

Comprehensive Assessment Report Program Modifications

The department engages in an ongoing process of systematic program evaluation, as well as monthly program meetings, periodic faculty "retreats," and annual or bi-annual meetings with the Counseling Program Advisory Board to identify program areas that need modification, as well as other programmatic issues that need to be addressed. The following are significant changes that resulted from our continuous, systematic program evaluation.

COUN 522 Counseling Children (new required course in School Counseling)

Feedback from the 2005 CACREP site visit indicated that we needed a course focused Specifically on *counseling* children to enhance and differentiate the School counseling curriculum more. We developed a counseling children course, which is now offered regularly and is required for students in the School Counseling program.

Special Topics Courses (new offerings)

Several new special topics courses that address the needs of special populations have been offered. These include Counseling Adolescent Females and Women, Spirituality in Counseling and Grief Counseling.

CPCE Replaces Written Exit Comprehensive Exam

The decision to change the exit requirement from a written examination to the CPCE was the result of a great deal of faculty discussion and evaluation of the pros and cons of each.

Name Change: Community Counseling Program to Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program (60 credit hours)

The Community Counseling Program has traditionally operated as a 60-credit hour program. The state of Mississippi has required 60-credit hours as a requirement of licensure for many years. Thus, a name change to reflect the transition was in order and appropriate for alignment with the new CACREP standards. However, there was no change in the program course offerings.

Department Name Change: Department of School Community and Rehabilitation Counseling to Department of Counseling, Rehabilitation and Psychometric Services

The Department of School, Community and Mental Health Counseling had its named changed due to several current factors. The counseling accreditation board that accredits counseling programs is no longer accrediting "Community Counseling" programs. The New standards are currently accrediting "Clinical Mental Health" counseling programs.

Although no major changes needed to be made to the curriculum - the department did officially change the name of the program in previous PEC communications and received approval from the Graduate School as well. Therefore, the old departmental name was not in alignment with the newly named program being offered in the Department. Lastly, our Department includes the Psychometry program and we want to better represent that

program via the departmental name change as well as future programs we may elect to incorporate in the future.

Course Name Changes: COUN 504 Counseling in Community Settings to Clinical Mental Health Counseling and we are proposing to change COUN 585 Research in Guidance and Counseling to Research In Counseling

The course name changes were made to reflect the current program and departmental name.

Recommendations from Advisory Board

Recruitment/Retention:

- **Create more awareness of the field of counseling in schools by participating in functions of community schools.**
- **Recruit from the high schools those students who are currently interested in the field.**

The department is participating in the Alignment Jackson Career Exploration Fair on November 11, 2015 at the Jackson Convention Complex.

Other suggestions:

- **Create classes to enhance students writing since many graduate students in the field have poor writing skills.**

Students are required to submit papers to the Richard Wright Writing lab in many of our classes. They also attend a writing workshop in COUN 585 sponsored by the center.

- **Look into online based classes as well as 8am-5pm classes that will assist in students who have strenuous job schedules including military duties.**

The department is working on developing more online classes as well as developing online only programs in our non-accredited programs.