

Employer Survey results

2015-2016 report: n = 8
(Surveyed 12 Employers)

2016-2017 report: n = 8
(Surveyed 13 Employers)

2017-2018 report: n = 3
(Surveyed 10 Employers)

2018-2019 report: n = 7
(Surveyed 10 Employers)

2019-2020 report: n = 7
(Surveyed 12 Employers)

1. How many graduates of the EMU MA in Counseling program have you had the opportunity to supervise/observe?

2015: 1 answered zero, but would love the opportunity
2 answered one student
2 answered two students
2 answered three students
1 answered more than 5, maybe as many as 10

2016: 1 answered one student
1 answered two students
1 answered three students
3 answered four students
1 answered five students
1 answered, about ten students

2017: 3 answered one student

2018: 1 answered one student
2 answered three students
2 answered five students
2 answered seven students

2019: 1 answered one student
1 answered two students
4 answered three students
1 answered six students

2. How Prepared in Meeting the Standards of Professional Engagement to Your Agency

2015: 4.50 (6 Exceptionally Prepared; 2 Prepared)

2016: 4.38 (3 Exceptionally Prepared; 5 Adequately Prepared)

2017: 4.33 (1 Exceptionally Prepared; 2 Adequately Prepared)

2018: 4.42 (3 Exceptionally Prepared; 4 Adequately Prepared)

2019: 4.28 (2 Exceptionally Prepared; 5 Adequately Prepared)

2019 Comments:

Very professional and attentive to the needs of their clients

They have consistently been very professional, reliable, and ethical in their work.

Concerns regarding time management and sense of urgency

I don't feel that the graduates I have worked with are well prepared to make a diagnosis, especially in regards to personality disorders and looking deeper in diagnosis for early trauma and relational patterns.

3. How Prepared to Meet the Needs of Their Clients

2015: 4.63 (5 Exceptionally Prepared; 3 Adequately Prepared)

2016: 4.38 (3 Exceptionally Prepared; 5 Adequately Prepared)

2017: 4.00 (3 Adequately Prepared)

2018: 4.57 (5 Exceptionally Prepared; 1 Adequately Prepared; 1 Prepared)

2019: 4.28 (2 Exceptionally Prepared; 5 Adequately Prepared)

2019 Comments:

They possess an exceptional knowledge of counseling theories and a keen awareness of the diverse/unique needs of our struggling clients.

I have primarily worked with EMU graduates shortly after graduation, and they are well-positioned to be successful, with the typical need for ongoing experience and supervision to meet the specific needs of clients, particularly in specialized areas.

Great knowledge base!

Both of the individual I have supervised are very skilled at person-centered counseling. --- in particular has an impressive knowledge of mindfulness and is able to use this with most of his clients.

4. List two or three common traits and strengths you noticed in EMU graduates

2016 Comments:

Clinical knowledge
Compassionate
Professionalism, client care
Professional in their interactions with other staff and clients
Thoughtful, Calm
Well rounded
Responsible
Rapport building skills
Ability to convey empathy
Relational focus as opposed to a problem-solving focus
Well versed in theory
Able to pull from multiple theories to meet client needs
Clinical skills
Organized
Openness to feedback and growth
Openness to feedback/supervision
Highly ethical
Courageous
Depth of awareness of their counselor identity
Responsive/open to supervision/feedback

2017 Comments:

Quiet and reserved
Text book prepared
Reflective
Strong academic background

2018 Comments:

~High standard of ethics and moral reasoning. Clients come first. Great diagnostic skills.
~Very strong clinical skills, good awareness of trauma impact, good diagnosis skills.
~Deep commitment to helping others, understand/know themselves well
~Empathy, professionalism
~Eager learners, professionalism, and ethical decisions/judgment.
~Hardworking, engaged, immersed.
~I continue to be impressed with the warmth, compassion, and mindfulness present in all of the EMU graduates we have worked with over the years.

2019 Comments:

Their clinical understanding/diagnosis/interventions; empathy and respect towards clients; initiative to continue learning

Openness to feedback and compassionate approach.

Strong work ethic, compassionate, great knowledge of counseling theories and techniques

teachable, empathetic, self-motivated toward ongoing growth and learning

compassionate, well-rounded, knowledgeable

Great person-centered/ humanistic approach to counseling.

client centered focus, strengths based focus

5. What thoughts or recommendations do you have for us to better prepare our students for work in the field

2016 Comments:

Teach the highly effective evidence-based therapeutic approach motivational interviewing as part of the curriculum.

Students have had concerns about one of the courses that involves artistic counseling wherein there is a guest instructor. I would also say a stronger emphasis on clinical writing skills (though I wish this of many programs). Oh - one more thing: (possibly) less leniency when students do not meet deadlines for assignments.

Increased understanding of the significance of quality treatment planning and documentation.

Perhaps greater focus on brief or time limited practice

Training in multiple theories of couples counseling i.e. Gottman, EFT

Ongoing need for CBT in my setting vs insight or depth work

Increased training/awareness of QMHP requirements :)

2017 Comments:

N/A

Fiscal realities of human service work, populations served and the variable settings.

Discuss starting pay when going into this field.

2018 Comments:

Better preparation for writing assessments and case conceptualizations. Writing seems to be an area that could use more clinical language and a thorough report.

They need more preparation for paperwork - lacking skills in writing treatment goals and plans and describing interventions. This is a vital skill in our agency and some struggle with this at first. A little practice in grad school would go a long way.

Crisis work is challenging, and much of the professional 'expertise' is only acquired through doing. Having students know themselves well, and be able to manage their own 'stuff' when dealing with other people's 'stuff' is vital/critical. Self-care is extremely important.

Continue to encourage them to push their comfort zones

Continue to strengthen adaptability to varying settings for counseling services. I, myself, did not graduate from EMU, but I found my masters program experience to focus a great deal on outpatient therapy as the primary setting in which counseling/therapy occurs. Once I was actually out there doing the work, services almost never took place in an office or clinic setting! Many Residents are going to need to gather those residency hours in some non-traditional places and should be prepared to adapt their approaches to meet clients where they are at, in both an emotional sense and in the physical setting they find themselves in.

Working on focusing on compartmentalization when dealing with challenging clients

Because our agency functions through a brief model of treatment, more familiarity with brief work or CBT/ACT interventions could be beneficial. Additional exposure to risk assessment and building confidence in clinical expertise may also be considered.

2019 Comments:

None at this time, The students and graduates I have worked with exhibit experience and knowledge at an appropriate or exceptionally higher level than what is expected.

More support for treatment planning and documentation. While different agencies and supervisors will have different requirements, it would be helpful for graduates to have more general practice before they enter residency.

None

It seems across the board, and with EMU, that there is a gap between graduate education and new counselors being familiar with and grounded in evidence-based approaches, strategies, and techniques - which results in a lot of on-the-job learning to take theory and put it into practice, particularly in a manner based on evidence.

time management, sense of urgency when appropriate

More emphasis on case formulation/ diagnosis.

more applicable understanding of services in the community and insurance

6. Would you recommend the EMU Master of Arts in Counseling program to prospective students

2016: Yes

Comments:

I regularly recommend your program to prospective students as I believe you do a wonderful job preparing students for the work. Thank you for all you do for students! :)

2017: 2 –Yes; 1 Maybe

Comments:

No Comments

2018: 7 –Yes

Comments:

I'm also an EMU alum and am proud to be so. Keep up the good program!

Overall, I have been very pleased with the quality of clinicians who have graduated from EMU. As someone who is responsible for interviewing and hiring employees at our agency, I am always interested in meeting, interviewing, and hiring graduates of EMU.

It has been excellent working with your EMU graduate. She has been a godsend to our program and is excellent in her communication and work with both our clients and other care providers.

2019: 7 –Yes

Comments:

Thank you for continuing to grow the program.

We value and appreciate the graduates of EMU. They have been wonderful additions to our team. Thank you for all of your work in preparing them for our field. You have achieved great success.

The EMU graduates with whom I have worked and supervised embody the core conditions of empathy, genuineness, and unconditional positive regard.