

Program Annual Report 2021-2022
MA in Counseling Program
Sara Martino, Program Director



STOCKTON
UNIVERSITY

COUNSELING PROGRAM

- I. **Re-state program goals for the 2021-22 academic year as identified in previous annual report. Programs *DO NOT* need to address each University Strategic Goal.**

2021-2022 Goals and Progress

Program Goals	Strategic Goals	Responsible Faculty/Staff	Completion Date	Optional Comments
To bring to a close the CACREP accreditation process in the spring of 2022, and hopefully secure a multi-year accreditation. We will be focusing on this process throughout the coming year.	2, 3	Program Faculty & Director	May 2022	Extended to FY 2023
To continue to grow our community connections in order to grow a diverse pool of applicants as well as expand our community reach.	1, 2, 4	Program faculty	May 2022	Extended to FY 2023
To hold at least one in-person open house this year.	2, 3	Program Director	May 2022	

- II. **Provide an Executive Summary of program goal achievements and briefly discuss progress and/or major program achievements made during the 2021-2022 academic year.**

The Counseling program had a successful year with overcoming some roadblocks that were presented throughout. In terms of the progress on the main goal of achieving accreditation, the program was informed of the need to revise and resubmit the application for accreditation in December of 2021. Since that time, the faculty and administration (Dean Levy) have been working hard to complete this goal hopefully by 2023. This has required many additional hours of work on the part of all faculty members, while still actively participating and mentoring the students enrolled in the program.

The first cohort of students successfully graduated in May of 2021. In the fall, the program admitted a cohort of 20 students in addition to our 17 students who remained in the second year cohort. There has been some attrition over the academic year, and some of this is COVID-related while other issues continue to be the lack of part-time options and change in career concentration.

In terms of diversity, the current class is made up of the most diverse group of students since the program's inception. Currently the overall student body is made up of 31 students across both years and has an racial and ethnic make-up of:

Caucasian: 55%

Asian: 6%

African American/Black: 10%

Hispanic/Latina: 23%

Multiracial: 6%

This is a success in the program as one of the previous goals has been to increase diversity in terms of students. Another part of that goal was to increase community engagement through diverse placements and there have been many sites added from the local area to the list of approved placements for our program. Some of the new programs include Pyramid Healthcare which is located right in Hammonton as well as Here and Now Counseling in Cherry Hill, which has an emphasis on LGBTQ communities, and where one of the interns sponsored a clothing drive for clients during the internship experience.

Lastly, the program has moved to fully in-person instruction as well as open house and interview days. This has been helpful in building a sense of community for the program as well as to return to a sense of normalcy. There has been an uptick in interest in the program this admissions cycle and look forward to continuing to build the program moving forward.

III. Describe resources used last year to achieve your program goals?

The program started to bring back some in-person events that were held prior to the pandemic over this past year. The program held an in person open house in the fall of 2021 as well as the Ellis night at the Hammonton campus, using funding from the Dean. The program will be using grant money from the 2020-2021 school year to conduct the site visits this fall. Additionally, the tradition continued of hosting a graduate event in the spring of 2022, again using funding from the Dean. This event is a wonderful celebration with community in Hammonton, and the students greatly appreciate this event.

IV. Identify the program goals for the 2022-23 academic year.

Program Goals 2022-2023

Program Goals	Strategic Goals	Responsible Faculty/Staff	Completion Date	Optional Comments
To bring to a close the CACREP accreditation process in the spring of 2022, and hopefully secure a multi-year accreditation. We will be focusing on this process throughout the coming year.	2, 3	Program Faculty & Director	May 2023	Goal extended from last year
To continue to grow our community connections in order to grow a diverse pool of applicants as well as expand our community reach.	1, 2, 4	Program faculty	May 2023	Goal continued from last year
To host more opportunities for cohort interaction and self-care	2, 4	Program Director and faculty and GA's	May 2023	Recommended by Assessment committee

V. Additional information required by School

1. Budget information

Program requestor	Purpose	Amount	Comments, if any
COUN-Martino	Ellis Night	\$600	Kramer Hall
COUN-Martino	Accreditation site visit	\$1200 (\$4000 grant money)	Additional funds if needed
COUN-Martino	CACREP Application fee	\$2500	
COUN-Martino	Supervision	2 TCH per supervisor	4 supervisors needed
COUN-Martino	Food for open house event 10/13	\$200	
COUN-Martino	Friday night engagement	\$600	Friday night pizza and discussions 1x monthly
COUN-Martino	End of year celebration event	\$600	Food for students/staff

2. Assessment

(1) Program Evaluation Results

The program has developed a program evaluation plan that includes program objectives, KPI's, and professional dispositions throughout their time in our program. The Counseling Program has identified six main program objectives:

1. To provide meaningful educational experiences to prepare graduates with foundational skills, critical thinking ability, and dedication to the counseling profession.
2. To prepare graduates for employment, licensure, and certification by meeting the standards set by the appropriate accrediting and licensing agencies.
3. To inspire graduates to become advocates for their clients and leaders in their profession.
4. To encourage patience, sensitivity, and understanding in the delivery of counseling services to diverse communities.
5. To prepare graduates for a commitment to ethical professional practice.
6. To prepare students to use research as a guide for identifying effective counseling techniques.

The Counseling Program assesses the 6 program objectives in the following ways based on our [Program Evaluation Plan](#):

- [CACREP aggregate standards chart](#)
- [Aggregate review of KPIs](#)
- Aggregate review of Counselor Skills Evaluations (Pre-prac to Internship); Discussion based at faculty meetings of student progress and concerns
- [Site Supervisor Evaluation](#)
- [Aggregate review of Key Professional Disposition Assessments](#)
- [Graduate Survey report](#)

In terms of the review of data in the spring of 2022, faculty members found that scores on relevant objectives has gone down over the past year (see Aggregate CACREP standards chart) and the faculty discussed ways to improve to improve the program and increase efficacy in core content areas. The KPI's are newly developed and we have collected data and are monitoring scores to ensure that students continue to achieve an 83% or better on our identified objectives.

The discussion of the clinical skills evaluation and professionalism scores led to the creation of a key professional dispositions measure which will be used to review professional dispositions throughout the student's time in the program. Additionally, the review of the graduate survey report indicates that students are passing the licensing examination and obtaining their LAC. In communication from March 2022, the first graduating class reported back that 86% of the graduates who obtained their LAC had secured employment in the mental health field.

(2) Program modifications (if any)

Based upon the Assessment Review in the spring of 2022, the following program modifications were made and/or recommendations for modifications:

- The assessment review recommends that there be a programmatic focus on self-care needs of students beginning in the fall 2022. Some suggestion for this include:
 - A weekly virtual meditation session (Sappio)
 - A monthly pizza night for students in Hammonton (Battle)
- The assessment review recommends that the Curriculum Review Committee focus on the Pre-Practicum curriculum to see if changes should be made.

(3) Other program changes

Additionally, as indicated in the assessment narrative, changes have been made to how the program measures professional dispositions. Beginning in the fall of 2022, students will be evaluated using the Key Professional Dispositions measure that was developed by the program and will be used at multiple points during the student's time in the program.