

Counselor Education, Department of
Assessment Plan Summary

Counselor Education, Department of

CACREP Accreditation

Goal Description:

The Clinical Mental Heath Program (M.A.), School Counseling (M.Ed.), and Doctoral (Ph.D.) programs will be accredited by CACREP.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

All Programs Accreditated

Performance Objective Description:

All of the current counseling programs are CACREP accredited.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Current Programs CACREP Accredited

KPI Description:

Currently, all Counseling programs are accredited. However, we have created a Marriage Couple Family Counseling track under the M.A. degree and are preparing course and program alignment for CACREP accreditation for this new track.

Results Description:

While in the process of preparing the CACREP accreditation self-study for the Marriage, Couples, Family, Counseling program we received notification from CACREP that all future self-studies must follow the 2016 standards. This moved us backward to a starting position as the self-study was almost completed using previous standards. In the fall we will begin working on the self-study for the MCFC program following CACREP 2016 standards.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Complete CACREP Self-Study for MCFC program to obtain CACREP accreditation for all programs.

Action Description:

Complete the self-study for the MA in marriage, couples, and family counseling (MCFC) by spring 2018 and submit to CACREP for review at the July 2018 meeting. To that end, the MCFC faculty have been meeting weekly and have divided sections of the self-study among the faculty. Each week the faculty meet to review progress made so far and continue working as a team to complete the entire self-study program within the projected timeline. The self-study must be prepared under the 2016 standards which is different from the other programs that are accredited under the 2009 CACREP standards. Preparing the self-study under the revised 2016 standards is a much lengthier process than adding on the MCFC self-study to the already existing programs following the 2009 standards.

Decrease Student Enrollment In The Master’s Programs.

Goal Description:

Decrease student enrollment by refraining from recruiting candidates for the Master of Arts and Master of Education.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Decrease Enrollment In The Master’s Programs.

Learning Objective Description:

Enrollment in the Master of Arts and Master of Education programs will decrease in order to meet CACREP faculty student ratio.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Enrollment Numbers Will Decrease

Indicator Description:

Faculty/student ratio will be 1 to 10 to meet CACREP requirements.

Criterion Description:

Faculty/Student ratio in the master's programs will be no more than 1 to 10 in order to meet CACREP standards.

Findings Description:

When this goal for 2016-2017 academic year were developed the CACREP ratio was 1 to 10. Therefore, the purpose of this goal was to meet the CACREP required ratio by limiting the number of students admitted so that our program faculty/student ratio was in compliance with the CACREP standard of 1 to 10. We successfully met this goal with a 1 to 9 ratio for academic year 2016-2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Decrease Faculty/student Ratio By Hiring Additional Faculty.

Learning Objective Description:

Hire two or three additional faculty to reduce faculty/student ratio.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Increase The Number Of Counseling Faculty.

Indicator Description:

Increase the number of counseling faculty from 9 to 12.

Criterion Description:

The faculty/student ratio will be 1 to 10 as required by CACREP with the addition of three new faculty in the counseling programs.

Findings Description:

Beginning fall 2016, we added a new faculty member for the School Counseling Master of Education program. Adding the new faculty member along with highly qualified adjuncts teaching courses helped us meet the 1 to 10 CACREP faculty student ratio. However, this faculty member resigned in August 2017 leaving a vacant position in the School Counseling Master of Education program.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Hire two highly qualified faculty for the Department of CE

Action Description:

Currently there are two positions open in the Department of Counselor Education. Committees have been formed, positions posted, and the positions are advertised in professional organizations, agencies, and search support services. One of the positions is for a school counseling focused faculty and the other position is for the chair of the department. We plan to begin interviewing qualifying applicants as soon as we have three highly qualified professional for each position.

Stakeholders Satisfaction

Goal Description:

Stakeholders as represented by the advisory committee for the Ph.D., M.A., and M.Ed. are satisfied with the counseling programs.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Stakeholders Will Approve Of The Counseling Programs.

Learning Objective Description:

Stakeholders will be members of the advisory committees for the counseling programs and will approve of the courses and learning experiences for students in the programs.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Members Of The Advisory Committee Will Be Satisfied With The Programs

Indicator Description:

Members of the advisory committee will respond favorably to the courses and learning experienes designed for students in the counseling program. Members will offer feedback to improve the programs and student learning experiences.

Criterion Description:

Feedback from the Advisory Committee members will be included in student learning experiences and program requirements as faculty efforts for continuous improvement.

Findings Description:

The advisory committee for all programs in the Department of Counselor Education met on April 21, 2017. Committee members represented a variety of mental health professions, including school counseling, private practice, hospitals and agencies, public mental health services, universities, and graduates from our counseling program. All members met together for the first part of the meeting and then broke into program areas (Master of Education, Master of Arts, and Doctoral) for an hour and then returned for a joint meeting. The feedback received about our students and program was very favorable. A recommendation by the committee members to improve the learning experiences for our students was to add instruction on electronic recordkeeping, scheduling, and client progress. In addition, the committee recommend we provide additional opportunities for your students to implement assessments with clients in the program counseling clinics to be used to assess client's level of mental health as well as collect feedback on client's progress.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Implementation of Advisory Committee Recommendations

Action Description:

Based on the recommendations of the Department Advisory Committee members, the faculty will review various electronic recordkeeping programs in the upcoming year. Updating the clinics to electronic recordkeeping will ensure that our students are prepared to enter the counseling profession with knowledge and skills reflecting most current practice for recordkeeping, scheduling clients, and collecting all additional documentation. In addition, fall 2017 we will begin providing two assessment screening instruments to be completed by clients at the Jack Staggs Clinic and the Woodlands Community Counseling Center. Results of the screening instruments will be used by our practicum students to assist in assessing and responding to the presenting needs of the clients.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

To ensure our program is of the highest quality, we plan to hire two new faculty to replace the positions recently made available. We are seeking highly qualified applicants with the educational, emphasis and experiences we need to strengthen our program. In addition, we are increasing our recruitment efforts to recruit competent students who meet the admissions criteria to the university and to our program as well as display the dispositions we believe necessary to be successful as students and potential counselors. This year, we recruited for all our programs but will focus efforts on recruiting students for our M.Ed. school counseling program. Currently, we have a school counseling cohort with Aldine ISD and will attempt to build other cohorts with nearby school districts.

Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

Faculty in the Department of Counselor Education are continuously seeking ways to improve the learning experiences for all students in the various programs. Specifically, continuing to monitor the MEd program to make certain we are following all CACREP and TEA requirements for certification. This past year our students achieved 100% rate on the TExES School Counseling certification examination. We believe this speaks to the quality of our program and the efforts of our outstanding students. Students in the MA track continue to perform on the NBCC examination with a 95% pass rate. We continue to have students in our doctoral program complete their dissertation and graduate from the doctoral program earning a PhD in Counselor Education.

The College of Education will finalize and implement a new Strategic Plan in the 2017-2018 AY. The Department of Counseling is developing a unit Strategic Plan that will support the 9 Goals established by the College Strategic Planning Team. This new plan will be tracked within the Campus Labs system, allowing the department to monitor progress on the plan. To that end, the Goals and Objectives in the Campus Labs system will be modified to reflect the new Department of Counseling Goals and Objectives. The new Strategic Plan will be the catalyst for continuous improvement.