

Open Student Forum Agenda and Survey Analysis

Report of Student Meeting for Counseling 3/3/11

On Thursday, March 3rd, 2011 the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department held a meeting all students were invited to attend in the Ferrell auditorium in the Combs building. The meeting was arranged and advertised to students via letters, emails, and blackboard and classroom announcements as a meeting to discuss the department's upcoming CACREP reaccreditation process, to review department policies, programs, and procedures, and to seek student opinion on ways to improve the department and programs.

The students were presented with information on the following agenda items:

- I. Welcome**
- II. CACREP Reaccreditation Process**
- III. Programs/Licensure/Certification**
- IV. Practicum/Internship Process**
- V. Advising**
- VI. Comprehensive Exam Process -Sue**
- VII. Graduation Procedures**
- VIII. New Program-Muriel**
- IX. Program Survey**

After the presentations, all students in attendance were asked to complete a brief written survey on program strengths and concerns. After the written survey was completed the students were asked to break into groups and discuss with selected faculty their experiences in the programs. The summary of these written and verbal feedback are included below.

Summarizing the verbal feedback received first, students reported the following:

School Counseling Group

1. Students liked their instructors and said their experience had been good
2. Student said they felt well prepared to be a school counselor.
3. Students said they would rather put their comments in writing than discuss them in a group
4. Students said they liked the forum and would like to have it repeated at the beginning of their program and then once each semester on an ongoing basis.
5. Overall students just handed me their folded comments, smiled and said they liked the program and would like to see this process as an ongoing experience.
6. More classes in school counseling and more professors who are school counselors
7. Program focuses too much on mental health and not enough on school counseling
8. More professors trained as school counselors and who have worked as school counselors
9. Increased training in technology related to school counselors specifically.
10. Overall good experience in the program.

Mental Health Counseling Group

11. Students would like courses offered in a variety of formats with attention given to the kinds of courses offered on-line
12. Students would like the choice to take a particular course on-line or on-the ground depending on their learning style and lifestyle
13. Students would like to have more contact with other students in the program to avoid a sense of isolation (such as this forum)
14. Students would like to know how to better access their advisors
15. Students would like to have access to information about practice sites
16. Students expressed an interest in a doctoral program in counseling
17. Students asked about how to get involved in research with professors
18. Students had questions about what it would mean if the program was not re-accredited
19. Students questioned what the program was doing to retain professors and prevent turnover in faculty
20. Students would like more opportunities for their voices to be heard

Summarizing the written feedback received:

School Counseling Survey

Program Strengths		Program Concerns	
Knowledgeable Instructors	12	Difficulty getting consistent information	8
Instructor Availability	7	Study session for comprehensive	6
Variety of Courses	5	Communication of program expectations	5
Sincerity of Instructors	4	Lack of email communication from staff	4
CACREP Accreditation	3	Fluctuating staff	4
Faculty Dedicated	3	Web Site hard to navigate	3
Class Schedules	2	Syllabi not updated	2
On-Line Classes	1	Paperwork not updated	2
Small class size	1	Too much material given	1
Extended Campus	1	Coursework redundancy	1
Group Therapy	1	On-line classes need to meet at least once	1
Flexible	1	Class sizes too small	1
Positive feedback	1	Need Diagnostic and TX offered on campus	1

Mental Health Survey

Program Strengths		Program Concerns	
Good Instructors	7	Difficulty getting information	5
Wide range of classes	5	Too many on-line classes	4
CACREP	4	Lack of instructor professionalism	3
Hands on classes	2	Online classes need more feedback	2
Instructor Availability	2	Online classes need more structure	2
Preparation for clinical	1	DSM courses need to be face to face	2
Diverse Issues	1	Instructors can't spell	1
Challenging Coursework	1	Blackboard not updated	1
		Syllabi not updated	1

	Too much busy work	1
	No Research	1
	More Substance Abuse counseling	1
	More actual practice	1
	Lack of advising	1
	Test Preparation	1