



## Department of Counseling 2020 Annual Report

M.A. Clinical Mental Health Counseling

M.Ed. School Counseling

Hello IUP Master's Program Stakeholders,

It has been a busy year for the Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling programs. We are thrilled to share with you updates from the past year. It has been a year filled with a consistent need for flexibility, adaptability, and adjustment. We want to thank our current students, faculty, administration, alumni, and community supervisors for their support of the Department during this time of transition.

The Department celebrated numerous graduates in 2020 and held a virtual ceremony for those who graduated in December.

Semester	Number of Graduates
December 2020	19
August 2020	8
May 2020	21
Total 2020 Graduates	48 Total: 30 M.A. and 18 M.Ed.

In addition, 90% of students who took the 2020 National Counseling Exam passed and 100% of students passed the PRAXIS exam for school counseling. We are proud of the results of these assessments and remain confident in the training we provide to our counseling students.

### Summary of Program Evaluation Results

During the Fall 2019 semester, the Department reviewed our expectations for counseling graduates. The updated Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and expectations of students are listed in the table below.

#### SLOs Assessment Plan

SLO	Expectation	Courses Measured In	CACREP Curricular Area
Case Conceptualization	Students will demonstrate the ability to collect information and conceptualize complex client/student presenting concerns and	Individual and Group Practicums (CMHC) or Elementary or Secondary Practicums (SC), Diversity Issues in Counseling, Counseling	Social and Cultural Diversity, Human Growth and Development,

SLO	Expectation	Courses Measured In	CACREP Curricular Area
	plan/implement effective counseling strategies	Across the Lifespan, Crisis and Addictions, Systems, Field Experience	<b>Career Development, Counseling and Helping Relationships</b>
<b>Skill Development</b>	Students will demonstrate basic and advanced counseling skills needed to develop rapport, conceptualize presenting concerns, implement effective counseling strategies, and entry level professional skills in professional settings.	Individual and Group Practicums (CMHC) or Elementary or Secondary Practicums (SC), Basic Counseling Skills, and Field Experience	<b>Counseling and Helping Relationships, Group Work</b>
<b>Theories</b>	Students will demonstrate that they can design theory-based plans for counseling interventions	Individual and Group Practicums (CMHC) or Elementary or Secondary Practicums (SC), Counseling Theories, Career Counseling, Diagnostic Issues in Counseling, Assessment and Appraisal	<b>Career Development, Counseling and Helping Relationships, Group Work, Assessment and Testing</b>
<b>Ethical Practice and Professionalism</b>	Students will demonstrate knowledge of and adherence to the ACA <i>Code of Ethics</i> (current edition), articulate an ethical decision-making model, articulate an appropriate course of action for resolving ethical issues	Individual and Group Practicums (CMHC) or Elementary or Secondary Practicums (SC), Ethical Issues and Professional Orientation, Field Experience	<b>Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice, Counseling and Helping Relationships, Group Work</b>
<b>Multicultural/Diversity</b>	Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of culture and heritage on acculturative experiences on individual's views of others, the effects of power and privilege for counselors and clients, identifies barriers, sources of oppression and discrimination	Individual and Group Practicums (CMHC) or Elementary or Secondary Practicums (SC), Multicultural and Diversity Issues, Field Experience	<b>Social and Cultural Diversity, Career Development, Counseling and Helping Relationships, Group Work</b>
<b>Evidence Based Practices</b>	Demonstrates the ability to use counseling-based research to understand client problems/issues and to design and evaluate counseling interventions	Individual and Group Practicums (CMHC) or Elementary or Secondary Practicums (SC), Appraisal (CMHC) and Assessment (SC), Clinical Mental Health	<b>Counseling and Helping Relationships, Group Work, Assessment and Testing</b>

SLO	Expectation	Courses Measured In	CACREP Curricular Area
		Counseling and Management (SC), Field Experience	
<b>Social Justice/Advocacy</b>	Demonstrates core values of the profession, describes ways in which professional counselors are advocates for the profession and for their clients, articulates professional counselor's role in promoting social justice including cultural, political or economic forces.	Individual and Group Practicums (CMHC) or Elementary or Secondary Practicums (SC), Multicultural and Diversity Issues, Crisis and Addictions, Diagnostic Issues, and Field Experience.	<b>Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice, Social and Cultural Diversity, Counseling and Helping Relationships, Group Work</b>

The next step in our SLO updating process is to review, update, and revise the culminating (summative) assignments in all counseling courses. This work will begin during the 2021-2022 academic year and we look forward to sharing results with you in a future Annual Report.

Department faculty consistently utilize collected data to inform program modifications. Examples from this past year include:

1. Transitioning counseling courses to remote instruction in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Including telehealth experiences in clinical courses.
3. Removing the COUN 617: Basic Counseling Skills prerequisite from COUN 637: Counseling Theories. Student feedback indicated that the prerequisite requirement made scheduling problematic at times. Faculty reviewed current best pedagogical practices and determined that the prerequisite was not necessary. As such, the prerequisite will be removed, beginning in the summer of 2021.

### **Other Program Changes**

There were additional substantive changes to the master's programs. In response to our Department's considerable growth, Dr. Brittany Pollard-Kosidowski assumed the role of Assistant Chairperson during the Fall 2020 semester. The responsibilities of this new position include: coordinating the School Counseling M.Ed. and Clinical Mental Health Counseling M.A. programs at both the Indiana and Pittsburgh East campuses, serving as the CACREP Liaison to ensure accreditation compliance at the master's level, submitting all required documentation, and communicating consistently with the accrediting body. In addition, Dr. Pollard-Kosidowski will provide leadership in updating master's-level curriculum to ensure CACREP compliance.

The Department was also thrilled to announce the addition of tenure-track faculty member, Dr. Matthew Nice. Dr. Nice earned his Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision from Duquesne University. His research and scholarly interests focus on emerging adulthood, cultural identity salience, and individuation.

As of the Fall 2020 semester, Dr. Kimberly Desmond transitioned into the position of Department Chairperson and Dr. Holly Branthoover assumed the role of Doctoral Program Coordinator. The Department continues to grow and is looking ahead to the future.

Again, a sincere thank you for supporting the Department of Counseling. We look forward to another productive year.