

Program name: MA program in Clinical Psychology
Report submitted by Interim program director (2003-4), Colleen McMahon, Ph.D.
September 21, 2004

Goal 1 Graduates of the program should evidence skills in each of the 5 core areas specified by the Council of Applied Master's Programs in Psychology (CAMPP): (a) Statistics and Research Design, (b) Individual & Developmental Influences, (c) Social & Cultural Influences, (d) Biological Influences, and (e) Ethical & Legal Issues.

Outcome Measure #1 Students must complete a minimum of 52 semester hours with at least a B average.

Research Completed

Program requirements were compared to similar programs at other universities.

Findings

Program requirements were found to meet or exceed those of other programs

Review

The Clinical program committee has discussed findings and reviewed the status of the program following the reduction of required credit hours.

Actions

Credit hour reduction changes will be retained.

Improvements

Not applicable

Outcome Measure #2

Student must complete a core of courses representing the core content defined by discipline.

Research completed

CAMPP standards were utilized for comparison

Findings

Program requirements meet or exceed CAMPP standards

Review

Clinical program committee discussed findings.

Actions

Requirements have been retained.

Improvements

Not applicable

Outcome Measure # 3

Program graduates should find curriculum provided knowledge relevant to work or pursue further graduate training in the field.

Research Completed

Alumni from graduate classes 1997 to 2002 were surveyed in 2003-4.

Findings

A 63% response rate was attained through phone and mail surveys. The majority of alumni report employment in a related field (73%). Some graduates received additional graduate training, typically a Ph.D. or Psy.D. (31%); more recent graduates reported

better success in doctoral program acceptance than earlier graduate classes. Alumni recommended more training in assessment and more direction for thesis completion.

Review

Results were shared with Clinical program committee. Committee discussed findings and concluded that curriculum changes were supported by the alumni survey findings.

Actions

Decision to retain curriculum changes made in 2002. Inclusion of additional core assessment course (538) as required coursework for both program tracks. Decision to survey graduates on an interim basis for continued program evaluation.

Improvements

Results not yet available.

Outcome Measure #4

Students will maintain a portfolio of products from courses.

Research completed

Students were required to submit portfolios in January 2004. Fifteen first and second year student portfolios were reviewed by the Interim program director and summarized for the Clinical program committee.

Findings

Portfolios included valuable examples of clinical training products as well as useful indices of student progress, including assessment reports, treatment plans, and student personal statements. Portfolios also included products that were redundant with course grades (e.g., exams, papers).

Review

The program committee reviewed the portfolio findings.

Actions

The program committee voted to limit portfolio products clinical training products. The committee voted to use portfolios for student advisement annually, instead of each semester.

Improvements

Results not yet available.

Goal #2

Graduates of the program should evidence skills in psychological assessment.

Outcome measure #1

Students must complete at 8 semester hours of coursework in assessment with at least a B average.

Research completed

Program requirements were compared with similar programs at other universities.

Findings

Requirements were found to meet or exceed those of other programs

Review

Clinical program committee discussed findings.

Actions

No action necessary

Improvements

Not applicable

Outcome Measure #2 Program graduates should find curriculum provided knowledge relevant to work or the pursuit of further graduate training in the field.

Research Completed

Graduates were surveyed in the 2003-4 academic year

Findings

Most graduates with a terminal master's in clinical psychology who continue to work in the field do so in positions as psychological assessment assistants. Doctoral programs prefer students with Master's to already have obtained competency in intellectual and personality assessment.

Review

Clinical program committee reviewed alumni survey results.

Actions

An additional assessment course, PSY 538, was included as a required course for both program tracks.

Improvements

Results not yet available.

Outcome Measure#3

Students will maintain a portfolio of products from courses including assessment reports from classes.

Research completed

Student portfolios were submitted in January 2004 which included assessment reports from several classes and fieldwork placement sites.

Findings

All students met minimum competency levels in intellectual and personality assessment skills.

Review

Clinical program committee reviewed portfolio findings.

Actions.

No action necessary

Improvements

Not applicable.

Outcome Measure #4

Students will complete at least 450 hours of supervised field placement.

Research completed

Program and field supervisors will evaluate student skill in assessment

Findings

Students complete Fieldwork Placement with a grade of satisfactory. Several placements sites do not include psychological assessment as a training activity.

Review

Clinical program committee discussed findings.

Actions

No action taken at this time.

Improvements
To be determined.

Outcome Measure #4

Students will establish goals for Field Placement for their development of assessment skills.

Research completed

Students will review progress toward goals with supervisors at the end of each semester.

Findings

Some placement sites do not include psychological assessment as a training activity.

Review

Findings continue to be a topic for discussion for the program committee.

Actions

No action taken at this time.

Improvements

To be determined.

Goal #3 Graduates of the program should evidence skills in therapy and intervention.

Outcome Measure #1

Students must complete at least 8 semester hours of coursework in therapy and intervention with a B average.

Research completed

Program requirements were compared with similar programs at other universities.

Findings

Requirements were found to meet or exceed those of other programs.

Review

Clinical program committee discussed findings.

Actions

No action necessary

Improvements

Not applicable

Outcome Measure #2

Program graduates should find curriculum provided knowledge relevant to work or pursue further graduate training in the field.

Research completed

Graduates were surveyed in the 2003-4 academic year.

Findings

Program alumni rated their therapy coursework and fieldwork experiences as highly valuable and useful, regardless of their current employment status.

Review

Clinical program committee reviewed alumni survey findings.

Actions

No action necessary

Improvements

Not applicable

Outcome Measure #3

Students will maintain a portfolio of products from courses including therapy and intervention.

Research completed

Student portfolios were submitted in January, 2004.

Findings

Treatment plans and other intervention related products were submitted from fieldwork training activity for students.

Review

Clinical program committee reviewed findings.

Action

No action determined at this time.

Improvement

To be determined.

Outcome Measure #5 Students will establish goals for Field Placement for their development of therapy and intervention skills

Research Completed

Students will review progress toward goals with supervisors at the end of each semester.

Findings

Many field placement sites do provide therapeutic intervention experience as a training activity for students.

Review

Clinical program committee reviewed findings.

Action

No action determined at this time.

Improvement

To be determined.

Goal #4 Graduates of the program should evidence knowledge of the profession and available careers.

Outcome measure #1 Students will meet with a program advisor at least once a semester.

Research completed

Similar programs were examined for comparable procedures.

Findings

Requirement is similar to other programs; some programs provide group advisement.

Few students met with advisors regarding their progress in the program.

Review

Clinical program committee discussed findings.

Action

Interim program director and a faculty member met with student groups once a semester.

Student encouraged to meet with faculty advisors as well.

Improvements

Students indicated meetings were helpful in course selection, thesis preparation, and preparation of doctoral program applications.