

**Arcadia University's Graduate Program in Counseling**  
**Annual Survey of Training Sites for the 2022-23 Academic Year**

**Description of Assessment**

Each year, the Graduate Program in Counseling (GPC) surveys all direct supervisors of current practicum and internship students. This survey is intended to assess the GPC's effectiveness in meeting its programmatic mission and objectives and preparing students for their external clinical training and later employment in the counseling field. This survey was developed by the GPC's core faculty and reviewed by the Master of Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC) during the program's most recent reaccreditation cycle.

**Summary of Findings**

In total, six site supervisors completed this survey during the Spring 2023 semester. First, compared to last year's findings, it appears that the revisions made to this survey were appreciated in that no respondents voiced concerns about the survey or offered any suggestions for improvement. Overall, the results indicate that external training sites had a positive experience working with the GPC and that the GPC was generally effective in meeting its programmatic mission and objectives and preparing students for their external clinical training and later employment in the counseling field. Site supervisors appreciated our program's commitment to ethical practices, counseling techniques and theories, rapport building, trauma-informed care, and diagnostic methods. Several areas for improvement were also suggested for our curriculum, including additional training in professional behavior, clinical documentation, and person-of-the-therapist model. In addition, one respondent indicated that graduates could be better prepared for the field in terms of multiple business and legal aspects of counseling.

**Planning & Modifications**

Based on the results of this evaluation:

1. When the core faculty reconvene for the Fall 2023 semester, they will discuss various ways to better prepare practicum and internship students to demonstrate professional behavior. Modifications could be made to the Fall Orientation for new students, PY570 (Professional Issues of Counseling), Practicum and Internship Workshops, and Practicum (PY587) and Internship (PY630 & PY631) Seminars.
2. Since clinical documentation policies and procedures vary so widely across external training sites, the core faculty do not plan to make any immediate modifications to address this comment. However, during the Fall 2023 semester, the core faculty will discuss whether our education and training in clinical documentation could be improved in terms of teaching general principles (rather than any specific models).
3. The core faculty believe that the person-of-the-therapist model is covered extensively within our comprehensive multicultural curriculum, which includes labs specifically designed to promote awareness and reduce blind spots. Given students' consistently positive feedback about these labs and about our multicultural training in general, the core faculty do not plan to make any immediate modifications to address this comment.
4. The core faculty agree that the GPC could better graduates regarding some business and legal aspects of counseling. Similar to clinical documentation, relevant business and legal information varies widely across different clinical settings (e.g., community agencies,

specialized health clinics, schools/colleges, hospitals, private practices, etc.). Accordingly, the core faculty need time to thoughtfully consider what information could be provided and where this information could be delivered within our curriculum. This will likely be a long-term project; thus, no immediate changes are likely to occur for the next academic year.

### **Detailed Findings**

Please rate your overall experience working with Arcadia's Counseling program.

- 83% of respondents reported a “somewhat positive” to “extremely positive” experience.

Please describe the strengths of our Counseling program.

- Program facilitated strong connection and collaboration with internship site
- Training in and commitment to ethical practices in counseling
- Students display high motivation to complete their internships
- Excellent student training in counseling technique and theory, diagnostic procedures, and relationship building with clients
- Solid mentoring program for student development
- Emphasis on providing trauma-informed clinical services

Please share areas for improvement or additional training in our Counseling program.

- Additional training in clinical documentation
- Greater coverage of person of the therapist to reduce blind spots
- Stronger emphasis on professional behavior in the workplace

To what extent does this mission statement and four objectives fit with the current needs of Counseling students and the Counseling field?

- 83% reported “very much” to “extremely”

Please share any suggestions you have for modifying our program’s mission and major objectives.

- None

Please share any suggestions you have for improving the evaluation form that supervisors to complete to assess students’ performance on internship.

- None

Has your site hired a graduate of Arcadia's Counseling program as an employee within the last five years?

- 2 of 5 respondents who answered this item (40%) responded yes

Please rate your overall satisfaction with Arcadia graduates you've hired as employees over the past five years.

- Both respondents reported “very much satisfied”

Please share any suggestions for how we can better prepare our graduates for employment in the field.

- Offer additional education in employment options, business and legal aspects of the field, different models of private practice (e.g., independent versus salaried group), working with insurance companies, and discussing fees with clients