

## **Counseling Program Overview Report**

The counseling faculty of the Department of Secondary Education and School Leadership meets annually to review, amend, and approve each counseling track's program objectives within the context of data gathered from the previous academic year. The counseling faculty review and approve recommendations for programmatic changes to be initiated in the next academic year. Following is a summative report for the 2021-2022 academic reporting year.

### **Service**

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) requires that departments provide appropriate continuing education regarding supervision and practicum/internship expectations among professionals in the field who provide practicum/internship supervision for NSU students. The Department of Counseling has continually hosted 1 to 1 Site Supervisor Training with follow-up at the midpoint during semesters of the academic year of 2021-2022. In the academic year of 2022-2023, these training opportunities will continue in frequency. University supervisors will monitor effectiveness of site supervisor training in the students' documentation and site supervisor evaluation feedback instrument. If needed counseling faculty and university supervisors will provide additional support for the site supervisor and the site.

### **Program Evaluation**

The counseling faculty of the Department of Secondary Education and School Leadership meet to review and evaluate the current counseling track program objectives within the context of data gathered from departmental instruments (Counselor Education Benchmark, formerly known as Disposition Counselor Education Disposition), and site supervisor evaluations collected the previous academic year of 2021-2022. Based on the results of the review, which included data from site supervisors' evaluations, and core and non-core faculty input, the following recommendations were approved for programmatic changes to be initiated in the next academic year.

- The data reported show that 97% of the candidates in COED 650 are on target or acceptable in academics and 88% are on target or acceptable in professional growth according to assessed areas connected to counseling program goals. However, clinical skills are at 80%, which is below the department goal of 85%, according to assessed areas connected to counseling program goals. This information will guide an evaluation of COED 650 for course modifications.
- The data reported show that 98% of the candidates in COED 645 are on target or acceptable in academics, 95% are on target or acceptable in professional growth, and clinical skills are at 85%, which are within the department goal of 85%, according to assessed areas connected to counseling program goals.
- The SESL Department organized a focus group discussion with nine (9) recent master's graduates and six (6) site supervisors to get their feedback on how well the students are preparing for practice and collected their recommendations for changes to the master's programs. The feedback from the discussion was reported to faculty and added to the university's CAEP report for the section of Specialized Professional Association (SPA) in school counseling.

- The SESL Department reviewed curriculum and its efficiency in developing students within the first year of graduate school. Based on the university assessment reports, the CEED, and feedback from various course instructors, the department voted to permanently keep UED 692 Research Methods a full-term face-to-face course for counseling education students in their first year of the counseling education programs.
- The SESL Department discussed renaming the department for more counselor identity to reflect the makeup of the department and for employment marking purposes. The name *Counselor Education and Leadership* was voted as the new department name. The next steps in changing the department name are to get approval through Academic Affairs and the NSU Board of Visitors.
- The SESL Department initiated the newly voted curriculum which included counseling courses with the prefix COED which was university approved for the 2021-22 academic year. The new curriculum included a crisis and trauma course to assist counselors in dealing with the immediate and long-term impact of trauma facing many people in the population. The new curriculum also merged a two-part practicum into one full term semester that encompasses one hundred (100) hours.
- The SESL Department led efforts to increase funding for CACREP accreditation. The department received a nomination donation from the Virginia Counseling Association Foundation. The department encouraged students to actively participate in VACES, VCA, and VSCA to foster counselor identity early in both the Mental Health and Professional Counseling programs.
- The SESL Department assigned the responsibility of gathering the data collection measures to the department's university degree assessor.