

**Department of Psychology, Illinois State University**  
**Assessment Plan for the Graduate**  
**Master's in Clinical-Counseling Psychology Program**  
June 2018

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 currently has 31 full-time faculty lines (down from 37 in FY12), and 7 staff members. Over the past four years the department has averaged 543 undergraduate majors, 158 minors, and 111 graduate students (66 master's, 20 specialists, and 25 doctoral). Its undergraduate and 4 graduate programs offer approximately 130 courses annually and in FY 2017 awarded 123 bachelor's, 32 master's, 7 specialist, and 2 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 capstone 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 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the program.
- Practicum supervisors complete assessment surveys at the end of students' practicum placements at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the program.
- In the last practicum class meeting at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> year and again at the end of their 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>- and 2<sup>nd</sup>-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 1<sup>st</sup> year in the program.
- In their Summer practicum course, students complete a written assignment in which they reflect upon their 1<sup>st</sup> 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-Counseling Capstone Project option (as an alternative to completing a thesis).
- Monthly thesis/Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project orientation meetings are held during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester in the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> semester Fall
  - PSY 466 – moved from 1<sup>st</sup> semester Fall to Summer
  - PSY 467 – moved from 2<sup>nd</sup> year Spring to 1<sup>st</sup> year Spring
  - PSY 451 – moved from 1<sup>st</sup> year Spring to 2<sup>nd</sup> year Spring

- Summer practicum course was added.
- PSY 400 credit and bi-semester meetings are required for 1<sup>st</sup>-year students completing pre-practicum community placement GAs.
- Supervisor evaluations of students are completed 2 times during the 9-month 1<sup>st</sup>-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 480A31 for DBT (dialectical behavior therapy) skills training group
  - PSY 480A33 Supervision of DBT (dialectical behavior therapy) skills training group
  - PSY 480A35 Advanced Practicum 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

<b>Goal 1: proficiency in a scientist-practitioner approach to providing mental health services to a diverse clientele</b>					
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>What group(s) will be assessed?</b>	<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<b>Who will conduct assessment?</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
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-Counseling Capstone Project	Thesis or Clinical-Counseling Capstone project completion	Current students	Thesis proposal and defense, Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project defense	Thesis or Clinical-Counseling Capstone 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, online searches for professional updates (e.g., LinkedIn)	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

<b>Goal 2: eligibility for licensure as a licensed professional counselor &amp;/or licensed clinical professional counselor in Illinois</b>					
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>What group(s) will be assessed?</b>	<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<b>Who will conduct assessment?</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
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, online searches for professional updates (e.g., LinkedIn)	Program coordinator	Every 2-3 years

<b>Goal 3: preparation to pursue doctoral study in psychology and related fields, if desired</b>					
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>What group(s) will be assessed?</b>	<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<b>Who will conduct assessment?</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
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-Counseling Capstone Project	Thesis or capstone project completion	Current students	Thesis proposal and defense, Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project defense	Thesis or Clinical-Counseling Capstone 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, online searches for professional updates (e.g., LinkedIn)	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

<b>Goal 4: Professional Communication Skills, including use of APA format, making oral presentations, and using computer-based technologies</b>					
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>What group(s) will be assessed?</b>	<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<b>Who will conduct assessment?</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Completion of a thesis or Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project	Thesis or Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project completion	Current students	Thesis proposal and defense, Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project defense	Thesis or Clinical-Counseling Capstone 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, online searches for professional updates (e.g., LinkedIn)	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

<b>Program Goal 5: Knowledge of and adherence to APA Code of Conduct and Ethical Principles Outcomes</b>					
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>What group(s) will be assessed?</b>	<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<b>Who will conduct assessment?</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Successful completion of ethics course work	PSY 470	Current students	Successful completion of assigned course work (including: class participation, oral presentation, reaction papers, and exam performance)	PSY 470 instructor(s)	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-Counseling Capstone Project defense	Thesis or Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project committee	Every semester/year
Completion of a thesis or Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project	Thesis or Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project completion	Current students	Thesis proposal and defense, Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project defense	Thesis or Clinical-Counseling Capstone Project committee	Every semester/year
Current and past students' satisfaction with curriculum	Alumni Surveys, Internship/ practicum placement and performance	Current students & Graduates of the Clinical-Counseling program	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