

## **Pastoral Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program**

### **Neumann University**

### **2018-19 Annual Report**

The Pastoral Clinical Mental Health Counseling (PCMHC) Program at Neumann University is a 60-credit, CACREP accredited master's program. In conjunction with the Office of Institutional Research, the PCMHC program created a 3-year assessment plan for all courses in the program. This report outlines 1) a summary of the evaluation results, 2) program modifications based on the evaluation results, 3) student outcomes, and 4) substantial program changes.

The Program Assessment Plan is publicly accessible on the program's website. Over the course of three years, each course in the program is assessed. The plan is multidimensional and focuses on assessing the core learning outcomes of the institution, the program, and the CACREP standards. The plan gauges student growth and learning using formative and summative assessments. Faculty are assessed using the IDEA course evaluations.

**Evaluation results.** For the Academic Year (AY) 2018-19, students' ability to recognize ethical principles, apply them in clinical settings, and use hermeneutical decision making in their judgement through a theological reflective process to personally integrate ethical principles was assessed, as well as their ability to use strategies and interventions in both small and large group dynamics. PCC 730: Ethics and Professional Issues; PCC 760: Groups; PCC 770: Internship I; and PCC 771: Internship II were evaluated. Students' ability to apply knowledge of career assessment theories and protocols for themselves and others using was also to be assessed through PCC 781: Career Counseling. However, the course not offered in AY 2018-19. The results of the evaluation will be included in AY 2019-20.

The majority of the evaluation criteria was met or exceeded based on the Program Assessment Plan. The formative assessment for PCC 760 was met for each individual student and the class as a whole. The summative assessments for PCC 730, PCC 760, PCC 770, and PCC 771 were met for each individual student and the class as a whole. In PCC 730, 87.5% of students scored a "B" or better, achieving the stated assessment of 80% of students receiving a "B" or better. After examination of past feedback and academic performance, the program director worked directly with student(s) not achieving a "B" for remediation and/or follow-up support. Similar to PCC 730, the formative assessment for PCC 770 was met as a whole, but some individual students did not receive a "B" or better. The program director worked with students on an individual basis.

For the formative assessment on the Clinical Assessment Skills (CAS) in PCC 771: Internship II, the stated goal was 80% of students scoring at or above standards on the clinical report rubric. The Clinical Assessment Skills (CAS) is an evaluation matrix used to assess students during their practicum and internship experience. In this class, 79.4% of students scored at or above standards.

**Program modifications.** The CAS includes five categories, each with several subcategories. After examining scores in the categories and subcategories, the categories influencing the lower scores were identified. The weakest areas were a) Knowledge and use of theoretical approach and b) Recognizes and uses countertransference. The clinical coordinator, faculty teaching clinical courses, and program director discussed ways to emphasize knowledge/application of counseling theories and countertransference in a more foundational way across the clinical sequence. If this renewed emphasis does results in satisfactory outcomes, the courses prior to the clinical sequence will be adjusted as needed.

**Student outcomes.** During the AY of 2018-20, 14 students graduated from the PCMHC program. The completion rate (number of students graduating within 5 years) was 55%. Eight students took the National Counselor Examination in pursuit of being a Nationally Certified Counselor, and 5 out of 8 students passed. As reported to Neumann, 9 out of 10 of graduates were employed in the mental health field.

**Substantial program changes.** No substantial program changes were implemented in AY 2018-19, and no substantial program changes are currently planned for AY 2019-20.