

**Longwood University  
Counselor Education  
Program Evaluation Report  
2020-2021**

Academic year 2020-2021 brought continuing adjustments to the Longwood University Counselor Education Program in terms of COVID-19 as well as faculty changes. In this report, we will detail the continued evolution of our program.

**Program Evaluation Method and Results**

1. Rubrics for Key Performance Indicator Assignments filled out by instructors at the end of each semester. The semester's KPIA rubrics are reviewed by program faculty and discussed in regular program faculty meetings. KPIA assignments typically must receive a grade of 80% or better to pass the assignment and the course. If a trend is seen (2 semesters of student difficulty passing KPIAs), faculty work to revise the course. Specifically, what is reviewed includes which course is identified as having student challenges, how many students needed remediation to pass a KPIA, who the instructor was (core faculty, program faculty, adjunct faculty), what the assignment was, and what the pedagogical method was. Revision to the course may include changing from an adjunct instructor to a program faculty instructor, revising the KPIA, and/or revising the instructional methods.

In Fall 2020, the only issues identified in KPIA remediation were due to 1) In COUN 545 Techniques of Counseling - not identifying all skills used and/or intentions with skills on transcripts of role play sessions, and 2) in COUN 555 Testing and Assessment in Counseling – needing writing remediation. Very few students needed remediation for these assignments. No adjustments were made for these courses.

Additionally, in Fall 2020, students withdrew from both the program in a Farmville cohort and in the new Charlottesville Mental Health Counseling cohort. The majority of these withdrawals were due to individual situations connected to COVID such as family needs, needs from current employers, or losing employment. A total of eight students in the Charlottesville cohort (out of the original fifteen students) withdrew from the program in Fall and Winter of 2020. One student withdrew from the Farmville cohort in Fall 2020. One additional Charlottesville cohort student withdrew from the program after the Spring 2021 semester.

In Spring 2021, the only unexpected trends in KPIA data was the continued need for multiple students in COUN 601 Multicultural Counseling to get additional support to complete the KPIA in terms of applying the Multicultural and Social Justice Competencies to a case study. This section was taught for the first time by a different faculty member and so we will continue to monitor how this assignment goes. No adjustment was made for this course.

In two field placement sections in Fall 2020, some students were unable to complete requirements. In COUN 592 Practicum in Mental Health Counseling, four students in the practicum had challenges at sites due to COVID-19 and those students made up the requirements later. In Spring 2021, one student in COUN 594 Practicum in College Counseling and Student Affairs was unable to finish requirements and needed to finish those in the following semester. No adjustments were required for these courses; it illustrated how sites are also adjusting during the pandemic.

Faculty addressed writing concerns by continuing to utilize Dr. Heady at the Graduate Writing Center, collaborated on consistent grading policies across classes for work that needs remediation, and planned and implemented a writing workshop embedded within COUN 510 Research Design and Methods. Faculty addressed challenges with field placement hours by consulting with CACREP COVID-19 accommodations and consulting with field placement sites.

KPIA changes and refinements: none at this time.

2. Beginning Fall 2020, the program adopted use of the Counselor Education Comprehensive Examination (CECE) as our comprehensive examination. In Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, 23 students took COUN 699 Comprehensive Examination in Counselor Education which required the CECE. Five students passed the exam with distinction in that their overall scores were one standard deviation above the mean or higher. Four students required retests of one or more areas of the exam. There were no trends in sections missed. Initial pass rates for the CECE was 82.6% and 100% after retake exams.

4. Faculty decided in this academic year to discontinue accepting new students into the College Counseling and Student Affairs track. This track has not grown despite our efforts to increase enrollment. This decision will allow faculty to focus on the School Counseling and Mental Health Counseling tracks.

5. The program continued to adjust to COVID-19 realities over the course of this academic year. Classes remained online and great flexibility was used in adjusting how course content was instructed. Still, we remained constant with our CACREP objectives. For the Charlottesville Mental Health Counseling cohort, course sequences were linked to be able to meet with the same classes concurrently offered in Farmville. This decision allowed resources to be better distributed to all students, and also allowed for interaction between the different student cohorts. Faculty continued to work with students individually and in groups to assist them with academic, field placement, and nonacademic issues (ex., housing, internet availability, stress management).

### **Additional Program Information**

- Dr. Jennifer Apperson continues as Program Director and CACREP Unit Leader.
- Dr. Marsha Rutledge continues as Field Placement Coordinator in Spring 2020.
- Dr. Kevin Doyle left the faculty in January 2021.
- Our student body diversity increased for 2020-2021. Overall, 37% of our incoming students identified as belonging to minority populations.

- Student development and recognition in 2019-2020:
  - VCA/VSCA conferences
    - All conferences were online this year. We had a virtual alumni event for the Virginia Counselors Association Fall 2020 Convention and 14 alumni attended that along with current faculty and our current Graduate Assistant.
    - One student was a presenter at the VCA Convention.
  - One student was selected as a Virginia Counselors Association Pete Warren Graduate Student.
  - In Spring 2021, Longwood University hosted the virtual VACES (Virginia Association of Counselor Education and Supervision) Graduate Student Conference. We had five students present at this conference - one student presented twice, one presented once, and three students presented together once.
  - In Spring 2021, one student presented at the national Association for Death Education and Counseling conference.
  - Phi Chapter of CSI – We held one initiation in Fall 2020 and one in Spring 2021 with a total of 33 students initiated into the Phi Chapter.
  - Graduation – students graduated in 2020-21:
    - 3 College Counseling and Student Affairs track,
    - 16 Mental Health track, and
    - 6 School Counseling track.
  - Completion rates
    - For students who entered the program in Fall 2017, the completion rate is 76%. For students who entered the program in Spring 2018, the completion rate is 75%. For students who entered the program in Summer 2018, the completion rate is 78%. For students who entered the program in Fall 2018, the completion rate is 75%.
  - Credentialing – of alumni who have graduated since December 2019,
    - 9 Mental Health Counseling track graduates whom we know of have become Residents in Counseling, the first step to becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor in Virginia.
    - All of the 11 School Counseling graduates in 2018 and 2019 have received provisional school counseling licenses which allow them to practice as school counselors.
    - 100% of alumni who reported results to us have passed the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination which is the licensing examination for professional counselor licensure in Virginia.
  - Job placement rates – of students graduating in this academic year, all who have reported job placement information to us have found or continued employment in their counseling specialty (mental health or school).

### **Plans for 2021-2022**

- The program will remain flexible and adaptable due to COVID19 while we anticipate returning to face to face instruction in Fall 2021.
- The program will continue utilizing Dr. Heady as a graduate writing support for all students in COUN 505. We will also investigate other ways to help students gain skills in mastering academic, professional, and clinical writing as appropriate.
- We hope to conduct a search for new faculty members.
- Program faculty will continue to work with the College of Graduate and Professional Studies to survey graduates, current students, and applicants to the program.