

Master of Science in Counseling Annual Report 2018-2019

	Residential	Online	Aggregate
2018-2019			
Enrolled	20	33	53
Graduates	4	4	8
Placement (2017-2018)	4 (100%)	2 (100%)	6 (100%)
2013-2014 Cohort			
Enrolled	1	6	7
Completers	0	2 (33%)	2 (28.5%)

For the 2018-2019 academic year, the Master of Science in Counseling (MSC) program offered graduate-level courses to 53 students in both residential and online formats. Prior to completion of the program, three of our courses must be taken in a residential module format, and two of the courses must be taken online. The students came from diverse backgrounds (see demographics below). During the 2018-2019 academic year, 8 students graduated from the program (4 predominantly residential and 4 predominantly online).

In 2013-14, 7 students started in the program with 1 student predominantly residential and 6 students predominantly online. By 2017-18, 2 students graduated from the program for a completion rate of 28.5% (0% residential and 33% online), no students were still enrolled in the program, and 14% graduated from CSU in another master's program (0% residential and 19% online).

The University continues to keep the 100% pass rate on the NCE.

Graduates from 2017-2018 were surveyed to find job placement rates. Six graduates responded (75% response rate) and of the respondents, 100% reported employment in the helping professions or continuing education within 3 months of graduation (66% residential and 33% online).

Evaluation

MSC faculty performed an annual evaluation of students, faculty, and courses, to decide action steps for program improvements.

Student Evaluation

Students were evaluated for criteria in academic success, counseling skills, and factors related to their own self-management. These criteria are based on programmatic goals.

MSC students were, on average, strong in the assessed areas.

Three students were identified as outside of expected progress in one or more of those areas. Remedial plans were created to address those needs and support the students' growth.

Faculty Evaluation

Faculty are evaluated by students at the completion of every course they teach. Additionally, there are self-evaluation processes, and evaluation by program core faculty.

With only one exception, faculty earned high marks from students in expertise, teaching dynamics, and course content.

Students and program core faculty identified one adjunct faculty member who needs to improve in areas of communication with students and prompt assessment and feedback. A remedial plan was put in place for that professor.

Program Evaluation

Follow up on changes from last year

Based on last year's programmatic assessment, two courses were designed to organize and track the observation and co-counseling requirements for Accelerated students. That move has been a marked improvement and has remediated the issues involved.

New considerations

This year PA State Licensure Boards moved to push all those practicing within the field to pursue licensure. That change meant that some of our graduates from years ago (when the program required 48 credit hours) now needed to take more courses to reach 60 credits. During the year, counseling faculty designed a process to meet this need. Based on student request, two courses, one on Spiritual Issues in Counseling and one on Grief and Bereavement were designed and ran for the first time this Spring. Student evaluation of the courses showed strong design and execution of the course objectives.

Core faculty considered a software program that tracks field experience completion. While benefits to faculty supervisors were expected, the core faculty felt that the high cost to students outweighed the potential benefit. Program administration will continue to look at similar programs to see if a better fit can be found.

The student evaluation process has been bulky and onerous in its execution. Exploration of more effective ways to complete assessment processes and aggregate the critical data will be pursued.

No other programmatic changes are considered necessary at this time.

