

Master of Arts in Counseling

2017 Survey Evaluation

Annual Report

Respondent	Feedback	Faculty Review	Modification(s) Made Based on Feedback	
Alum	More emphasis on preparation for after graduation; discussing where to apply, mock job interviews, more information about the licensure exam and requirements. GA/fellowship opportunities would be nice to provide to incoming students.	This content could be included in COUN 507 and COUN 637. Funding at a small liberal arts university is tight, making GA/fellowship opportunities difficult	Dr. Haase will explore adding this material into COUN 507 and COUN 637 respectively. GA opportunities will be revisited with the Dean, after considering the coming year's budget.	No further discussion or program changes.
Alum	While learning about self is very important and immensely helpful during the training, there should be more focus on diagnosis, goal writing, and documentation. We're missing too much practical information that potentially leaves students unprepared as professionals.	The program's emphasis on the importance of inner-work for counselors in training is well advertised, documented, and engaged throughout the program. The "practical information", such as dx, goal writing, and documentation are covered in PIFE, Psychopathology, Assessment and Evaluation procedures, Crisis, and other courses.	Faculty discussed adding additional information and practice into COUN 528, COUN 689, and COUN 690, the practicum and internship courses.	Faculty discussed soliciting information from site supervisors about note taking, tx planning, and dx practices at partnering sites. See also, site supervisor survey data.
Alum	Perhaps more regarding burnout and challenges in the field relating to current mental health issues in Virginia such as TRO and ECO and TRO hearing proceedings.	More information on TRO, ECO, and TDOs could be elaborated in COUN 587: Crisis Counseling.	Mr. Horst will include more information about ECO, TRO, and TDOs into COUN 587.	Mr. Horst has a colleague who would be willing to be a guest speaker on ECO/TDOs in COUN 587. This colleague serves as the Mental Health Clinician for the Staunton-Augusta Therapeutic Docket, a criminal diversion program for individuals with serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders. She is also certified through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as an emergency services prescriber to provide assessment and evaluation for civil commitment.

Alum	More emphasis on empirical research would have been helpful for me. Perhaps having a faculty complete research with the assistance of 1st/2nd year students.	Increasing student involvement in faculty research and scholarship is appealing to most faculty members.	Dr. Hammond and Mr. Horst will explore ways students in COUN 536 Foundations in Research and Program Evaluation: Theory, Design, and Foundational Statistics could partner with faculty, perhaps for credit towards the capstone project.	No further discussion or program changes.
Employer	Perhaps greater focus on brief or time limited practice	Brief therapies for crisis intervention are covered in COUN 587. Expanded information and practice on/with brief and time-limited practices could be included in COUN 508: Counseling Techniques and COUN 518: ICP. The primary assignment in COUN 508, the undergraduate interview process is to facilitate brief interventions.	Instructors will work to reiterated brief/time-limited practices in COUN 508 and COUN 518.	No further discussion or program changes.
Employer	Training in multiple theories of couples counseling i.e. Gottman, EFT	COUN 547: Theories of Psychotherapy and COUN 627: Marriage and Family Counseling include theories of couples counseling.	Instructors in COUN 547 and COUN 627 will identify and address pertinent gaps in theories of couples counseling, if present.	No further discussion or program changes.
Employer	Increased training/awareness of QMHP requirements	Including more information about the QMHP process in COUN 507: PIFE could support students who are eligible for the QMHP to apply for it. Additionally, those students eligible for the QMHP might benefit from the credential when applying for practicum and internship placements.	Dr. Haase will include more information about the QMHP in COUN 507.	No further discussion or program changes.
Employer	(possibly) less leniency when students do not meet deadlines for assignments.	Remediation practices and policies are clear in the handbook.	The program director and the respective academic advisor will engage students in a remediation plan who are consistently unable to meet deadlines.	No further discussion or program changes.
Supervisor	Perhaps a bit more direction as to learning goals for their internship experience.	Faculty discussed the possibility of students keeping journals during internship to track personal and professional goals for internship.	The PPC will work with practicum and internship faculty supervisors to support the articulation of student goals and the possibility of implementing practicum/internship journals	No further discussion or program changes.

Supervisor	Understanding of mental health systems and how clients can be challenged/supported.	COUN 507: PIFE and COUN 637: Career Development include advocacy standards for the field. Faculty explored inviting speakers/advocates to present and connect students with emerging advocacy items. COUN 507 includes professional development standards and joining professional counseling organizations.	Faculty will explore inviting guest speakers to COUN 507 and COUN 637 to enhance training in professional advocacy.	Consider inviting current and/or past VCA Advocacy Chair(s).
Supervisor	Develop skills in motivational interviewing	MI is included in the curriculum. Emphasizing MI training could address other survey feedback on breif/time-limited	Guest training from an MI trainer.	Sandra Downey, LPC, for the MI training.