

# **PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME (PLO) 2: THEORETICAL ANALYSIS AND REPORT FALL, 2015**

Program Learning Outcome (PLO) 2: Students in the master's degree programs (CMHC, RC, and SC) within the Department of Counseling and Human Services at the University of Scranton will: "Demonstrate master's level theoretical knowledge and competencies in counseling domains."

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Department of Counseling and Human Services, with financial support from the University of Scranton's Office of Educational Assessment (OEA), conducted a pilot administration of the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) during the 2015 spring semester to establish baseline performance levels for the first-time assessment of PLO2: Theoretical. The CPCE is utilized by over 390 universities and colleges and is designed to assess counseling students' knowledge of counseling information viewed as important by counselor preparation programs. The exam is developed and produced by the Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE). This 150-question exam measures student knowledge across 8 domains: 1) Human Growth and Development; 2) Social and Cultural Diversity; 3) Helping Relationships; 4) Group Work; 5) Career Development; 6) Assessment; 7) Research and Program Evaluation; 8) Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice. Exam results provide counseling programs with a way to evaluate individual student progress and compare internal program outcomes with a national sample of all counseling graduate students completing the exam. This exam was piloted during the spring of 2015 with a group of advanced master's level students enrolled in internship ( $n = 24$ ). Students were encouraged to take the test without advanced preparation to assist the department with establishing baseline performance measures that will be used to direct the development of future policies and procedures. The purpose of the pilot test was explained to all

participants. Tests were provided at university expense; students did not incur any financial cost for their service contributions to the department.

Data from the spring, 2015, administration of the CPCE were inputted and evaluated using Excel. Results represent outcomes from students in each one of our master's degree programs. Results include domain scores for our entire student sample that are also disaggregated by program (CMHC-  $n = 13$ ; RC-  $n = 5$ ; SC-  $n = 6$ ) as well as a TOTAL score mean for the entire sample that is also disaggregated by program. National descriptive statistics for all master's degree students ( $N = 709$ ) taking this version of the CPCE are reported for comparison purposes.

## RESULTS

Results are included in Table 1 (below). Areas of note are presented in the "Recommendations" section followed by an "Action Report" section to document the department's ongoing "Closing the Loop" activities. Results for each program (CMHC, RC, SC)

**Table 1: SP15 Counselor Preparation Competency Exam (CPCE) Pilot Results (Overall and Disaggregated by Program)**

	#	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	TOTAL
CMHC	13	8.85	10.23	10.85	11.62	10.23	9.08	10.54	12.46	83.85
RC	5	10.40	11.80	10.40	12.20	9.00	10.20	10.40	11.40	85.80
SC	6	10.33	12.33	12.33	12.33	10.67	10.67	10.00	11.50	90.17
All Programs-Aggregate	24	9.54	11.08	11.13	11.92	10.08	9.71	10.38	12.00	85.83
<b>National CPCE-Aggregate</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>10.26</b>	<b>10.68</b>	<b>10.83</b>	<b>11.73</b>	<b>10.11</b>	<b>9.73</b>	<b>10.53</b>	<b>12.32</b>	<b>86.20</b>

**Column Labels:** C1 = Human Growth and Development; C2 = Social and Cultural Diversity; C3 = Helping Relationships; C4 = Group Work; C5 = Career Development; C6 = Assessment; C7 = Research and Program Evaluation; C8 = Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice

**\*ALL CMHC, RC, and SC Subscale means (C1-C8) as well as the TOTAL means fall well within one standard deviation of the National means for this administration of the CPCE**

across ALL domains were well within one standard deviation of the national results in ALL cases. The highest scores for all programs in the aggregate were earned in C8: “Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice” ( $m = 12.00$ ) and C4: “Group Work” ( $m = 11.92$ ). The lowest scores for all programs in the aggregate were earned in C1: “Human Growth and Development” ( $m = 9.54$ ) and C6: “Assessment” ( $m = 9.71$ ). The results from this pilot will be utilized to inform the development of policies and procedures for future exam administrations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) The department needs to develop written policies and procedures for future CPCE exam administration during the 15-16 academic year to be approved by both the PCPS and Faculty Senate Curriculum Committees. Adopted policies and procedures will need to be distributed to all students who entered the program during or after the F15 semester and published subsequently in Program Manuals and the University Catalog for AY16-17.

### **ACTION REPORT**

- 1) Preliminary working draft sent to Standards Work Group via e-mail for preview and discussion at upcoming meeting (9/28/15).
- 2) Draft reviewed and approved by Standards Work Group Committee (10/27/15). Paul will forward to CHS faculty for discussion and approval at the next Department Meeting scheduled on 11/12/15.