

Department of Psychology, Illinois State University
Assessment Plan for the Graduate
Master's in Clinical-Counseling Psychology Program
June 2011

Each year the assessment committee reviews past assessment activities to determine what to focus on for the upcoming year. This year's focus was on the PRAAP process in anticipation of the upcoming program review process. This document outlines an assessment plan for the Master's in Clinical-Counseling Psychology Graduate Program, including on-going and planned assessment projects and projects. We incorporate feedback from the University Assessment Service and the Assessment Advisory Council.

The Program in the Department and University Context

The Department of Psychology at ISU is large in size and diverse in activities. The department has 38 full-time faculty lines, and 9 staff members. Over the past five years the department has averaged 500 undergraduates, 400 minors, and 132 graduate students (75 master's, 19 specialists, and 38 doctoral). Its undergraduate and 4 graduate programs offer 130 courses and in FY 2010 awarded 116 bachelor's, 27 master's, 7 specialist, and 5 doctoral degrees. Each semester, the department teaches 5,000 students and produces 15,000 student credit hours. Each year, each psychology faculty member generates 800 student credit hours, while the ISU and state averages are 700. Over 90% of ISU students take a course in psychology. In addition, the department's Psychological Services Center annually provides psycho-educational assessment and intervention to 100 clients and training to 40 graduate and 20 undergraduate students.

The graduate and undergraduate programs are overseen and administered by various shared governing departmental committees and work teams. These committees include DFSC, Department Curriculum Committee, Department Assessment Committee, Department Council which consists of program and sequence coordinators and the department chair. The undergraduate Administrative team is made up of the undergraduate coordinator and two department undergraduate advisors. Assessment and program revision fall to all of these groups, not just the Assessment Committee.

The Clinical-Counseling Psychology program requires two years of full-time study and is designed to prepare students to provide counseling services in a variety of settings. The program includes at least two semesters of practica in community settings, which build on course work. Students who complete this program meet curricular requirements to sit for both the Illinois Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor Examinations. In addition to required content courses, students must complete a thesis or clinical competency project.

Goals and activities for Assessment

Goal 1: proficiency in a scientist-practitioner approach to providing mental health services to a diverse clientele

Goal 2: eligibility for licensure as a licensed clinical professional counselor in Illinois

Goal 3: preparation to pursue doctoral study in psychology and related fields, if desired

Goal 4: Professional Communication Skills

Goal 5: Knowledge of and adherence to APA Code of Conduct and Ethical Principles Outcomes

The Master's in Clinical-Counseling psychology program has a history of clear goals and outcomes closely tied to the curriculum. These were articulated in the most recent program review in 2006. The department assesses each of these goals using a variety of assessment tools,

by different groups of individuals, and across different timescales.

Closing the loop: Using our assessment data

The accompanying table provides specific program goals and assessment activities for the Clinical-Counseling Psychology program. Among the specific methods of assessment listed in the table that currently are utilized by the program are the following:

- Supervisor evaluations of practicum students are completed 3 times during the 12-month practicum placement.
- Students complete self-assessment exit surveys at the end of their 2nd year in the program.
- Practicum supervisors complete assessment surveys at the end of students' practicum placements at the end of the 2nd year in the program.
- In the last practicum class meeting at the end of the 2nd year, students report and reflect upon their course work and experiences in the program.
- Questionnaires regarding science-practice self-assessment are administered to students both at the beginning of their 1st year and again at the end of their 2nd year in the program.

In addition to the structured assessment activities summarized in the table, several other assessment opportunities are provided in the program, including the following:

- During the academic year, monthly program (Clinical-Counseling Coordinating Committee) meetings are held, attended by the Clinical-Counseling coordinator, faculty, and 1st- and 2nd-year student representatives.
- Annual faculty evaluations of student performance and progress are conducted, with resulting letters provided to each student.
- Individual meetings are held with students at the beginning of the 1st year in the program.
- In their Summer practicum course, students complete a written assignment in which they reflect upon their 1st year in the program and identify goals and expectations for their practicum.

Based upon the information and feedback generated from students and faculty, several changes have been incorporated into the program over the last few years – examples of these include the following:

- The comprehensive examination option was discontinued, replaced with the Clinical Competency Project option (as an alternative to completing a thesis).
- Monthly thesis/Clinical Competency Project orientation meetings are held during the 1st semester in the 1st year of the program.
- Reordering of sequencing of courses in the curriculum was implemented to enhance student learning and/or preparation for practicum:
 - PSY 440 – moved from Summer to 1st semester Fall
 - PSY 466 – moved from 1st semester Fall to Summer
 - PSY 467 – moved from 2nd year Spring to 1st year Spring
 - PSY 451 – moved from 1st year Spring to 2nd year Spring
- Summer practicum course was added.

- PSY 400 credit and bi-semester meetings are required for 1st-year students completing pre-practicum community placement GAs.
- Supervisor evaluations of students are completed 2 times during the 9-month 1st-year pre-practicum, community placement GA.
- Annual visits to current and prospective practicum sites are conducted by the coordinator.
- Additional clinical training opportunities have been provided:
 - PSY 480.31 and/or PSY 400 elective credit for DBT (dialectical behavior therapy) skills training group
 - PSY 400 elective credit for counseling observation sessions at PSC (Psychological Services Center)
- In response to student and/or faculty feedback, certain adjustments have been made to some individual courses – e.g., modules on supervision and safety issues were added to Summer practicum course; supervision training module was added to Spring practicum course; increased use of role plays have been incorporated into select courses.

Goals and Assessment Activities

Goal 1: proficiency in a scientist-practitioner approach to providing mental health services to a diverse clientele					
Outcome(s)	Data Source	What group(s) will be assessed?	Assessment Methods	Who will conduct assessment?	Timeline
Successful completion of core course work	PSY 420, 421, 437, 438, 440, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 470, 436.02, 451	Current students	Course grades, practicum supervisor evaluations & assessment surveys	Course instructors, practicum supervisors	Every semester/year
Completion of a thesis or Clinical Competency Project	Thesis or Clinical Competency project completion	Current students	Thesis proposal and defense, Clinical Competency Project defense	Thesis or Clinical Competency Project committee	Every semester/year
Past students' professional growth	Publications and other professional accomplishments	Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	Requests for updated vitae, resumes from past graduates	Program coordinator	Every 2-3 years
Current and past students' satisfaction with curriculum	Alumni Surveys, Internship/practicum placement and performance, Job Placement	Current students & Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	Alumni Surveys, course evaluations, self-assessment exit surveys, end-of-program review meeting, science-practice self-assessment questionnaires	Coordinators Council, DFSC, program coordinator &/or instructors	Every 2-3 years

Goal 2: eligibility for licensure as a licensed professional counselor &/or licensed clinical professional counselor in Illinois					
Outcome(s)	Data Source	What group(s) will be assessed?	Assessment Methods	Who will conduct assessment?	Timeline
Successful completion of curriculum approved by Illinois Department of Professional Regulation	PSY 420, 421, 437, 438, 440, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 470, 436.02, 451	Current students	Course grades, practicum supervisor evaluations & assessment surveys	Course instructors, practicum supervisors	Every semester/year
Eligibility for licensure as a licensed clinical professional counselor in Illinois	Performance on licensing exam	Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	Requests for updated vitae, resumes from past graduates	Program coordinator	Every 2-3 years

Goal 3: preparation to pursue doctoral study in psychology and related fields, if desired					
Outcome(s)	Data Source	What group(s) will be assessed?	Assessment Methods	Who will conduct assessment?	Timeline
Successful completion of curriculum approved by Illinois Department of Professional Regulation	PSY 420, 421, 437, 438, 440, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 470, 436.02, 451	Current students	Course grades, practicum supervisor evaluations & assessment surveys	Course instructors, practicum supervisors	Every semester/year
Completion of a thesis or Clinical Competency Project	Thesis or competency project completion	Current students	Thesis proposal and defense, Clinical Competency Project defense	Thesis or Clinical Competency Project committee	Every semester/year
Past students' professional growth	Placement in Doctoral Programs, Publications and other professional accomplishments	Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	Requests for updated vitae, resumes from past graduates	Program coordinator	Every 2-3 years
Current and past students' satisfaction with curriculum	Alumni Surveys, Internship/practicum placement and performance, Job Placement	Current students & Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	Alumni Surveys, course evaluations, self-assessment exit surveys, end-of-program review meeting, science-practice self-assessment questionnaires	Coordinators Council, DFSC, program coordinator &/or instructors	Every 2-3 years

Goal 4: Professional Communication Skills, including use of APA format, making oral presentations, and using computer-based technologies					
Outcome(s)	Data Source	What group(s) will be assessed?	Assessment Methods	Who will conduct assessment?	Timeline
Completion of a thesis or Clinical Competency Project	Thesis or Clinical Competency Project completion	Current students	Thesis proposal and defense, Clinical Competency Project defense	Thesis or Clinical Competency Project committee	Every semester/year
Past students' professional growth	Placement in Doctoral Programs, Publications and other professional accomplishments	Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	Requests for updated vitae, resumes from past graduates	Program coordinator	Every 2-3 years
Current and past students' satisfaction with curriculum	Alumni Surveys, Internship/practicum placement and performance, Job Placement	Current students & Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	Alumni Surveys, course evaluations, self-assessment exit surveys, end-of-program review meeting, science-practice self-assessment questionnaires	Coordinators Council, DFSC, program coordinator &/or instructors	Every 2-3 years

Program Goal 5: Knowledge of and adherence to APA Code of Conduct and Ethical Principles Outcomes					
Outcome(s)	Data Source	What group(s) will be assessed?	Assessment Methods	Who will conduct assessment?	Timeline
Successful completion of ethics course work	PSY 470	Current students	on-line CITI ethics training program	Department Research Committee	Every semester/year
Completion of on-line CITI ethics training	completion of CITI ethics training	Current students & Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	IRB (or IACUC) approval letter	University IRB or IACUC	Every semester/year
IRB (or IACUC) approval for thesis project	IRB (or IACUC) approval	Current students & Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	Direct Observation/ Supervision	Thesis chair	Every semester/year
Ethical interaction with human (or animal) research	Direct Observation/ Supervision	Current students & Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	Thesis proposal and defense, Clinical Competency Project defense	Thesis or Clinical Competency Project committee	Every semester/year
Completion of a thesis or Clinical Competency Pproject	Thesis or Competency Project Completion	Current students	Alumni Surveys, course evaluations, self-assessment exit surveys, end-or-program review meeting, science-practice self-assessment questionnaires	Coordinators Council, DFSC, program coordinator &/or instructors	Every 2-3 years
Current and past students' satisfaction with curriculum	Alumni Surveys, Internship/ practicum placement and performance	Current students & Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	on-line CITI ethics training program	Department Research Committee	Every semester/year