

# Assessment Cycle Plan

## Academic Year 2017 – 2018

Program: Counseling (533)

College: Education and Human Development

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**Northwestern Mission.** Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution that is committed to the creation, dissemination, and acquisition of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The University maintains as its highest priority excellence in teaching in graduate and undergraduate programs. Northwestern State University prepares its students to become productive members of society and promotes economic development and improvements in the quality of life of the citizens in its region.

**Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development Mission (draft).** The Gallaspy Family College of Education and Human Development is a committed and diverse community of scholars, educators, students, and future leaders working collaboratively to acquire, create, and disseminate knowledge through transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research, and service. The College produces graduates with the capabilities and confidence to be productive members of society equipped with the skill sets necessary to promote economic and social development thereby improving the overall quality of life in the region. The College offers a wide variety of exemplary undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare candidates for career success across the spectrum of professional roles and settings. These programs include teacher education, leadership, and counseling; health and human performance; psychology and addiction studies; social work; and military science. Candidates are taught to become adaptive critical thinkers and problem solvers in diverse scenarios capable of leveraging new technologies to enrich lifelong learning. As caring, competent, reflective practitioners, our graduates become positive role models in their communities and leaders in the nation's military.

**Department of Teaching, Leadership, and Counseling Mission.** The Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development offers exemplary programs that prepare candidates for career success in a variety of professional roles and settings. As caring, competent, reflective practitioners, our graduates become positive models in their communities and organizations. This mission is fulfilled through academic programs based on theory, research, and best practice. Further, all graduates learn to value and work with diverse populations and to incorporate technologies that enrich learning and professional endeavors.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Counseling Program at Northwestern State University is to prepare candidates with the knowledge, skills, and practices to become caring, competent, reflective counselors within a dynamic and multicultural society. A key aim of the program

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faculty is to approach their pedagogy with intellectual vigor and enhance their students' preparation through quality research, scholarship, and service. The instructional efforts of program faculty are committed to ensuring a seamless integration of theory into practice.

**Methodology:** The assessment process for the program is as follows:

(1) Data from assessments provide results on candidate knowledge, skills, and dispositions as appropriate for professional education programs.

(2) Annually, program faculty and stakeholders review data to make data-driven, curricular decisions.

### Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 1:

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Demonstrate discipline-specific content knowledge (SPA #1)	Demonstrate a knowledge of core CACREP content areas as evidenced by earning an "Acceptable" score or higher on the MC and oral comprehensive exams.

### Measure 1.1. (Direct – Knowledge, Skills)

SLO 1 is assessed through a MC comprehensive exam/oral comprehensive exam. The assessment is evaluated using a 140-question multiple choice exam and a 45-minute oral exam, and the benchmark performance is that 80% of students will score at the Acceptable level or higher.

**Finding: Target Met**

**Analysis:** 100% of students scored Acceptable or Target on identified assessments.

**Action - Decision or Recommendation:** No changes will be made to the goal and/or outcome at this time.

### Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 2:

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Apply discipline-specific content knowledge in professional practice (SPA #2)	Complete Practicum and Internship I & II successfully, as evidenced by completing all required hours and by earning a grade of "B" or above.

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### Measure: 2.1. (Direct – Knowledge, Skills)

SLO 2 is assessed through completion of field experience hours and satisfactory performance. The assessment is evaluated using a final grade, and the benchmark performance is that 80% of students will earn a grade of “B” or above.

**Finding: Target Met**

**Analysis:** 100% of students earned a grade of “B” or above in field experience hours

**Action - Decision or Recommendation:** No changes will be made to the goal and/or outcome at this time.

### Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 3:

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Model professional behaviors and characteristics	Demonstrate the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards (CMHC B.1; SC B.1).

### Measure: 3.1. (Direct – Skills, Dispositions)

SLO 3 is assessed through case conceptualizations, a videotape presentation evaluation, an intake interview; a personal growth journal; a mental status exam; and a biopsychosocial history, as well as a case analysis & presentation and a small group intervention. The assessment is evaluated through each assignment assessed in Clinical Portfolio and is specific to the standard listed, and the benchmark performance is that 80% of students will score at the Acceptable level or higher.

**Finding: Target Met**

**Analysis:** 100% of students earned a score of 80% or above on identified assessments.

**Action - Decision or Recommendation:** No changes will be made to the goal and/or outcome at this time.

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**Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 4:**

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Exhibit creative thinking that yields engaging ideas, processes, materials, and experiences appropriate for the discipline (SPA #3)	Demonstrate appropriate use of culturally responsive individual, couple, family, group, and systems modalities for initiating, maintaining, and terminating counseling (CMHC D.5; SC F.1).
Exhibit creative thinking that yields engaging ideas, processes, materials, and experiences appropriate for the discipline (SPA #3)	Demonstrate the ability to modify counseling systems, theories, techniques, and interventions to make them culturally appropriate for diverse populations (CMHC F.3; SC D.1).

**Measure: 4.1. (Direct – Knowledge, Skills)**

SLO 4 (CMHC D.5; SC F.1) is assessed through case conceptualizations, a videotape presentation evaluation, an intake interview, a mental status exam, and a biopsychosocial history, as well as a case analysis & presentation, guidance curriculum, a parent/teacher education program, a post-secondary planning lesson and small group intervention. The assessment is evaluated through each assignment assessed in Clinical Portfolio and specific to the standard listed, and the benchmark performance is that 80% of students will score at the Acceptable level or higher.

SLO 4 (CMHC F.3; SC D.1) is assessed through a videotape presentation evaluation, data disaggregation, and policy review project, as well as a case analysis & presentation, peer helping program, and small group intervention. The assessment is evaluated through each assignment assessed in Clinical Portfolio and is specific to the standard listed, and the benchmark performance is that 80% of students will score at the Acceptable level or higher.

***Finding: Target Met***

***Analysis:*** 100% of students earned a score of 80% or above on identified assessments.

***Action - Decision or Recommendation:*** No changes will be made to the goal and/or outcome at this time. The COUN faculty have reviewed the policies and procedures for submission of materials to Tasksteam and progress has been made to ensure all required materials are submitted. However there are still gaps in submission that warrant further review, especially regarding ways to streamline the process.

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### Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 5:

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Make responsible decisions and problem-solve, using data to inform actions when appropriate (SPA #5)	Demonstrate the ability to recognize his/her own limitations as a counselor and to seek supervision or refer clients when appropriate (CMHC D.9; SC D.5).
Make responsible decisions and problem-solve, using data to inform actions when appropriate (SPA #5)	Apply relevant research findings to inform the practice of counseling (CMHC J.1; SC J.1).

### Measure: 5.1. (Direct – Knowledge, Skills)

SLO 5 (CMHC D.9; SC D.5) is assessed through case conceptualizations and a personal growth journal, as well as a case analysis & presentation and small group intervention. The assessment is evaluated through each assignment assessed in Clinical Portfolio and is specific to the standard listed, and the benchmark performance is that 80% of students will score at the Acceptable level or higher.

SLO 5 (CMHC J.1; SC J.1) is assessed through case conceptualizations, data disaggregation and a policy review project, as well as case analysis & presentation, guidance curriculum, a post-secondary planning lesson and small group intervention. The assessment is evaluated through each assignment assessed in Clinical Portfolio and is specific to the standard listed, and the benchmark performance is that 80% of students will score at the Acceptable level or higher.

### **Finding: Target Met**

**Analysis:** 100% of students earned a score of 80% or above on identified assessments.

**Action - Decision or Recommendation:** No changes will be made to the goal and/or outcome at this time. The COUN faculty have reviewed the policies and procedures for submission of materials to Tasksteam and progress has been made to ensure all required materials are submitted. However there are still gaps in submission that warrant further review, especially regarding ways to streamline the process.

### **Comprehensive Summary of key findings and or decisions:**

The NSU Counseling Program is fully accredited by the Council for Accreditation Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) through October 31, 2022.

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In accordance with CACREP Accreditation Standards, the Counseling Program has engaged in continuous and systematic efforts to track each student's progress throughout the program by examining student learning in relation to a combination of knowledge and skills. The assessment process includes the following: (1) identification of key performance indicators of student learning in each of the eight core areas and in each student's respective specialty area, (2) measurement of student learning conducted via multiple measures and over multiple points in time, and (3) review or analysis of data.

The Counseling Program's commitment to excellence incorporates self-assessment (along with external review by CACREP) to determine if and how program standards are being met. The counselor education program faculty has a systematic process in place for the use of individual student assessment data in relation to retention, remediation, and dismissal.