Intro Page 3: Annual Programmatic Review and Changes

Professional Considerations

In light of the coronavirus pandemic, the Counseling Faculty shifted to an all-online format in the spring of 2020. The switch involved learning curves for all parties associated with the program, but – based on anecdotal data – students and faculty managed the transition effectively. In light of anticipated changes to campus (i.e., reduced capacity) in the fall, the faculty met at semester's end to review the program curriculum and determine formatting for each course. Most clinical courses (e.g., Counseling Techniques, practicum, internship) will be taught in a face-to-face format, incorporating the medical considerations established by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Some courses will be taught using a hybrid approach, whereas others will adopt either a virtual/synchronous or fully online/asynchronous format.

Update to Counseling Program Student Handbook

In 2020, the faculty worked together to update the student handbook. This included a review of admission and progression policies, and a streamlining of clinical practice paperwork.

Data Points

Program Data Point 1. Counseling Program Vital Statistics

In an effort to fill its annual cohort, the faculty conducted a market analysis of counseling programs in the region and found NKU's to be the most expensive. In order to make the program more competitive to students residing out of state, but within the Cincinnati metro area (i.e., Ohio, Indiana), the faculty requested the university reduce the program's metro rate from $738 per credit hour to $630 per credit hour (a 14.6% decrease). If approved, this would make the program among the least-expensive in the metropolitan region. The faculty believes this will increase the annual pool of applicants.

Program Data Point 2. Counseling Program Admission and Enrollment

The faculty continues to engage in outreach and recruitment efforts. In addition to attending two graduate open houses every year, counseling faculty meet with student organizations from the university's undergraduate Department of Psychological Science each semester. Counseling faculty has visited schools in and hosted visiting students from other regions (e.g., Berea College in central Kentucky, Franklin College in Indiana) to provide information on opportunities for graduate study in clinical mental health and school counseling. The faculty has also enhanced connections with NKU's undergraduate Human Services & Addictions Program.

In the December of 2019, upon hearing Cincinnati Christian University (CCU) would be forced to close its doors, the faculty reached out to students in CCU's CACREP-accredited Clinical

Mental Health Counseling Program and afforded them opportunities to finish out their studies uninterrupted.

Program Data Point 3. Annual Student Professional Development Plans

Faculty advisors propose and track Professional Development Plans. Students' satisfy conditions for PDPs at an adequate rate.

Program Data Point 4. Counseling Program Learning Objectives

Key Objective Assessments (KOAs) have provided a clear means of assessing student learning according to the CACREP standards. Review of the KOAs at the end of each fall and spring semester inform decisions pertaining to modification of courses, as well as assignments.

Program Data Point 5. Admission to Practicum and Internship

Enrollment in Practicum and Internship is consistent with admissions and matriculation.

Program Data Point 6. Evaluation of Internship

Overall, supervisors regard our students as strong. Data indicate the practicum and internship students excelled at the professional and interpersonal aspects of counseling practice. Areas for improvement seems to involve the application of theories and advanced counseling skills (e.g., confrontation). The faculty responded by increasing attention to theoretical orientation early in the practicum experience, and developing case presentation measures in both practicum and internship that require greater familiarity with and fluency in theoretical understanding and application.

Program Data Point 7. Counseling Program Comprehensive Exam (CPCE)

Our students continue to score above the national mean on the CPCE.

Program Data Point 8. National Exams

Pass rates on National Exams are 100%.

Program Data Point 9. Recommendations for Certifications and/or Licensure

Though the COVID-19 pandemic interfered with certification processes in spring 2020, recommendations for certifications in the fall remained consistent with graduation rates.

Program Data Point 10. Post-Graduation Review

Given the low response rate, the faculty is currently considering alternative means for collecting more reliable program data from graduates. These include conducting using social media (e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn), and using other forms of technology (e.g., e-mail, text) to notify recent graduates of the availability and importance of the Destination Survey. The survey will also be modified to enhance insight into job placement rates.

Program Data Point 11. Supervisee Evaluation of Site and Site Supervisor

The data suggest students believe their sites and site supervisors are providing effective training experiences.

Program Data Point 12. Counselor Disposition Rating

Student Dispositions are incorporated in the KOAs. Dispositions on average improve throughout the program. Disposition survey questions are included in the KOAs for the orientation courses COU 600 and COU 602, COU 640: Counseling Techniques, and COU 691-2: Counseling Internship.

Program Data Point 13. Faculty to Student Ratios

Faculty-to-Student Ratios are within the parameters established by CACREP.