Assessment Plan

MA in Counseling
Options: Clinical Mental Health Counseling, & School Counseling
Nathan Weiss Graduate College
Kean University

Mission:
The Counselor Education Program at Kean University has several related goals that are aligned with the University Mission and is sensitive to the needs of first generation students and those from underserved minority groups. The Counselor Education Program (CED) provides a broad-based graduate education in counseling for students who are sensitive to cultural, gender and sexual orientation differences, and are committed to lifelong self-exploration and professional development. CED provides full and part-time students from the Northeast region and the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area affordable graduate level CACREP accredited programs in a variety of Master’s and post-graduate areas.

Assessment Process:
Counselor Education students have 15 core courses (common to both School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling) to take as part of the requirements for the Master of Arts in Counseling degree. These core courses provide a sound backbone of the discipline with regard to the research and theoretical aspects of the Counseling profession as well as the various areas of study within the field. As such, the core courses are the primary vehicle for assessing the knowledge of our students. Beyond the 15 core courses, School Counseling students take one (1) other course offered within our program, and Clinical Mental Health Counseling students take five (5) other courses offered within our program. Therefore, the faculty has agreed to center our assessment on the core knowledge of Counseling as presented in our core requirements. Each core course has assessment tools as part of the evaluation process; however, culminating assessment is done in Internship I and II, and the Comprehensive Exam (being phased out) or the Professional Portfolio (beginning spring 2012). In these courses and culminating experiences, assessment data is collected from the course requirements and Portfolio/Comprehensive Exam that require students to provide evidence of meeting program goals. Each semester, composite data from scored student assignments will be collected and analyzed to address areas of program strengths and weaknesses and to inform our decisions ultimately resulting in program improvements.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) – as aligned with KU SLOs* derived from the Institutional Mission and GE SLOs**. (Data from Direct and Indirect Measures collected each semester in the Capstone Course or a designated, end-of-program course.)

Students who graduate with a Master of Arts in Counseling should be able to:

SLO1: Explain the nature and needs of individuals across the lifespan.

Direct Measure: Internship case presentation; Site Supervisor Evaluation; Comprehensive Exam (fall 2011)
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey

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SLO2: Describe the impact of sociological, economic, multicultural factors, and social justice advocacy on counseling.

Direct Measure: Internship case presentation; Portfolio; Comprehensive Exam (fall 2011)
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey

SLO3: Apply individual and group counseling theories to facilitate individual, and group counseling

Direct Measure: Internship case presentation; Portfolio; Site Supervisor Evaluation Comprehensive Exam (fall 2011)
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey

SLO4: Interpret and utilize professional research and existing data

Direct Measure: Internship case presentation; Portfolio; Site Supervisor Evaluation
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey

SLO5: Administer appraisal and assessment instruments in counseling.

Direct Measure: Internship case presentation; Site Supervisor Evaluation
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey

SLO6: Apply professional, legal and ethical standards in counseling.

Direct Measure: Internship case presentation; Portfolio; Site Supervisor Evaluation; Comprehensive Exam (fall 2011)
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey; Student’s Pre and Post Internship Self-Evaluation survey

SLO7: Identify his/her own limitations, seek supervision and participate in professional development.

Direct Measure: Internship case presentation; Portfolio; Site Supervisor Evaluation
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey; Student’s Pre and Post Internship Self-Evaluation survey

* KU Student Outcomes: Kean University graduates should be able to:
1. Think critically, creatively and globally;
2. Adapt to changing social, economic, and technological environments;
3. Serve as active and contributing members of their communities; and
4. Advance their knowledge in the traditional disciplines (GE) and enhance their skills in professional areas (Prof. pgms)