



2016 Academic Program Review Summary

College of Education

Department of Counselor Education

Part 1 Overview

A. Degree Programs by Level

Graduate (13.1101)

School Counseling (M.Ed., Ed.S.)

Mental Health Counseling (M.Ed., Ed. S.)

Rehabilitation Counseling (M.Ed.)

Counseling (Ph.D.)

B. Mission and Purpose

Mission

Our mission is to educate students for professional counseling practice and leadership in local, national, and international domains. Mindful that education extends beyond coursework, faculty and students collaborate with schools, communities, agencies and other professionals, to conduct research, and provide services in accord with the highest ethical and professional standards and values in response to the personal, educational, and vocational needs of individuals and families living in diverse and multicultural environments including persons with disabilities. Faculty aspire to produce new knowledge and relevant research, create dynamic atmospheres for learning, and inspire students to actualize their potential, all with the goal of achieving just solutions to human concerns.

Goals

In order to accomplish this mission, the faculty in collaboration with students enrolled in departmental programs endeavor to achieve the following three goals:

1. An ethically-informed professional identity;
2. A disciplined scholarly inquiry and research agenda; and
3. A commitment to efficacious professional service.

C. Major changes since the last program review

In the fall of 2015, the FAU College of Education became the first in Florida to receive accreditation through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the single specialized accreditor for educator preparation in the United States. Faculty underwent the new accreditation process in order to take the lead in meeting new rigorous standards. The Department of Counselor Education School Counseling program earned reaccreditation from the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) continuing through 2020. Additionally, Faculty were cited for an excellent job aligning CACREP and CAEP standards and integrating the standards into LiveText. The programs in the Department of Counselor Education received full accreditation until 2021 by CACREP. In addition to being the mark of a quality program, CACREP accreditation sets FAU's graduate programs in counseling (both Masters and Doctoral) *considerably* above competing programs in the surrounding area. This translates into a *distinct advantage* for graduates of FAU's programs when seeking employment. For doctoral students, graduation from a CACREP accredited program is a *requirement* for employment for as an Assistant Professor in a counseling department. For masters students, graduation from a CACREP accredited program, means easier registration for licensure in the state of Florida, *and* portability of credentials outside of the state of Florida. It has also become a requirement for employment at Veterans Administration hospitals and clinics, and to qualify as a provider for

TRICARE, the largest federal program for military families and retired military personnel seeking mental health counseling services.

Faculty changes since the last Academic Program Review in 2008 have resulted in the same total of nine faculty serving the department, including the Department Chair position.

The Faculty and Programs align with the FAU strategic plan in the following pillars: Neuroscience, Health Aging, and Remote Sensing, as evidenced by cross-department and cross-discipline collaborations.

Over the past few years, the Department procured two grants contributing \$3.8 million in school counseling and rehabilitation counseling. The Department submitted 12 grants in the past three years.

Part 2 Findings

A. Strengths

*“The faculty commitment to teaching, along with the excellent student ratings and comments by the students during the program review, is commendable. There is a great deal to celebrate in the accomplishments and future potential of this outstanding Department of Counselor Education. The faculty members are very productive scholars who submit many grants for external funding. They are excellent teachers who generate accolades from students. They are also faithful and hard-working servants of both the university and their counseling professional organizations... **With continued administrative support and enhanced future funding, FAU’s Department of Counselor Education will continue to thrive and rise in the national rankings.**”*

The faculty established research lines in evidence-based practices (EBPs) and mathematical modeling of the counseling relationship, which have strong funding possibilities. The combination of research productivity and grant procurement exceeds what is typically seen in doctoral-level counselor education programs across the country. In addition, the American Counseling Association (ACA) and Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC), a division of ACA, recognized the exemplary research from the department faculty, and in particular the research lines on evidence-based practice and mathematical modeling of the counseling relationship. Exemplary research is also noted from students. Students are actively engaged with faculty on research projects. Dissertations are reflective of the high quality research needed in the counseling profession.

B. Weaknesses/Challenges

It is essential to systematically incentivize the continued pursuit of external funding. Additional resources will be a continuing challenge given the university’s systemic funding issues. Hiring at market rate is critical to attracting the quality faculty needed to build an outstanding program. Colleges of education all over the country are promoting interdisciplinary research and grant team collaborations with faculty from other colleges. The current climate of limited financial resources contributes to limitations in faculty travel.

C. Recommendations

The College of Education Dean’s Office will consider each recommendation and the department action plan response and priorities during the formal Executive Committee retreat in July 2016.

Recommendation 1: Support the Maintenance of CACREP Accreditation

Recommendation 2: Support High Research Productivity

Recommendation 3: Support High Quality Training

Recommendation 4: Support Faculty Involvement in University Strategic Plan

Recommendation 5: Support Department Contribution Towards Awarding Degrees of Strategic Emphasis

Recommendation 6: Support Department Faculty Leadership and Program Visibility in the Counseling Field