

Annual Academic Assessment Report

2020-2021

MS/CNSL

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The University of Arkansas (U of A) master’s degree program in counseling (CNSL) prepares students in clinical mental health counseling, rehabilitation counseling, and school counseling to work as scholar-practitioners in a variety of clinical, rehabilitation, and educational settings. Three student learning outcomes (SLO) have been developed and are evaluated utilizing a variety of assessment strategies at three assessment points: (1) initial learning in the classroom, (2) the transfer and generalization of learning to real world employment settings during practicums and internships, and (3) the maintenance of learning over time demonstrated in final comprehensive exams. Performance & achievement of the SLO’s are determined using an achievement scaling rubric for outcome levels as follows: 1= emerging, 2= developing, 3= proficient, and 4 = mastery. CNED changed the assessment data process this year by utilizing an online program evaluation and assessment platform (VIA) to analyze the data. This is the first report using this online data.

Results of Analysis of Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

The assessment results of the level of achievement of the three student learning outcomes at the three points of assessment are presented in the three tables discussed below. Table 1 presents the assessment results for SLO 1. Table 2-4 presents the assessment results for SLO 2 and SLO 3 at the three assessment points across the three concentrations: Clinical Mental Health, School, and Rehabilitation Counseling.

SLO 1 - Required Knowledge, Understanding, and Abilities of all Professional Counselors regardless of Counseling Concentration

Table 1: Core Learning Domains

I – Initial Learning - Core Learning Domains	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Average
Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice	N/A	3.0	3.5	3.25
Social and Cultural Diversity	3.04	2.6	2.8	2.8
Human Growth and Development	3.08	3.0	2.8	3.0
Career Development	3.4	N/A	3.0	3.2
Counseling and Helping Relationships	2.5	2.7	3.0	2.7
Group Counseling & Group Work	3.7	3.8	2.8	3.4
Assessment and Testing	2.2	3.5	3.0	2.9
Research and Program Evaluation	3.05	3.8	3.3	3.4
<i>SLO 1 Overall Average</i>	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.1

*Shaded cells show when the average was below the proficient level, however, with our new assessment data we assess at two different time periods and most of these lower scores were initial assessments and so the developing score was not unexpected.

A review of the data in table 1 suggests, the core knowledge, understanding, and abilities required of all professional counselors regardless of counseling concentration, the focus of student learning outcome 1, was achieved above the expected level of 3. An average mean of 3.0 was achieved for the summer semester, 3.2 for fall and 3.0 for the spring semester. Average student achievement outcome level for the academic year was 3.1 indicating that student-learning outcome 1 was achieved satisfactorily for the academic year 2020-2021. As mentioned above, some of the outcomes (individual key performance indicators from a particular semester) were not at the proficient or above level, but this is due to these being initial assessments of these data points and we still met our criteria of 90% of students falling at or above the developing assessment point.

SLO 2 & SLO 3 – Specific Clinical Mental Health Counseling Professional Knowledge, Skills, and Practices Necessary to Address a Wide Variety of Circumstances within the CMHC Context

Table 2: CMHC Learning Domains

I – Initial Learning - CMHC Learning Domains	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Average
Foundations	N/A	2.7	2.5	2.6
Contextual Dimensions	N/A	3.5	3.7	3.6
Practice	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.7
II - Transfer of Learning to Real World Employment Settings				
Clinical Mental Health Practicums	N/A	3.5	3.5	3.5
Clinical Mental Health Internships	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.7
III – Retention/Maintenance of Learning – End of Program				
Comprehensive Exam	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.7
Licensure/Certification Pass Rate	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
<i>SLO 2 & SLO 3 Overall Average CMHC</i>	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.6

*Shaded cells show when the average was below the proficient level, however, with our new assessment data we assess at two different time periods and most of these lower scores were initial assessments and so the developing score was not unexpected.

A review of the data in table 2 suggests that the professional knowledge, skills, and practices necessary to address a wide variety of circumstances within the CMHC context, the focus of student learning outcome 2, was achieved above the expected outcome level of 3. An average mean of 3.9 for summer was achieved and a 3.5 was achieved for the fall semester and 3.6 for the spring semester. Average student achievement outcome level for the academic year was 3.6 indicating that student learning outcomes 2 & 3 were achieved satisfactorily for the academic year 2020-21. As mentioned above, some of the outcomes (individual key performance indicators from a particular semester) were not at the proficient or above level, but this is due to

these being initial assessments of these data points and we still met our criteria of 90% of students falling at or above the developing assessment point.

SLO 2 & SLO 3 – Specific School Counseling Professional Knowledge, Skills, and Practices Necessary to Promote the Academic, Career, and Personal/Social Development of all K–12 Students

Table 3: School Counseling Learning Domains

I – Initial Learning – School Counseling Learning Domains	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Average
Foundations	N/A	2.6	2.7	2.7
Contextual Dimensions	N/A	1.9	2.0	2.0
Practice	N/A	4.0	1.9	3.0
II - Transfer of Learning to Real World Employment Settings				
School Counseling Practicums	N/A	3.5	4.0	3.8
School Counseling Internships	N/A	3.5	3.5	3.5
III – Retention/Maintenance of Learning – End of Program				
Comprehensive Exam	N/A	N/A	4.0	4.0
Licensure/Certification Pass Rate	N/A	N/A	4.0	4.0
<i>SLO 2 & SLO 3 Overall Average- SCHOOL</i>	N/A	3.1	3.2	3.3

*Shaded cells show when the average was below the proficient level, however, with our new assessment data we assess at two different time periods and most of these lower scores were initial assessments and so the developing score was not unexpected.

A review of the data in table 3 suggests that the professional knowledge, skills, and practices necessary to promote the academic, career, and personal/social development of all K–12 students, the focus of student learning outcome 3, was achieved above the expected outcome level of 3. An average mean of 3.1 was achieved for the fall semester and 3.2 for the spring semester. Average student achievement outcome level for the academic year was 3.3 indicating that student learning outcome 3 was achieved satisfactorily for the academic year 2020-21. As mentioned above, some of the outcomes (individual key performance indicators from a particular semester) were not at the proficient or above level, but this is due to these being initial assessments of these data points and we still met our criteria of 90% of students falling at or above the developing assessment point.

SLO 2 & SLO 3 – Specific Rehabilitation Counseling Professional Knowledge, Skills, and Practices Necessary to Address a Wide Variety of Circumstances within the Rehabilitation Context

Table 4: RHAB Learning Domains

I – Initial Learning - CMHC Learning Domains	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Average
Foundations	N/A	1.0	3.5	2.3
Contextual Dimensions	N/A	N/A	3.5	3.5
Practice	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.5
II - Transfer of Learning to Real World Employment Settings				
RHAB Practicums	3.0	N/A	N/A	3.0
RHAB Internships	N/A	3.0	3.5	3.3
III – Retention/Maintenance of Learning – End of Program				
Comprehensive Exam	N/A	4.0	4.0	4.0
Licensure/Certification Pass Rate	N/A	4.0	4.0	4.0
<i>SLO 2 & SLO 3 Overall Average RHAB</i>	3.0	3.0	3.7	3.2

*Shaded cells show when the average was below the proficient level, however, with our new assessment data we assess at two different time periods and most of these lower scores were initial assessments and so the developing score was not unexpected.

A review of the data in table 4 suggests that the professional knowledge, skills, and practices necessary to address a wide variety of circumstances within the RHAB context, the focus of student learning outcomes 2 & 3, were achieved above the expected outcome level of 3. An average mean of 3.0 for the summer and 3.0 was achieved for the fall semester and 3.7 for the spring semester. Average student achievement outcome level for the academic year was 3.2 indicating that student learning outcomes 2 & 3 were achieved satisfactorily for the academic year 2020-21. As mentioned above, some of the outcomes (individual key performance indicators from a particular semester) were not at the proficient or above level, but this is due to these being initial assessments of these data points and we still met our criteria of 90% of students falling at or above the developing assessment point.

Changes Planned or Made on the Basis of Assessment Findings

While the majority of the assessment data was at or above the expected outcomes, we are still working on using our new online assessment tool to determine how we can delineate evaluation data at both the initial and final assessment. We will be working on developing a new assessment report