



April 2023

To Interested Parties:

The final results for the 2021-22 academic year again showed the execution of a continuous improvement strategy within the Hodges University Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program. Below, process measures and improvements are discussed, and some vital statistics are reported.

The first area to describe is the student knowledge and skill with the subject area of methods of appraisal. In the area of utilizing diagnostic impressions in order to form an accurate case conceptualization, the measure target was exceeded. Thus, the measure was retired in rotation to be repeated in the next 5-year cycle. This measure looks at expected competence for a second-semester student.

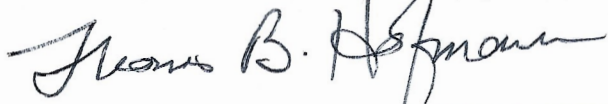
In another assessment, student self-perception of their knowledge and skill in several granular areas of counseling practice was measured and evaluated. The student is evaluated in their first field placement and again in their last field placement and the scores are analyzed statistically for improvement. The most significant improvements in this academic year were seen in using counseling theories in order to frame client concerns within the theory, and in using counseling theories in order to select interventions. The lowest score of self-confidence was in the area of diagnosing mental health disorders. This is higher-level skill in that the diagnosis is not made in written case studies but in the clinic with clients. However, the measure was barely below target. When all measures were compared together, improvement in knowledge and skill level improved within statistical significance. The two results discussed so far show the fruit of improvement efforts from a previously identified issue with case conceptualization from past measures. Interventions were utilized such as embedding bolstered case conceptualization information and applied assignments in classes, and exposing students to case conceptualization processes in residencies.

Another critical aspect of counselor development is emerging student awareness of themselves as a professional, including internal processes and external behaviors. Interventions had been applied in residencies as well as in the Community Counseling class. Measures are still ongoing however improvements were noted in the Community Counseling class measures of counselor identity, however the data has not yet met the target set.

Alumni from the 2021-22 academic year were surveyed anonymously for their perceptions of their entry-level skill set, and their employers were also surveyed with the same questions when alumni gave permission to do so. Alumni rated themselves over the target of "competent" on all domains measured. Possibly due to COVID issues and also due to lower student response, the number of employer responses were not able to be statistically analyzed.

Regarding vital statistics, 21 students graduated in the academic year, with a completion rate overall of 72%. Licensure examination pass rate was 58%. Job placement rate was 92%.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.



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