CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT
College of Human Development

From the Office of the Dean, John S. Wesolek

DATE: May 15, 2007

TO: Program Review Committee

SUBJECT: Response to PRC Review Recommendations

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Recommendations for the Program Director of the MS Mental Health Counseling Program

1. It is recommended that the MS Mental Health Counseling program continue the process to seek CACREP accreditation.

Response from Program Director: Since the time of the PRC review of the Mental Health Counseling Program, program faculty completed the CACREP self-study, had it sent to a CACREP consultant, and had a two-day on-campus meeting with the consultant. The consultant’s subsequent report confirmed the necessity to develop a practicum course (three credits for each five students), and the need for at least one additional full time counselor educator position. We will need administrative approval to hire another faculty position in order to continue to pursue CACREP accreditation. If given this approval, the Mental Health Counseling Program will continue the process of seeking CACREP accreditation.

2. It is recommended that the Program Director seek and provide more detailed information related to licensure for students. Students need more direction on how to find this essential information.

Response from Program Director: Students are already given information regarding licensure at two places during the program – during the Orientation to Mental Health Counseling course, which they take early in the program, and toward the end of their internship experience at the end of their program. Historically, we have provided printed material from the Department of Regulation and Licensing to students outlining what is necessary for licensure. More recently, we have been referring students to the Department of Regulation and Licensing web site for information. At the end of this semester with our interns, we went back to providing handouts from DRL’s web site, and provided a flow chart for finding information. We also had a recent graduate come in and speak to the class about her experiences with obtaining licensure. As possible, we will continue to do this in future semesters.

3. It is recommended that the Program Director work with the Department Chair to enhance and update the six concentration areas and course materials throughout the program.

Response from Program Director: The concentrations that were mentioned most often in the student surveys were the Child and Adolescent Counseling Concentration and the Eating Disorders Concentration. We currently have a program revision going through the curricular
process for the Child and Adolescent Concentration, removing some of the over-emphasis on developmental issues, and adding a course focused on childhood and adolescent disorders and their treatment. We plan to revise the Eating Disorders Concentration in the fall, removing a course that students found redundant with others in the program, and adding more information on family-related issues and therapy. Other concentrations will be revised as appropriate. Our CACREP consultant reported that our Career and Gerontological Counseling Concentrations are currently using names of CACREP majors, and these names will need to change if we continue to offer those concentrations. Course materials are constantly revised throughout the program.

4. **It is recommended that the Program Director work with the College of Human Development to access and provide more orientation, assistance, and professional development opportunities for internship site supervisors. This will enhance the quality of the student internship experience. A workshop on counselor supervision could be hosted by UW-Stout for the Mental Health Counseling program internship supervisors.**

**Response from Program Director:** A workshop on counselor supervision for our internship site supervisors was an idea presented to us by our CACREP consultant, and something we can do in the future to help orient and assist internship supervisors and provide them with information about our supervision expectations. Another idea we could implement would be to develop a discussion board through D2L which intern supervisors could access. This would allow us to stay in better contact with the supervisors, and also allow them to communicate with each other about supervision-related issues.

**Recommendations for the Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation and Counseling**

1. **It is recommended that the MS Mental Health Counseling program continue the process to seek CACREP accreditation and look at resources needed to fulfill the additional practicum course required for accreditation. Funding for a faculty position to instruct the practicum course is essential to the continued success of this program.**

2. **It is recommended that the Department Chair work with the Program Director to plan the development and staffing of a practicum class as required for CACREP accreditation. This practicum (limit of 5 students for each section) is needed before the internship requirement.**

**Response from Department Chair:** CACREP accreditation is vital to the continued vitality and competitive success of this program. It also is unattainable without an additional full-time faculty member assigned to the program. A recent CACREP consultant visit and self-study have confirmed this fact (in addition to this PRC review). The program leadership and faculty stand ready to effect the CACREP-required program curriculum additions and changes, including a Practicum course, when these instructional resources become available. The request has been put forward numerous times. To date, both the Provost and the CHD Dean have indicated that no additional faculty FTE will be allocated to the program.

**Recommendations for the Dean of the College of Human Development**

1. **It is recommended that the MS Mental Health Counseling program continue the process to seek CACREP accreditation and look at resources needed to fulfill the additional practicum course required for accreditation. Providing funding for a faculty position to instruct the practicum course required by CACREP accreditation is essential to the continued success of this program.**
Response from Dean: The college supports the program in its efforts to seek CACREP accreditation. At this time there are no available resources in the college budget to add the additional faculty FTE to meet CACREP standards. We will continue to work with the Provost to seek funding for an additional FTE and will continue to manage the college’s resources in an attempt to find a possible additional FTE in the future. Further, I realize that this resource may be the deciding factor in successfully acquiring CACREP accreditation.

2. It is recommended that the Dean work with and support the Department Chair and Program Director in all above mentioned recommendations.

Response from Dean: We have met with the Program Director and the Department Chair and have discussed the various recommendations. We support the plans of the Program Director to meet the recommendations and will continue to work with the Program Director and Department Chair to facilitate the changes they have planned.

c: Gary Rockwood
    Stephen Shumate
    Robert Salt
    Linda Borofka