

CACREP Mid-Cycle Report- Rejoinder
Western Illinois University – Quad Cities
Department of Counselor Education October 2013

* The Department of Counselor Education at Western Illinois University – Quad Cities submitted our Mid-Cycle Report in September 2012. Upon receiving this report, CACREP requested an update on our Program Evaluation process and ways we have implemented and infused the findings into our curriculum.

Below is the excerpt from our Mid-cycle Report in 2012 related to Program Evaluations:

V. PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Due to multiple changes in administration leadership, our Department has failed to complete any program evaluations during the period since our site visit. However, we have scheduled Spring of 2013 where we will do follow up studies with recent graduates, employers, site supervisors, and current graduating students. The evaluation will focus on outcomes and preparation while simultaneously allowing for feedback from all constituents. Results of these will be placed on the CNED website and will be available to the public and all interested stakeholders. Although the most recent, 2006 evaluation is not included, the summaries of the most recent evaluations are on the CNED website:

http://www.wiu.edu/coehs/qc/cned/accreditation/eval_findings.php.

Student Learning Outcomes are assessed annually and generated reports can be found at http://www.wiu.edu/coehs/qc/cned/accreditation/eval_findings.php and are also included in appendix K. In addition, each year, an annual report is generated by the Department and can be found at http://www.wiu.edu/coehs/qc/cned/accreditation/eval_findings.php. A copy of the most recent has also been included in Appendix K. We will continue with this process in addition to reinstating our program evaluations as referenced above.

The following is a detailed report of our current Program Evaluations:

Program Evaluations – Update

Since the Department of Counselor Education received the request in January 2013 to implement Program Evaluations and report back to CACREP in October, we have taken multiple steps to ensure that program evaluations were developed and implemented. First, we consulted with multiple Counselor Education departments related to the ways that they found effective to evaluate their program. We also discussed the most effective strategies for evaluating our program at faculty meetings. After thoughtful review and reflection, our department developed three different Program Evaluations; (1) Graduating Students Survey (students in field placement sites), (2) Alumni Survey (Graduates from the past 5 years), and an (3) Employer/Site Supervisor Survey (Employers and Site Supervisors from the past 3 years). Each survey, was based on the eight core CACREP standards assessing for the overall effectiveness of the faculty and the University in meeting our goals and objectives. These survey can be found in **Appendix A (Rejoinder)**.

A preliminary analysis of survey results can be found in **Appendix B (Rejoinder)**. We plan to continue with our analysis as further data become available. In reviewing the preliminary data, results indicate that Graduating Students were satisfied with their preparedness at the onset of Practicum. Overall, employers/Site Supervisors rated our students or graduates at above average when assessing their ability to perform counseling and related duties. Finally, alumni of the program responded that the program adequately prepared or exceptionally prepared them for functioning in the role of a counselor upon completion of the program. As the data becomes fuller our Department will continue to analyze the results and integrate our strengths and areas for improvement based on the quantitative and qualitative findings. As a faculty, we have incorporated this information into our discussions at regular faculty meetings and identified strengths as well as areas for growth. With further analysis of data, we will generate a report and identify program modifications to students in the program, institutional administrators, personnel in cooperating agencies (e.g., employers, site supervisors), and the public. Student learning outcomes have been implemented at the classroom level.

Currently, the Western Illinois University's –Quad City Department of Counselor Education website is updated regularly and results will continue to be published for the constituent groups noted in the program evaluation standards at: http://www.wiu.edu/coehs/qc/cned/accreditation/eval_findings.php.