

Program Assessment Report

Unit Psychology

Program name: Clinical Psychology MA

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Goal #1 Graduates of the program should demonstrate knowledge and skills in each of the five core areas specified by the Council of Applied Master's Program in Psychology (CAMPP): statistics and research design; individual and developmental influences; social and cultural influences; biological influences ; ethical and legal issues(8/03; modified 8/04)

Outcome measure #1: Students must demonstrate satisfactory performance in the set of courses representing the core content specified by the discipline.(8/03)

Research completed: CAMPP standards were utilized for comparison

Findings: Program requirements meet or exceed CAMPP standards.

Review: The Clinical program Committee (CPC) discussed the findings. Students performed well in their courses, which prepared them in the above areas, as evidenced by their exams, class reports, "hand- in" assignments and other indices of course mastery.

Actions: Requirements have been retained.

Improvements: Courses are continually evaluated and have been found to be of high quality. In addition, we will continue our practice of having the director of the CSU writing center present to our first year students a basic writing skills workshop.

Outcome measure #2 Graduates should find the curriculum to provide knowledge relevant to work or to the pursuit of further graduate training in the field .

Research completed: Alumni who graduated between 1997 and 2002 were surveyed via phone and mail in 2003 and 2004.

Findings: A 63% response rate was attained. The majority (73%) report employment in a related field. .Some graduates (31%) received additional graduate training, typically in a Ph.D. or Psy. D program. Some alumni recommended more training in assessment and in thesis preparation.

Review: Results were shared with the CPC which discussed the findings.

Actions An additional core assessment course (Psy 538) was added as a requirement.. Regarding thesis supervision, several actions were taken, as shown below:

1) The students were assembled with the entire clinical and research faculty, where the students heard faculty members described their respective research activities, and invited the students to consult with them on a topic relevant to their research activities.

2) a session was devoted to describing to the students the format and structure of a research thesis. This included examples of suitable research topics and a handout detailing the format of a thesis.

3) a number of our first year students have recently initiated research activities with their mentor..

Improvements: Students have mastered skills in the assessment course (as manifested in their grades on administration of assessment instruments and in satisfactory completion of the other requirements for this course). They are also moving along in their thesis work.

Outcome measure #3. Students will maintain a portfolio of products from coursework. and submit these portfolios to their professors.

Research completed. Students submitted portfolios to their professors which were shared with the program director.

Findings: Portfolios included samples of clinical training products to serve as indices of student progress, including assessment reports clinical interview reports and treatment plans.

Review: The course instructors reviewed these portfolios with the Clinical Director The portfolios were found to be of good quality and demonstrated mastery of the skills learned..

Actions: We will continue this practice.

Improvements: current procedures are satisfactory.

Outcome measure #4: Students will be evaluated regularly by the CPC faculty for overall academic and professional competence.

Research completed: Toward the end of each semester, the Director of the CPC requests feedback on each student's academic and professional progress from the faculty members teaching in the program.

Findings: Results were shared and discussed by the CPC at formal program meetings toward the end of each semester (12/05 and 04/06)

Review: the CPC reviewed the evaluative data. .No specific student problems emerged.

Improvements: Not applicable.

Outcome measure #5 Students should be recognized as competent and skilled, appropriate to their level of training and experience, by other professionals in the community.

Research completed. External requests for students to join university research teams, to teach undergraduate classes, and to assume positions in clinical/counseling settings have been reported.

Findings: Students who graduated from the program are holding positions at University Hospital, at Recovery Resources (a substance abuse recovery setting) or teaching undergraduate courses in psychology. Some are going on to Ph.D. programs.

Review: members of the CPC have supplied such information, and are satisfied with these findings.

Actions: No further action is necessary at this point. We will continue to familiarize local service settings with our program, so as to promote job opportunities for our students.

Goal #2 Graduates should evidence competency in psychological assessment.

Outcome measure #1: Students must demonstrate behavioral proficiency in intellectual and personality assessment, including test administration and report writing.

Research completed: Program requirements were compared with similar programs at other universities.

Findings: Requirements were found to meet those of similar programs. Students' performance (i.e. administration of psychological assessment tools, scoring of these tests and write-ups of the ensuing reports) were evaluated in the practicum component of their course in assessment. Feedback to the students were given throughout the duration of the course.

Review: The CPC discussed these findings.

Actions: No further action is necessary. The assessment course has recently been expanded to include several neuropsychological tests, which may make the students particularly valuable to medical and educational settings.

Improvements: see above

Outcome measure #2: Graduates should find the curriculum provided knowledge relevant to work or pursuit of further graduate training in the field.

Research completed: Graduates were surveyed in the 2003-04

Findings: Most graduates with the terminal master's degree in clinical psychology who work in the field assume assessment positions. Doctoral programs expect students with master's degrees to have obtained assessment competencies in their masters training program.

Review: the CPC is aware of these findings.

Actions: An additional assessment course was added several years ago (Psy 538) to both the practitioner and the research track. In addition, as stated above, the assessment course has added neuropsychological tests to its curriculum.

Improvements: the strengths that our students have gained through our assessment courses (Psy 538, intellectual evaluation, and Psy 587, Personality Testing) makes them very desirable for organizations providing psychological services, and to doctoral programs in clinical psychology. Our graduates are also valued by clinical research settings since they possess both a clinical understanding of these tests and statistical skills.

Outcome measure #3: Students will maintain a portfolio of products from assessment courses, including written reports.

Research completed: student portfolios were submitted to their professors who are responsible for the assessment and interviewing courses.

Findings: Requirements were found to meet those of similar programs. The portfolios illustrated student competencies.

Review: These findings were shared with the CPC

Actions: No further action is necessary.

Improvements: N/A

Outcome #4: Students will complete at least 450 hours of supervised field placement in their second year of study.

.Research completed: Program and field supervisors will evaluate students' assessment and intervention skills.

Findings: Fieldwork placement supervisors report their written evaluations of students to the Clinical Professor who coordinates fieldwork placement. In the academic year 2005-6, 100% of students received evaluations of satisfactory or better in their written evaluations from their supervisors. There is also ongoing dialogue between the Professor in charge of fieldwork placement and the placement supervisors, regarding the setting and the students' progress.

Review: The CPC reviews and discusses the evaluations at the end of each semester In AY 2005-6 these were reviewed in early Dec. and early April.

Actions: Faculty intervene, if necessary, to remediate problems. No problems occurred. No action is necessary at this point

Improvements: N/A.

Outcome # 5 Students will establish goals for Field Placement for the development of assessment skills.

Research completed. At this point in their professional development, students are not sufficiently knowledgeable or experienced in the field of clinical psychology to be able to make these judgments. Students enter the field placement experience in order to learn the skills necessary to evaluate, assess, and/or therapeutically intervene to help the clients

Findings The professor coordinating the field placement reports mutual satisfaction among field supervisors and students in the field.

Review: The CPC continues to review these reports.

Actions: No action taken at this point.

Improvements: N/A.

Goal #3 Graduates should evidence basic competencies in therapy and intervention commensurate with their status as novice clinicians.

Outcome measure #1: students must demonstrate an understanding of , and the ability to apply therapy and intervention skills, in applied settings.

Research completed: Program requirements were compared with similar programs at other universities.

Findings: 1.Requirements were found to meet those of similar programs.
2. Students were evaluated by their field placement supervisors and were graded as competent in these skills.

Review: The CPC discussed these findings

Actions: No action necessary.

Improvements: N/A.

Outcome measure #2: Graduates should find the curriculum provided knowledge relevant to work or to the pursuit of further graduate training in the field.

Research completed: Graduates were surveyed in the 2003-2004 academic year.

:Findings: Alumni rated their therapy coursework and fieldwork experiences as highly valuable and useful, regardless of their employment status.

Review: The CPC reviewed the alumni survey findings.

Actions: No action necessary.

Improvements: N/A.

Outcome measure #3: Students will maintain a portfolio of products from therapy and intervention courses.

Research completed: Student portfolios are routinely submitted to the professor who is the fieldwork coordinator and to the on- site field supervisor, including treatment plans.

Findings: All students met minimum competency levels in therapy and intervention skills.

Review: The CPC reviewed the portfolio findings.

Actions: No further action is necessary.

Improvements: N/A

Outcome measure #4: Students will complete at least Fieldwork placement supervisors will evaluate students' therapy and intervention skills.

Findings: Fieldwork placement supervisors report ^ttheir written evaluations of students to the Professor who is the fieldwork coordinator. All students received ratings of satisfactory or better on their written evaluations from supervisors.

Review: The CPC reviews and discusses the evaluations at the end of each semester. In AY 2005-06, these meetings occurred in early Dec. and in early April.

Actions: No further action is necessary at this time.

Improvements: N/A.

Outcome measure # 5: Students will establish goals for Field Placement for the development of therapy and intervention skills.

Research completed: Students review progress toward goals with supervisors throughout each semester.

Findings: Not all Placement sites provide opportunities for therapy . Some sites focus primarily on assessment.

Actions: No action taken at this time, although we are always exploring sites that can provide an array of clinical experiences.

Review: The CPC continues to discuss internship options.

Improvements: To be determined.

Goal #4. Graduates should evidence knowledge of the profession, career possibilities, and options for doctoral – level training

Outcome measure #1: Students will meet with their program director at least once a semester and discuss these issues.

Research completed: Similar programs were examined for comparable procedures.

Findings: Requirement is similar to other programs.

Review: The CPC discussed these findings

Action The clinical faculty met with the students as a group once a semester. They discussed thesis options and strategies for launching and completing a thesis. They also discussed career options and doctoral level training, including strategies for improving GRE scores, as a means of improving probability of getting into Ph D. programs. In addition students are exposed on a daily basis to clinical faculty, who share their knowledge of the profession and their clinical experiences with them.

Improvements. Students were given important information in the above areas, which they can put to good use in moving along professionally. We are not in a position to measure the impact of this information dissemination, since it often takes some time for these ideas to germinate until they are put to full use.

Outcome measure #2: First and second year students will attend together periodic luncheons with faculty to discuss curricular, research, professional, educational and career issues.

Research completed: Similar programs were examined for comparable procedures.

Findings: A variety of different mechanisms are employed to foster student development and student- faculty interaction.

Review: The CPC discussed the findings and decided to implement a periodic student – faculty lunch program.

Action: Program Director scheduled luncheons once or twice a semester. Both clinical and non clinical faculty participated. Some of the non clinical faculty were doing research which was of interest to the clinical students. Thus the students were exposed to a wider range of research interests than in previous years.

Goal #5 Graduates should report that the program met their expectations in preparing them for professional practice or further graduate education.

Outcome measure #1: Graduate students will complete an anonymous survey that assesses their perceptions of the strengths and weaknesses of the program.

Research completed: A new survey is being developed and will be mailed to the graduating students this summer.

Findings To be collected and tabulated.

Review: To be accomplished by distributing the summary survey data to the program faculty and discussing the results at program meetings.

Action: To be determined.

Improvements: To be determined. :