



## **I. Summary of Program**

The Professional Counseling Program's personnel at the end of academic year 2015-2016 totaled five core faculty, one Coordinator of Programs, Labs and Accountability and one administrative assistant. Our adjunct faculty includes one CACREP trained counselor educators, and a doctor of pharmacy. The program accepted 44 students from an applicant pool of 51, and 40 of those began the program. The bi-annual New Student Orientation, sponsored by Simmons First Bank, commemorated the students' entrance into the profession of clinical mental health and professional school counseling. We had 103 students in seats this year. Our student body is currently 73% female and 27% male, and 87% white with African American, Hispanic, and other making up the remaining 13%.

## **II. Faculty Achievements**

Faculty in the program made over 30 presentations, attended 11 professional meetings, served on 1 national professional society committee, and served on 3 state professional society boards and committees. One faculty member was awarded the ArCA Distinguished Professional Service Award.

Faculty Presentations Included:

- "Cage-Free Counseling"
- "Dealing with Difficult Supervisees"

- "Stress Management"
- "Anxiety, Depression, and Suicide"
- "Ethical Decision Making Made Easy: Or At Least Less Terrifying"
- "Ethical Documentation: Increasing Quality Care While Decreasing Liability"
- "Liberated Parenting" a 4 day seminar for families of Eastern European Christians and Missionaries, Bratislava, Slovakia
- "The Intentional Family"
- "Don't Stress about Stress"
- "Christian Leadership" Christian Child and Family Services Association Conference
- "Being OK With Not Knowing"
- "Dealing with Difficult Supervisees"
- "How to Talk to kids about sex"
- "Stress Management"
- "The Four Loves in Your Marriage"
- "God's Plan for Your Life"
- "Creating Opportunity for Life Restoration"
- "Kids Still Need Heroes"
- "Why Reading to Your Kids Matters"
- "How to Help Someone Considering Suicide"
- "Increasing Awareness about Autism"
- "Increasing Gender Equality"
- "How Pet's Can Improve Your Life"

- “Civil War: When Families Fight”
- “How to Avoid Misunderstanding The Gifted”
- “Tips to Tame Your Temper”
- “4 Smart Ways to Handle Crisis”
- Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Society Research Day panel member: Ensuring Quality and Safety through Interprofessional Practice
- “The Mental Health Component of Health Sciences”
- “Exploring Self through MBTI”
- “The Impact of Child Abuse on Sensory Integration and Brain Development”

Workshops and Professional Meetings Included:

- American Counseling Association
- ArCA Conference
- ArACES Mid-Winter Conference
- Chi Sigma Iota Induction Ceremony and Business Meeting
- NWA Mental Health Counseling Association
- American Military & Government Counseling

### **III. Program Achievements**

Following recommendations by the CACREP site team, an outreach targeting children in the community was planned. Since CACREP accredited programs are approved for work with the military, military personnel and their families were a second population demographic identified as needing for outreach services. Clinic space was requested from the university and three additional clinic rooms are now in use. To further enhance work with children and adolescents,

a play therapy curriculum was taken through the TRAC system for approval and the first play therapy course is being taught in the fall of 2016. The counseling program met with their Advisory Committee (comprised of members representing White County Hospital, Searcy Children's Homes, school administration, a county judge, and clinical mental health agencies) in October 2015 and reported outcomes of previous committee suggestions including feedback on our the annual Arkansas Counseling Association Alumni Reception and Counselor Care CE. The committee received updates on the curriculum changes, site supervisor training, advocacy and leadership, and program enhancement. Due to recommendations of that body program faculty are now participating in Restore Hope, a statewide effort to meet the needs of those incarcerated and children in foster care. All core faculty presented at the annual Arkansas Counseling Conference in November with program counseling students presenting poster sessions of their research. The meeting of Arkansas Counselor Education and Supervision was held in February with Professional Counseling presenting sessions on ethics in supervision for counselor educators and supervisors from Arkansas and Missouri. The unit director was elected president of the Arkansas Military and Government Counseling Association and met with that national board in Montreal at ACA in March. The association was formally granted division status at the MGCA board meeting there making Arkansas the second state to have such a division of counseling. Successful collaborations in the community for 2015-16 include a Professional Counseling partnership with The Elliott Foundation to offer depression screenings on campus and in the Searcy community. Outreach for the community on the NWAR site in Rogers included multiple seminars in self-care for practicing therapists in that region of the state. We were also part of an inter-professional experiential collaboration with the Health

Sciences programs on campus for collaborative case studies in the fall and spring. The Professional Counseling program is one of 2 identified programs on campus who will lead the 2016 fall IPE. The Professional Counseling program teamed with the Health Sciences, Public Safety, local law enforcement, paramedics, and the hospital in April for the annual Disaster Drill on campus which focused and trained on fire in a campus dormitory. Counseling graduate students served as mental health first responders in the drill and were available for dorm students as well as community first responders. A last high light which we are happy to share is that both graduates who applied to doctoral programs in the spring were accepted into excellent programs.

In 2015-2016 academic year, 100% of Professional School Counseling candidates from the Professional Counseling program who took the Praxis II School Counseling Exam 0421 (which measures knowledge and skills and is required for licensing in School Counseling) made a passing score. In the 2015-2016 academic year, 93% of Clinical Mental Health Counseling candidates from the Professional Counseling program who took the National Counselor Exam (NCE) or comprehensive exam assessing knowledge, skills, and abilities made a passing score (which is determined using the Angoff formula) on first attempt.

#### **IV. Graduates**

The program had 11 students graduate in December 2015, 14 students graduate in May 2016, and 1 students graduate in July 2016. Current program completion rate over the past three years, percentage of students who graduated from the program in the expected time period, is 91% clinical mental health and 83% school. Current program job placement rate for the last year, number of students who within six months of receiving their degree have obtained employment in the field they were trained or a related field, is 90% clinical mental health and 100% school.