

# Counseling MA (CMHC)

## CACREP Accreditation For MCFC

Goal Description:

Begin alignment of the Marriage Couples Family Counseling track to seek CACREP accreditation.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Curriculum Alignment For MCFC

Learning Objective Description:

The MCFC faculty will begin curriculum alignment and new course development following the standards for CACREP accreditation for the Marriage Couples Family Counseling

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

MCFC Courses Available For Enrollment

Indicator Description:

Existing MCFC courses will be aligned with CACREP standards and new courses developed to meet the curricula requirements for MCFC programs seeking CACREP accreditation.

Criterion Description:

All CACREP standards for MCFC programs will be included throughout the courses required for the MCFC specialization.

Findings Description:

All of the CACREP specialty standards for MCFC student learning objectives and experiences have been included in existing courses as well as new courses have been created and approved by the college and university curriculum committees.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

MCFC Track Plan of Study

Action Description:

The MCFC Track has been added as a plan of study option to students seeking a MA degree in counseling. In order to obtain CACREP accreditation, we must have graduates from the program for which we are seeking accreditation. In spring 2016, we had our first graduate from the MCFC track. We have 8 new students enrolled in the MCFC track for an MA in Counseling. We are currently offering MCFC designated courses with an emphasis in working with couples and families. We will submit the self-study in fall 2016 to CACREP for accreditation.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

MCFC Track.

Learning Objective Description:

Create a track for the MCFC under the Master of Arts degree option.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

New Study Plan For MCFC

Indicator Description:

Students seeking the Master of Arts degree in the Counseling program will have a choice of two tracks rather than only one option, the Clinical Mental Health Counseling track. A new study plan and track option for Marriage Couples Family Counseling will be created and available for students seeking this specialization.

Criterion Description:

During the school year 2015-2016, MCFC faculty will meet with the VP of Graduate Studies and the Registrar to seek approval and support to add the MCFC as a specialized track option under the Master of Arts degree in the Counseling master's program.

Findings Description:

During fall 2015, the chair and master's program coordinator will meet with the personnel in Graduate Studies and the Registrar's office to add the MCFC as a specialization track option as part of the Master of Arts degree in the Counseling degree.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**MCFC Track Plan of Study**

**Action Description:**

The MCFC Track has been added as a plan of study option to students seeking a MA degree in counseling. In order to obtain CACREP accreditation, we must have graduates from the program for which we are seeking accreditation. In spring 2016, we had our first graduate from the MCFC track. We have 8 new students enrolled in the MCFC track for an MA in Counseling. We are currently offering MCFC designated courses with an emphasis in working with couples and families. We will submit the self-study in fall 2016 to CACREP for accreditation.

**Effective Community Mental Health Counselors**

**Goal Description:**

Graduates of the Counseling MA program are effective counselors.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Competency In Core Content Areas And Skills In Counseling.**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Graduates in the Counseling MA program will be knowledgeable in the core content areas for community mental health counseling.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Evaluations**

**Indicator Description:**

- 1. To continue in the program, faculty must score counseling students on a scale of 0-7, with 5 and above being acceptable and program faculty preferring a score of 6 or 7 on the Counselor Potential Scale.
- 2. Ninety percent of the MA graduates will make a passing score on the National Board of Counselor Certification (NBCC) National Counselor Examination for Licensure.

**Criterion Description:**

- 1. To continue in the program, faculty must score counseling students on a scale of 0-7, with 5 and above being acceptable and program faculty preferring a score of 6 or 7 on the Counselor Potential Scale.
- 2. Ninety percent of the MA graduates will make a passing score on the National Board of Counselor Certification (NBCC) National Counselor Examination for Licensure. We will continue this criteria for an additional year to maintain a pass rate of 90% on the NBCC.

**Findings Description:**

- 1. Students in the counseling program (MA and MEd) are reviewed for candidacy after completing 18 hours in the program. Faculty teaching the courses for these students complete a Counselor Potential Scale at the end of each course. The entire full-time counseling faculty review each student as they request movement in status to candidacy. Candidacy means that students are approved to continue in the program and register for Supervised Practicum, a course where they see clients from the community under the supervision of a counselor educator. This school year, 2015-2016, all students reviewed were ranked as 5 or better. There were two students that faculty/advisors met with to discuss professionalism, specifically related to tardiness and responsibility.
- 2. The National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification is administered twice a year, in October and April. In October, 2015, 11 students graduating from our program took the examination and passed - we had a 100% pass rate for the October, 2015 examination. In April 2016, 21 students graduating from the counseling program took the examination, 19 of the 21 passed giving a pass rate of 90%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Well prepared competent counselors**

**Action Description:**

Students in the counseling program are ranked by faculty with consistent scores of 5 to 7 on the counselor potential scale. Currently, the counseling faculty are reviewing the counselor potential scale for possible editing and/or revising. We want to make certain that we are using an effective instrument to evaluate students in the critical areas of counselor development.

To ensure our MA graduates are prepared as competent counselors, we will review scores on the National Counselor Examination to determine the areas where our students scored the lowest scores. We will determine how we can strengthen these content areas to help prepare our students to be competent in all areas of content and knowledge.

**Professional Practice And Training**

**Goal Description:**

Candidates will engaged in an internship providing supervised professional practice and training experiences.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Graduate Students Complete An Appropriate Professional Practice And Training Experience.**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Students will successfully complete an appropriate professional practice and training experience by demonstrating a thorough understanding of the process of counseling while enrolled in the Internship course (COUN 6386).

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2****Site Supervisors Evaluation Form.****Indicator Description:**

Site supervisors will complete and submit the Site Supervisor Evaluation Form to faculty teaching the internship course, COUN 6386, when students complete the field experience.

**Criterion Description:**

All students enrolled in COUN 6386, Internship will be evaluated by their site supervisor. Items are scored on a scale of 1-6, with 3 and above being at the acceptable or exceptional level of performance. Program faculty prefer scores of 4-6. The site supervisor are to review the completed evaluation form with the student intern. Both site supervisor and student will sign and submit the evaluation to the faculty member teaching the course. Students will receive a rating of meets or exceeds expectations on all items of the Site Supervisor Evaluation Form.

**Findings Description:**

All students enrolled in COUN 6386 for fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters were evaluated by their site supervisor. All students in the Master of Arts program were scored at 4 or higher (5-6) by their site supervisor on 28 items on the Site Supervisor Evaluation Form. One student earned a score of 3 on 7 of the 28 items.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3****Internship Supervisor Evaluation****Action Description:**

All of the students enrolled in Internship COUN 6386 were evaluated on the final Site Supervisor Evaluation as 4 or better (scores range from 1 to 6) on the 28 item evaluation instrument. Only one student was evaluated on the final evaluation with seven scores of 3, which is extremely unusual. This is the first time a student has completed the internship course at this particular site. Therefore, it is uncertain to what extent the evaluation scores could reflect the supervisor as unfamiliar with the evaluation scores, etc. or it could be that the students performed at the level of less competence. The student is enrolled in the second internship course this semester and she will be monitored closely by the faculty teaching the course to determine her level of skills to make certain they are accurately evaluated.

**Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement****Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):**

While students in the counseling program are scoring high on the Counselor Potential Scales and increased number of students are not passing all areas of the NBCC examination. The two areas with the lowest scores are: Human Growth and Development and Diagnostic and Assessment Services. Lead faculty in these two areas will mentor adjunct faculty teaching in these areas to make certain adjuncts are following the departmental syllabi including the learning experiences based on CACREP Standards designed to prepare students for the NBCC. In addition, faculty will consider creating study sessions for students preparing for the NBCC.

For Goal, Professional Practice and training, overall our students are performing at the above average level on all items of the Supervisor Evaluation for COUN 6386 with the exception of two students, while this is a very small percentage, faculty teaching COUN 6386 (Internship), Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice, and Community Counseling will incorporate learning experiences dealing with time management and risk of manipulation by clients.

Set a timeline throughout the fall 2015 and spring 2016 so that we are on track to submit the CACREP self-study for the MCFC track of the Master of Counseling degree.

**Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

Curriculum alignment and designated MCFC courses have been accomplished. Currently, we have 8 new students on the MCFC track of the MA degree. The CACREP self-study for the MCFC program will be submitted by the end of the fall 2016 semester.

We will continue to monitor student's performance and preparedness for the National Counselor Examination. While we meet our goal of 90% overall pass rate for first time takers of the national licensure examination, we are concerned that two students failed the examination. We will place emphasis on preparation for the examination in all courses, specifically in the Community Counseling course wherein student have specific preparation for the NCE. Faculty will spend time in monthly faculty meetings reviewing the Counselor Potential Scale for possible modifications or changes make certain we are using the best possible instrument to assess our students potential as future counselors and expectation of success in the counseling program.

The internship coordinator will monitor closely the progress of the student who received seven scores of "3" on the final Site Supervisor Evaluation document. Attention will be given to the site, the site supervisor, and the student to determine how we can help this student be more successful in meeting the expectations of the site and supervisor.

**Alignment of 2016 CACREP Standards****Closing Summary:**

We will begin moving our courses, specifically, student learning outcomes to the revised 2016 CACREP Standards. While we are accredited under the 2009 Standards and do not have to modify our program until reaccreditation which is scheduled 2022, our faculty believe that waiting until 2022 is not in the best interest of our student's learning experiences. During the school year 2016-2017 we will work on the realignment to the new standards for all our courses.