

# University of Dayton

## Department of Counselor Education and Human Services

# 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

### **Counseling Program Feedback and Updates**

School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling students provided feedback on the counseling programs. General themes from the feedback and department responses are summarized below.

### **Feedback from School Counseling Students and Site Supervisors**

#### **Overview:**

The first cohort of graduates of the 60-semester hour program have been successful and are all employed as school counselors in the Columbus and Dayton areas. In response to a repeated request for early access to schools, practicum has been moved to the spring semester of the first year. This plan was successfully piloted with one student from each campus in the spring of 2024 and will be integrated into the program beginning in the spring of 2025. This plan also provides the potential for students to gain exposure to various grade bands and different districts during their practicum and internship experiences. This shift also allows students to earn 100 practicum hours across the entire 15-week semester and 600 internship hours across two semesters. The prior system required that students earn all 700 hours across 2 semesters.

#### **Site Supervisors:**

**Need:** Have a panel of teachers and principals discussing their needs in order for interns to better understand where they are coming from.

- More practical learning opportunities and information from those in the field
- Emphasize to students that some job responsibilities will depend on the principal and the school psychologist.

**Response:** Panels of speakers including current school counselors, HR directors, principals, mental health specialists, school psychologists, and other related services are integrated into the internship course

**Need:** Work with students on developmentally appropriate language and interventions

-Focus on the concept that “one size does not fit all”

-Focus on the legalities of 504 plans

-Focus on school counseling roles in IAT and MTSS meetings

**Response:** The special education course curriculum is being revised to ensure more focus on the above items. Guest speakers for related services, school psychology, instructional specialists, and administrators are to be integrated into the course

## **Students:**

**Need:** Starting Practicum in the first year of the program; Getting into schools earlier in the program.

**Response:** Practicum is now a second semester first year course.

**Need:** More exposure to graduation requirements in class

**Response:** Current school counselors were brought in to share their experiences, forms, strategies, and ideas for tracking graduation requirements, meeting with students, and communicating with parents.

## **Feedback from Clinical Mental Health Counseling Students**

**Need:** Students wanted to have opportunities to build their leadership abilities and to participate in service events

**Response:** The Ecotherapy Club is a student led initiative and is now recognized by the University community

**Response:** Additional leadership opportunities in the BHWET program including meeting facilitator, secretary, and project lead. See detailed notes about the BHWET grant program below.

**Need:** Students want more mentorship opportunities for involvement in counseling organization committee leadership.

**Response:** New Chi Sigma Iota Chapter leaders were elected, and members scheduled student engagement

**Need:** A desire to research and present with faculty was expressed.

**Response:** A group of 22 students presented with Dr. Meredith Montgomery at the 2024 All Ohio Counselors Conference. They shared their experiences with the BHWET grant program including offering career fairs to students at local high schools

### **Students requested specific professional seminars and trainings:**

**Need:** Sexual issues in counseling, ecotherapy related skills training, private practice, and eating disorders.

**Response:** Ecotherapy Certificate can be embedded in the CMHC training program. A standalone 1 credit course on starting a private practice is offered at least once per year.

## **New initiatives in Clinical Mental Health Counseling**

### **Advisory Committee**

An Advisory Committee composed of former students, adjunct faculty, and community leaders met in the fall of 2024 to provide feedback and guidance on program improvements. The advisory committee

### **Ecotherapy Certificate**

An Ecotherapy certificate was finalized and consists of 10 hours within the existing CMHC program (including elective courses in Ecotherapy, Holistic Wellness, and Adventure Counseling).

Students can choose this micro concentration to supplement their interest in this topic. Dr. Hall completed the Eco Certification course through Pacific University which will add to his leadership of UD's certificate program.

An Ecotherapy Club is recognized by the University of Dayton and has begun quarterly meetings, adventures, and practice in ecotherapy techniques for graduate students in the CMHC and School Counseling graduate programs. This club offers opportunities for professional development, fellowship, and leadership.

### **Interprofessional Education Microcredential**

An Interprofessional Education (IPE) Microcredential is under exploration. The program and microcredential responds to the need for collaborative interaction and understanding among various mental health and related disciplines and build competence in inter-disciplinary practice. These electives would coincide with the ongoing bi-annual IPE symposiums which bring together students in multiple health care professions across 3 universities for case study and collaboration.

## **Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Grant**

Students from Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling are able to apply to participate in a grant-funded training program that provides Interprofessional Education and Practice (IPEP) training and engagement opportunities with other mental health professionals (School Psychologists and Clinical Psychologists) as well over 100 community partners. Training is completed in a large group setting, in small lab groups, and on an individual basis. Students work under faculty supervision to develop research studies, community outreach projects, and public education campaigns. Students also develop professional identity as they see how their profession works with other mental health professions and with other professions in the community. To date, 95+ students have enrolled in the program. 30 new students are accepted into the program each year. Students who either opt to not apply or are not accepted into the program still receive the benefit of learning from BHWET participants as they share what they are learning in class. Information about the learning labs, presentations, and accomplishments can be found here <https://sites.google.com/udayton.edu/bhwet>

## **Great Minds Fellowship Program**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling students who complete their internship at a Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC), as defined by the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services department, and agree to work at a CBHC for one year post-graduation are eligible to receive a \$10,000 fellowship from the Ohio Department of Higher Education. Students also receive a \$5,000 signing bonus after obtaining a job post-graduation. The University of Dayton obtained an additional \$222,000 over the initial funding level allowing support for 7-8 additional students. The clinical training sites that train our students in practicum and internship also receive \$2500 per student per semester to support supervision costs. The program is explained in more detail at the OhioMHAS site: <https://mha.ohio.gov/research-and-data/dashboards-and-maps/dashboards/tableau-resources/great-minds-fellowship-dashboard>.