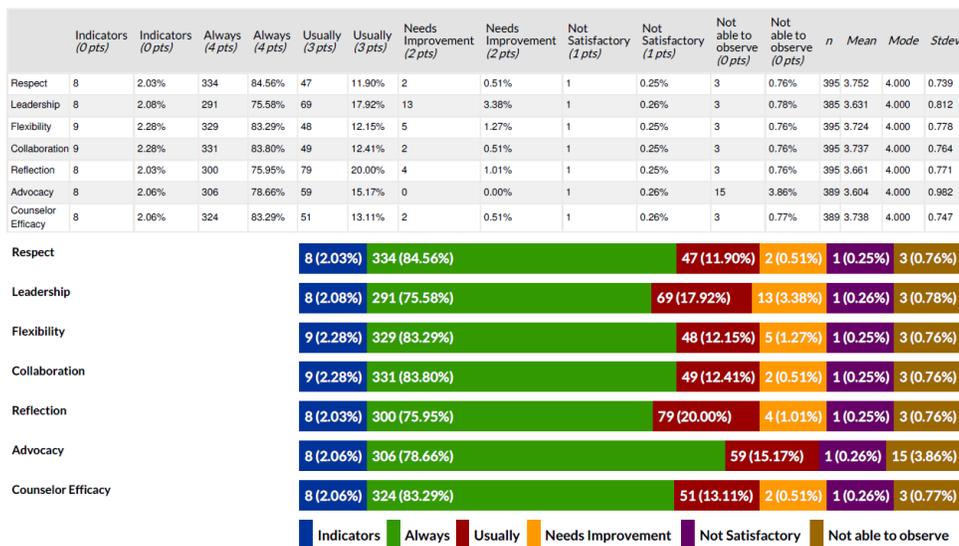
| | Online Course Offerings | Orientation to Practicum/Internship | Training in Counseling Ethics | Training in Counseling Theories | Training in Counseling Skills | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Very Satisfied | 2 (14%) | 6 (43%) | 8 (57%) | 7 (50%) | 8 (57%) | |
| Satisfied | 1 (7%) | 5 (36%) | 5 (36%) | 6 (43%) | 6 (43%) | |
| Neutral | 6 (43%) | 1 (7%) | 0 | 1 (7%) | 0 | |
| Dissatisfied | 3 (21%) | 0 | 1 (7%) | 0 | 0 | |
| Very Dissatisfied | 2 (14%) | 2 (14%) | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | 14 |

Assessment of Student Learning and Performance

The counseling program faculty, including those who teach in the SCHC program, meet monthly to discuss the disposition of students in the program. Students who are identified as “students of concern” are discussed in the monthly faculty meetings with movement towards a plan for remediation if needed. Below is a chart showing the Counseling faculty combined assessment of all SCHC students in the program in each course registered for during the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters. Overall, students were assessed as always or usually displaying the desired dispositions (attitudes and behaviors), of a school counselor-in-training.

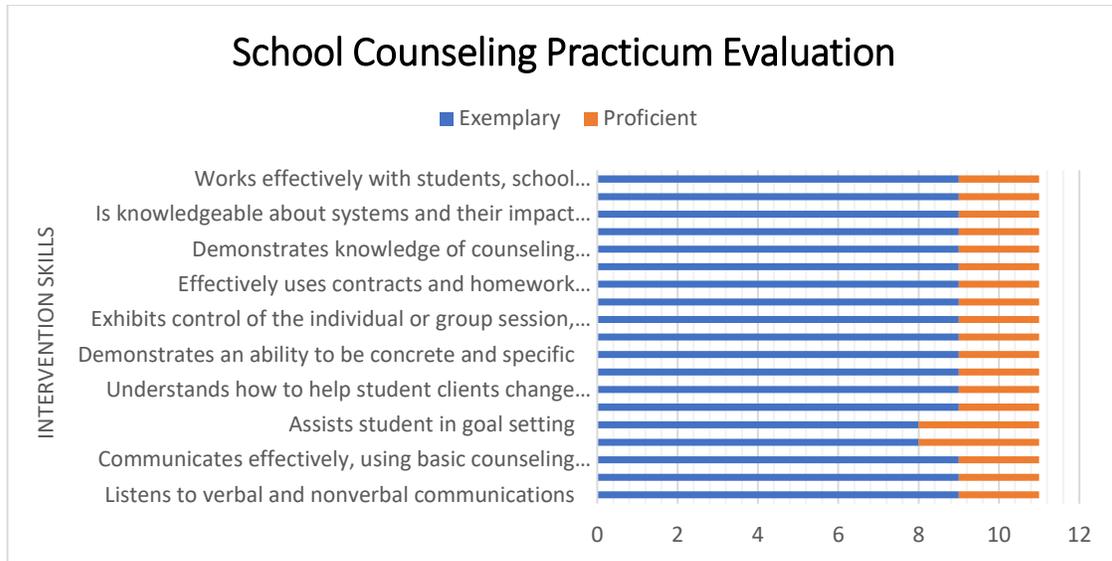
School Counseling Students Dispositions 2018-2019

Rubric: School Counselor Candidate Disposition Assessment (rev 8/11)



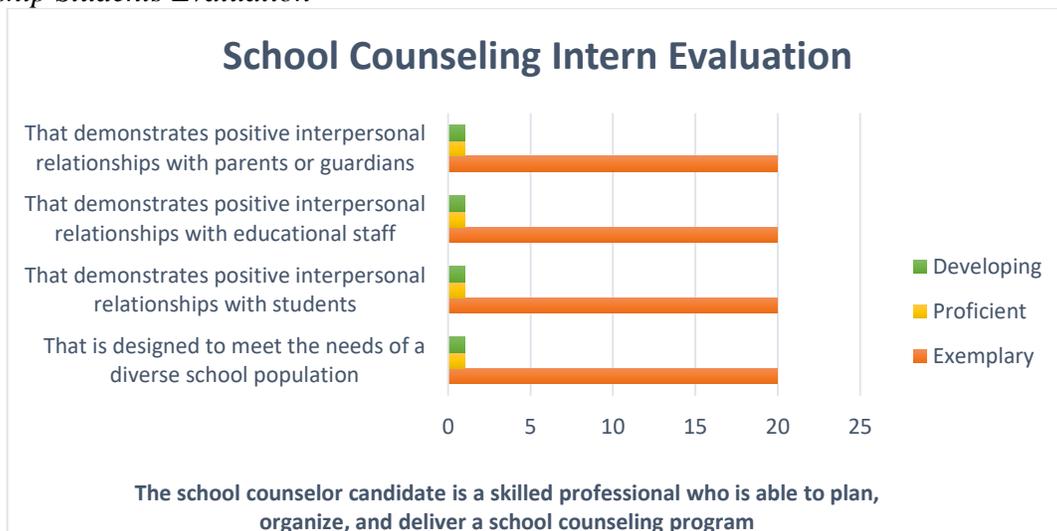
Additionally, students in their clinical/field experience (Practicum and Internship), are evaluated by their site supervisors at the end of each semester. Students continued to demonstrate proficiency in most areas. The tables below show one aspect of the evaluation of the Practicum students and one of the Internship students completed by their site supervisors at the P-12 school in the end of the specific clinical experience. A more thorough results report is provided in the School Counseling Annual PSC Report completed for the University (this can be found on the SCHC program’s website).

Practicum Students Evaluation



As noted in the graph above, there were no Practicum student who received less than a proficient score in any of the school counseling intervention skills noted on the evaluation instrument, a clear indication that the SCHC program is adequately preparing students to perform the skills needed to work effectively with children and adolescents in the school setting.

Internship Students Evaluation



Program Modifications

The school counseling program evaluation results indicated that a clearer scrutiny of the program is required for improvement during the 2019 – 2020 academic year. Mercer University School Counseling Program continues to produce excellent program outcomes and remains committed to teaching, training and graduating students to become successful and effective professional school counselors prepared to meet the demands of the 21st Century P-12 students in producing effective comprehensive developmental school counseling programs in the state of Georgia P-12 schools.