

**William Paterson University**  
**Professional Counseling Program**  
**Assessment Report 2015-2017**

The Professional Counseling Program assesses the program on an ongoing basis. The following is a summary of the assessment activities over the last two years. All surveys were scored on a five point Likert type scale (1= Poor Preparation, 2= Somewhat Poor Preparation, 3=Fair Preparation, 4= Good Preparation, 5= Excellent Preparation).

The most recent exit survey of alumni's showed that 78% of the 2015-2017 graduates who responded to the survey felt their preparation in the eight core curriculum areas was either good or excellent. The other 23% felt their preparation was fair. The majority (75%) also felt that the quality of knowledge and instruction provided by the faculty was either good or excellent. The majority of students in the clinical mental health concentration, reported their preparation as good or excellent (64.28%), which is an increase from previous years and supports the change in curriculum for the clinical mental health track. Students in the school concentration track reported their preparation as fair or better (73.34%). Recent graduates, 2017, also reported their preparation in the eight core curriculum areas as good or excellent (73%) with no graduate reporting less than fair preparation. Additionally, 91% felt either quite a lot or very much prepared to function as a competent counselor and responded that the knowledge of the faculty was good to excellent. We will continue to monitor this response and as a program, the change in school counseling courses and our move to a 60 credit school concentration may help strengthen student's preparation. Additionally, the areas of career counseling and research in counseling, which are the areas where students reported the least preparation, will continue to be revised and monitored to strengthen the training for counselor trainees. Positively, we've seen an increase in CPCE scores from 2015 to 2017 and in the NCE scores from 2016 to 2017 in the area of career development.

The 2017 annual survey of site supervisors showed that the supervisors remained supportive of the program. The mean rating for the eight core curriculum areas was between 3.6 and 4.1 showing that the majority felt that interns' preparation was between fair and good. While this is a slight decrease from previous surveys, the limited sample size may account for the change in scores. Site supervisors also found that interns' preparation for work at their site (both in schools and clinical mental health agencies) was good.

Student scores on the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) (taken in the Spring prior to entering Internship and their final year in the program) have been consistently higher than the national mean. The CPCE has been given since 2009 and information from previous exams has been used to strengthen the student's curricular experience. Due to the change in our program exam date, we administered the CPCE in both Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semester. During the Fall 2016, we had a 100% pass rate and our program mean score was well above the national mean score. In the Spring 2017 semester, we had a pass rate of 97%, and our mean remained above the national mean. Previous to this, Fall 2015, we had a

pass rate of 81%, yet despite this, our program's mean scores remained above the national average.

This past Spring 2017, our students took the National Counselor Exam and we had a pass rate of 97%. This is an increase from the Spring 2016, when our program had a pass rate of 87.5%. As a program, we can attribute the increase in scores to annually reviewing syllabi, course content, matching faculty to areas of expertise and classes, and analyzing each year's data to provide direction to help strengthen our program.

For further details about our assessment activities, or if you would like to see the raw data, please contact the, Dr. Meredith Drew at [drewm2@wpunj.edu](mailto:drewm2@wpunj.edu)