

MS in Counseling School Counseling Concentration

I. Assessment of Candidates

From Fall 2006 to Spring 2008, 20 (11 in 06-07 and 9 in 07-08) students completed the degree of MS in Counseling. In addition, from Fall 2006 to Fall 2007 11 graduates received license. Only one student needed to repeat the PRAXIS II test and the student passed it two months later.

From the APSU ETS Results Statistics of Fall 2003-Spring 2008, 30 school counselor passed the exams and 1 did not. The average score is 682.90. In addition, 11 school counseling students passed the exam with the average score of 698.90.

According to the university “Professional Personnel Evaluation by Area Principals, 2007-2008” survey, a question is regarding “What suggestions do you have to improve the school guidance program at APSU”. Several suggestions were stated as below. A repeated suggestion is regarding the use of technological skill, such as in survey, data analysis, etc, for school counselors. The need and lack of technology use is also reflected in another question of “What do you consider to be the greatest weakness of professional personnel who have completed their education program at APSU within the last five years?”

- Technology for guidance counselors-role of counselor in high school. We follow and teach the ASCA National Model.
- Cover all the duties counselors have in the real world. 504 coordinator, S-team, testing data analysis, etc (Covered in Psy 6015 Foundations of School Counseling)
- I think APSU is doing a great job! I have a daughter in your guidance program and I have learned from her better ways of obtaining information and utilizing research-based information at my school
- Teach secondary guidance students how to be testing guidance these days. Students are required to spend 260 hours in each area – elementary, middle, and high school.
- It does an excellent job-no recommendations
- Require more technology because it is a must for guidance these days.
- I believe elementary guidance counselors need more courses concerning teaching strategies. In elementary school they teach guidance classes. (Covered in Psy 6015 Foundations of School Counseling)
- Our guidance counselor spends a majority of her time in classrooms teaching guidance lessons. It would be very beneficial for them to know and understand the importance of using varied teaching strategies to make lessons more interesting. (Covered in Psy 6015 Foundations of School Counseling)

Actions:

- PowerPoint presentations preparation required for students in Psy 5440 Diversity Issues in Counseling and Psy 5421 Advanced Skill Development in Counseling courses.
- Instructor for Psy 5640 Practicum in School Counseling is a middle school counselor and is teaching students in that class how to use the school system's technology.

II. Assessment of Program Operations

The program has consistently tried to admit a limited number of students every year to maintain the quality of the program. In Fall 2006-Spring 2007, 8 students were admitted in the School Counseling Program. In Fall 2007-Spring 2008, 12 students were admitted. Another difficulty that the program encountered is the lack of full-time faculty position. The program has normally maintained to have two time School Counseling faculty members. However, since 2003 a faculty resigned, there are difficulties in filling the position primarily due to the amount of salary which is not compatible to the market! This year, the department is continually searching for another full time tenure-track faculty in the School Counseling Program!

Actions:

- Statement of intent required beginning 2009.
- The Coordinator of the School Counseling Program meets with each student throughout the semester.
- Implementation of the "Comprehensive Exam" in order that students can enroll in internship after the exam beginning with admitted students in Fall Semester 2008.
- New handbook developed for Practicum and for Internship.
- Second year students in School Counseling program complete a narrative evaluation of the program.

III. Assessment System

The evaluations from Intern Supervisors (Licensed School Counselors) consistently rate Interns between 4-5 points on a 5-point scale internship evaluation form.

Actions:

Currently preparing evaluation forms to send to the supervisors and employers of graduates in the week of October 13.

1. All graduates from School Counseling Program.
2. All supervisors of school interns – these are experienced school counselors.
3. All employers of graduates.