

CACREP
Mid-Cycle Report
Indiana State University

Mental Health Counseling
School Counseling

I. Changes in Faculty

The counseling programs at Indiana State University have experienced a period of growth and change in the years since the self-study was completed. The Department of Counseling has merged with Communication Disorders, School and Educational Psychology. The new Department of Communication Disorders and Counseling, School and Educational Psychology currently has 13 full time faculty members and two full time special purpose faculty members. Of those faculty, contribute to the counselor education courses by teaching one or more of the core courses and by teaching specialized courses in each program area.

The school counseling program, which was staffed by a long-term, full-time special purpose faculty member (Tonya Balch) now has two full-time, tenure track Assistant Professors. Drs. Tonya Balch and Catherine Tucker serve as full-time faculty in the school counseling area. Their vitae are attached.

The mental health counseling program lost two core faculty members recently. Dr. Matthew Draper and Dr. James Campbell resigned to take a position at other universities this summer, and the department has hired two full-time special purpose faculty members to teach their classes until a permanent replacement can be hired. Dr. Michael Shuff is on sabbatical this academic year (2008-09). The department has requested an additional tenure track position dedicated to the mental health counseling Dr. Debra Leggett joined the counseling faculty in 2004-5. Her vita is attached. Dr. Leggett has agreed to serve as director of the mental health counseling program as of 2008. The department has been awarded funding to hire two full-time special purpose faculty members for the 2007-8 academic year to cover the courses taught by departing

faculty. Peg Bryer and Michael Elmore have been contracted to teach courses and supervise students in both of the CACREP areas for the 2008-9 academic year.

Ms. Bryer holds certification in both school psychology and school counseling and has recently retired from the local special education agency. She has taught and supervised ISU school counseling students as a part-time adjunct for the past 9 years. Dr. Elmore comes to our department from a local mental health agency, where he has been working as a mental health clinician for many years. He has supervised interns from ISU for several years and has a long-standing relationship with the mental health counseling faculty. Ms. Bryer has agreed to serve as the clinical placement coordinator for the mental health counseling program. Drs. Balch and Tucker will coordinate placement for the school counseling students. Dr. Elmore has agreed to serve as the clinical facility director to coordinate activities in the counseling clinic.

It is not yet known how many permanent faculty positions the university will allow the department to hire. However, it is hoped that the university will allow the department to seek a full-time tenure-track faculty member for the mental health counseling program for next year.

II. Changes in Curriculum

The curricula of the school and mental health counseling programs have remained relatively stable since 2004. We have added three special purpose electives on a rotating basis for mental health counseling students. These are: Spirituality in Counseling, Hypnosis, and Addictions Counseling. The course syllabi are attached. These courses are offered as occasional summer courses in response to student requests for more instruction

in these areas. There are no current plans to significantly alter the curricula in the mental health program.

The school counseling program eliminated COUN 550, Marriage and Family Systems in 2006. Given the infusion of systems theory throughout the program, faculty felt this course was redundant information. We have also submitted paperwork to eliminate COUN 595Q, a one-hour technology course, beginning in summer of 2009. The course was designed to assist students returning to graduate school with navigating online resources. However, students no longer arrive with deficits in technology skills, and have expressed that they feel that the course is no longer needed. All other courses in the school counseling area are expected to remain as they are now.

III. Changes in Clinical Instruction

There have been no significant changes in clinical instruction since 2004.

IV. Changes in Program Operations

The budget sources, support services, and student enrollment figures have been relatively stable since 2004 in the mental health counseling program. We have not experienced any changes in sources of funding or support personnel.

However, the school counseling program received a grant from the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund in the amount of \$523,728 as a part of the Transforming School Counseling Initiative. The funds for this grant were initially disbursed in 1997 and ran out in 2004. Significant resources for both students and the program were lost upon the conclusion of the grant. The grant provided additional resources in the form of books, professional development opportunities, conference registration for state level

organization for the school counseling students. Additionally, the grant had funded one graduate assistant for the program.

The counseling area, which includes the mental health and school counseling master's programs, the counseling psychology doctoral program, and the counselor education doctoral program, are supported by two full-time administrative assistants, and one half-time assistant. A fourth assistant who is assigned to the Communication Disorders area is sometimes brought in to assist with tasks in the counseling area.

The full-time equivalent ratio for faculty to students in the mental health and school counseling programs for the academic year 2007-8 was 4. The hiring of Ms. Bryer and Dr. Elmore should allow this ratio to remain low for next year as well.

Student enrollment in the two programs since 2004-5 is as follows:

	<u>Mental Health</u>	<u>School Counseling</u>
2004-5	32	42
2005-6	41	42
2006-7	33	49
2007-8	37	39

At the current faculty levels, admitting 25 school counseling students per year allows for adequate instruction and supervision, and so admissions are more selective than in the past. Admissions for the mental health program have remained stable over the past four academic years. It is not yet known whether the departure of three core faculty members this summer will impact next year's recruitment efforts.

V. Program Evaluations

Program evaluations for the school counseling program have occurred annually in conjunction with NCATE accreditation. We have just completed a survey of all current students in CACREP programs, and of alumni. (I will summarize results here)

Collectively, the College of Education (COE) has spent the last year and half defining what data would be valued and collected at the unit level. As the school counseling program has participated in this process, we have streamlined data to align with the COE's conceptual framework, the work of all graduate programs collectively, and to inform programmatic decisions. As this process will be fully operational in the fall of 2008, we will begin a formal program evaluation that will be aligned with the NCATE assessments.

In preparation for this process, field experience evaluations have been redesigned to include data that will be utilized at the college level. Student dispositions have been affirmed at the college level and data has been collected in the school counseling program for two consecutive years. Employer and alumni surveys were developed with the assistance of the School Counseling Advisory board and questions developed by the unit as a whole.

ADDRESS PROCESS, WHO IS INVOLVED, HOW THE RESULTS
WILL BE USED.

VI. Program Improvement and Innovation

In the past four years, the students and faculty have worked to improve the master's programs in counseling. Some of the notable changes include:

- ISU is now a National Counseling Exam testing site.
- As of 2007, we have a chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (Iota Sigma Tau) and initiated our first members in April.
- The school counseling program continues to be on the leading edge of the Transformed School Counseling movement. Two faculty members and two students attended the Summer Institute in June 2008.
- The School Counseling Advisory Council, which had been dormant for three years was revived this past year and will continue to meet quarterly next year.
- The school counseling faculty, in partnership with Dr. Libler, Associate Dean, continues to offer Counselor Day on Campus each year as a professional development opportunity for school counselors in Indiana.
- The school counseling program has partnered with the Indiana School Counseling Association to host regional workshops.
- The school counseling program has partnered with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to offer professional development training for practicing school counselors and master's level students. This partnership will extend to Indiana State University serving as a host site for IDOE workshops during the fall of 2009.

VII. Issues and Questions