

2017-2018 MSC Program Annual Summative Report

The faculty of the MSC Program meet annually to (a) review, amend, and approve Program Objectives within the context of data gathered from the previous academic year, and (b) review and approve recommendations for programmatic changes to be instituted in the upcoming year.

The MSC Program has applied for CACREP accreditation. CACREP requires that within core and specialty areas, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are identified. KPIs are capstone assignments which measure teaching and learning.

Academic Year Key Performance Indicator Mean Scores (Scaled 1-4)

KPI Course and Assignment	Mean Score
COUN 728 Ethics and Law in Counseling ACA Ethics Code Practice Simulation	4.0
COUN 732 Social & Cultural Foundations in Counseling Experiential Experience Paper	3.17
PSYC 709 Advanced Human Development Lifespan Portfolio Paper	3.67
COUN 733 Career & Lifestyle Development in Counseling Personal Career Development Paper	3.69
COUN 723 Counseling Method Techniques Professional Counseling Session Videotapes	4.00
COUN 722 Group Processes Group Therapy Presentation/Simulation	3.55
PSYC 716 Intermediate Statistics Data Analysis Report	3.33
PSYC 718 Introduction to Methodology & Research Design Research Proposal	2.33
PSYC 724 Marriage & Family Therapy Analysis of Videotaped Couple/Family Counseling Sessions	3.84
COUN 780 Consultation in Human Development Program Evaluation Review	4.0
COUN 783 Practicum Final Site Supervisor Evaluation	3.5
COUN 787 Internship Final Site Supervisor Evaluation	4.0

As a result of this data, the MSC faculty decided to implement the following changes:

- 1) Prior to beginning the COUN 783 Course, students were required to attend a mandatory orientation.

- 2) For the COUN 787 Class, April Gilcrest, Counselor, spoke to internship students to prepare them for the licensure process. Tina Feldt, Director of Centenary College Counseling Center, spoke to internship students about ethical issues in counseling.
- 3) For the COUN 783 and COUN 787 courses, university supervisors will increase the frequency of communication with each student's site supervisor.
- 4) For the COUN 728 Course, students in the class present ethics-related topics at the annual Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference in New Orleans, LA.
- 5) The faculty decided to offer the COUN 724 Course 100% online.
- 6) The MSC Program is offering more training opportunities for MSC students, such as the LGBTQ safe space training, co-facilitated by Dr. Meredith Nelson and Ms. Angela Pellerin, Director of the LSUS Counseling Center. Dr. Meredith Nelson also provided a 3-hour Adversive Childhood Experiences (ACES) training to students in the MSC Program. Dr. Nelson is an ACES trainer with the LA Department of Health and Hospitals.
- 7) The MSC Program is offering more training opportunities for site supervisors, such as the Chi Sigma Iota mixers with site supervisors and PTSD workshops facilitated by licensed professional counselor, Dr. Dudley Chewning for NCE credit.

CACREP Student Outcome Snapshot

Students Enrolled	New Students	Graduates	Completion Rate	Licensure Exam Pass Rate	Job Placement Rate
40	14	12	94.7%	N/A	91.67%

Substantial Program Changes

The MSC Program has achieved CACREP Accreditation. Professor Michael Welch, instructor of the COUN 780 course, retired in May 2018. As a result of Professor Welch's retirement, the course is now taught by an adjunct professor. The MSC Program has initiated a writing group for students interested in learning about the publication process. The members of the writing group developed and submitted a manuscript entitled "A Silent Epidemic: Prevalence of Suicide Among Asian American Adolescents" to the *Asian American Journal of Psychology*. The MSC Program offers the People Acting for Change and Equality (PACE) LGBTQ young adult social support group on campus twice a month for youth and recently expanded a formal group at the same time period on campus with their parents.

MSC Annual Report 2016-2017

The Master of Science in Counseling (MSC) Program had significant changes the last few years:

One of the most significant changes was dropping the “psychology” from our name and changing our program from a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP) to a Master of Science in Counseling (MSC) to accurately reflect our professional identity and training model. In addition, we changed a number of our course prefixes from “PSYC” to “COUN” to accurately reflect the course content of our program.

For our extremely exciting news:

After several hard years of work, we submitted the first draft of our CACREP self-study in late November, 2016 and have now received feedback from CACREP that we are addressing in order to get our site visit on campus.

In the spring of 2016, we were granted our first Chi Sigma Iota Honor Society (International Counseling Honor Society) and had a lovely, first initiation of Chi Sigma Iota members in April, 2016.

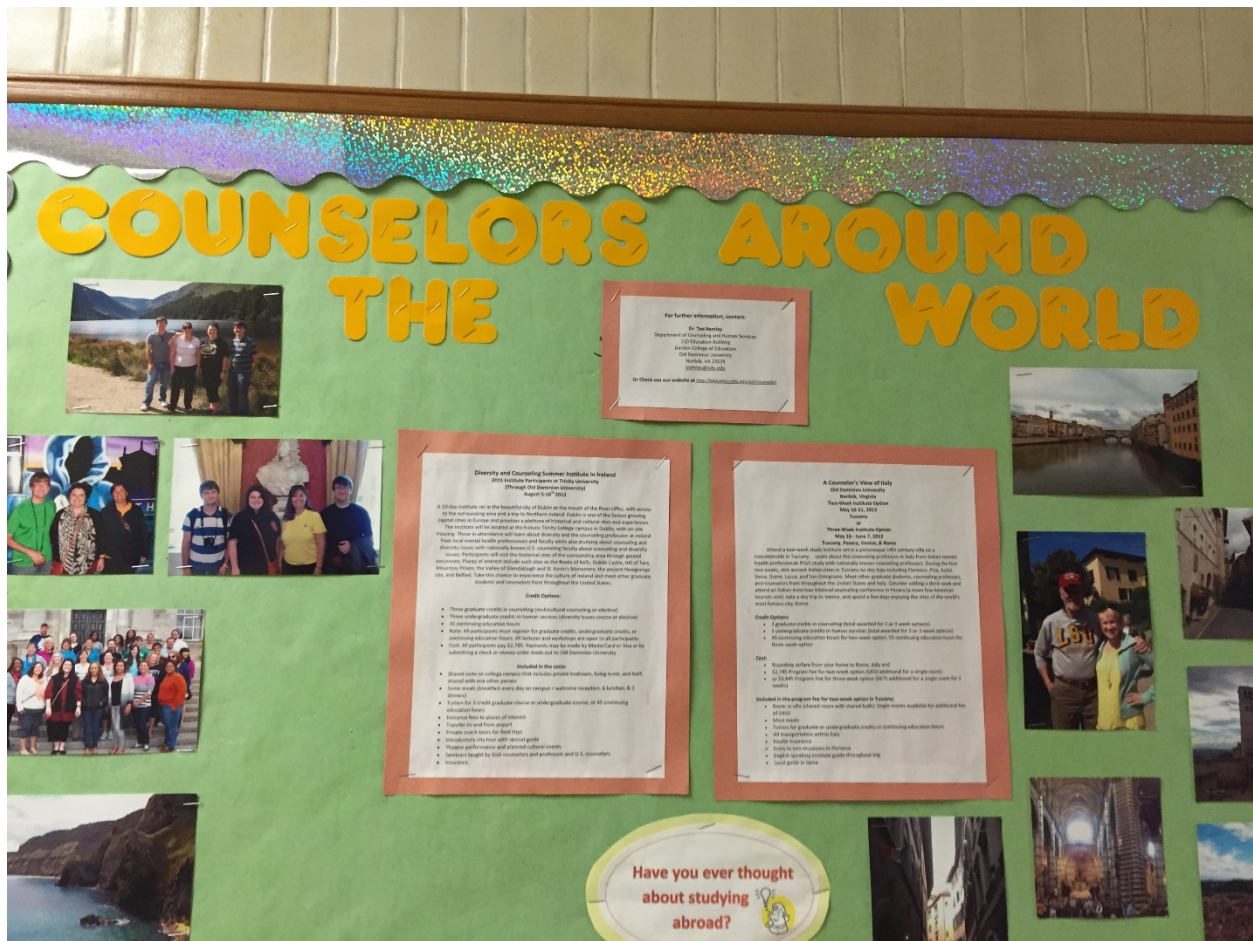


This Fall, 2016 and this Spring, 2017, Chi Sigma Iota hosted an LPC Supervisor mixer with counseling graduate students and area practitioners and supervisors. This was very successful and ultimately brought a new Intern supervisor and site for our practicum and intern students within the program.

For our students taking GSA comps (from the National Board of Counselors) in 2016-17, our MSC students scored higher than the national average and this exam is based similarly on the National Counselor Exam which is the state licensure exam. We had one student take the new computer version of the standardized comps exam and make an almost perfect score!

Also, in the spring of 2016, we had 3 graduate students attend a “Play Therapy Institute in Italy” in conjunction with Holy Cross University in New Orleans.





The faculty were involved in research and presentations. Dr. Nelson presented at the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) in New Orleans in July, 2016 on motivational interviewing with high school students. She also was on NPR in November, 2016 for the "Health Matters" program discussing "Gratitude and Positive Psychology" and this also resulted in a new practicum/internship site through the host of the show.

Dr. Blalock presented at the National Rehabilitation Educators Conference in Anaheim, CA about the impact of sexuality on quality of life for women with serious mental illness.

Dr. Tang published a manuscript about supervisory triad in multicultural supervision in a peer-reviewed journal, Louisiana Journal of Counseling.

Dr. Tang presented at the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Louisiana Counseling Association Annual Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Dr. Tang brought 16 Counseling graduate students to present or facilitate round table discussions at the 2017 Law and Ethics in Counseling conference. One presentation was on how counselors and counselor trainees are available for clients but also maintain boundaries which promote healthy ethical working relationships while utilizing social media. In this presentation, we discussed client screening, privacy

issues, and appropriate boundaries with clients on social media. Another presentation was on teaching counselor trainees how to assess counselor biases and ethical implications for working with multicultural clients. In this presentation, participants learned to utilize experiential approaches, such as mindfulness techniques, to enhance multicultural competence. The other presentation was on ethical considerations and possible treatments for children under 12 with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). In this presentation, we discussed correctly diagnosing ADHD, the possible side effects of medications, and the need to consider alternative treatments.



Dr. Blalock was tenured as an Associate Professor in the department and taught (offered here for the first time) a rehabilitation counseling course that is now added to our curriculum as an elective.

In February, 2017, Dr. Nelson became one of the 2nd cohorts trained in the state as an ACE educator. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study is one of the largest investigations ever conducted to assess associations between childhood maltreatment and later-life health and well-being. The study is a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente's Health Appraisal Clinic in San Diego. LA's Department of Health and Hospitals provided this training to professionals in LA to present to as many LA residents as possible an explanation of the neurobiology that explains why and how trauma and ACE's impact our lives so powerfully. This is to help to create sustainable change in our community.

The MSC program and other psychology department faculty participated in Shreveport, LA's city-wide health fair in the fall of 2016 for the 3rd consecutive year.





In the Fall of 2016, the MSC collaborated with People Acting for Change and Equality (P.A.C.E) to offer monthly young adult LGBTQ support groups in our counseling training clinic with LSUS's Gay/Straight Alliance. This has shown to be very popular and a needed community resource and it gives MSC interns extra "group and/or LGBTQ" experience.

In January of 2016 the MSC program co-sponsored the Annual Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention Conference of Northwest Louisiana. Dr. Hollenshead presented "A Comparison of the DSM-5 and ICD-10-CM Codes".

The MSC program also co-sponsored the Northwest Louisiana Suicide Prevention Coalition LSUS Division of Continuing Education Annual Suicide Prevention Conference held on December 9th, 2016. Dr. Nelson presented on the increased risk of suicide for LGBTQ youth.

Also, in the Fall of 2016, Dr. Nelson and a counseling grad student, Madison Watt, trained city of Shreveport employees and all Sportran (public bus system) employees on LGBTQ sensitivity issues.

Bennett Rachal, a counseling graduate student and Intern for LSUS counseling services, implemented "Mindfulness Mondays". Mindfulness classes are offered every Monday and open to all LSUS students.

Alumni Spotlight – Angie Pellerin



The MSC program strives to recognize and celebrate alumni who are currently working in the counseling profession. Angie Pellerin graduated from the MSC program in May 2016 and since has had the opportunity to continue at LSUS as a Counselor for Student Counseling Services. As a counselor, Angie has been instrumental in implementing new counseling programs and workshops on the LSUS campus.

Below Angie describes her role in Counseling Services at LSUS and reflects on her time in the MSC program.

I entered the LSUS MSC program in January 2014 and graduated in May 2016. Many of the assignments in my classes required deep introspection and provided enormous benefit toward increasing self-awareness, benefiting my personal growth and preparing me for the challenging work of being a counselor. The openness of being able to choose topics of interest for assignments was a great fit for me, as it allowed me to research areas about which I am truly passionate. As a result, my research on integrating yoga with treating female trauma survivors invited me the opportunity to participate in presenting at the annual LCA conference in Baton Rouge in 2015.

Upon beginning the program, I was also fortunate to be hired as a student worker in the counseling office on campus. During my time as a student worker, working under great leadership meant that opportunities for professional growth were continually present. I was invited to do my internship there as well, which turned out to be a wonderful experience and opened the door to my being hired full-time upon graduation. Serendipity at its finest!

Over the past year as the Counselor at LSUS, I have been privileged to be able to bring in my own interests, such as implementing a holistic wellness approach, adding yoga to our services, as well as a women's group. Beyond individual and group counseling, I also do psychoeducational workshops, as well as mental health outreach and programming. While we often focus on awareness and prevention of serious issues such as suicide, eating disorders, domestic violence, and sexual assault, I also have added more positive messaging tied to the mental health benefits of kindness and gratitude, tolerance and diversity, and digital detoxing. Additionally, I am a part of our Behavioral Intervention Team, our Title IX Task Force, and a planning committee member for sexual assault and domestic violence prevention efforts in the community. Next month (April 2017), I will also be participating in a special radio segment on Red River Radio for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Overall, student use of Counseling Services at LSUS has increased significantly, which could be attributed to a number of factors; however, most importantly, what this means is that students know we are here for them and are seeking the help they need. And that is a satisfying feeling!

Angie Pellerin, MA, MS, PLPC

Counselor

LSUS Counseling Services