MTSU Professional Counseling Student Learning Outcomes

The Professional Counseling faculty developed the following SLOs for its students:

All Professional Counseling students will demonstrate, integrate and apply knowledge of:
1. professional counselors, the counseling profession and ethical practice.
2. social and cultural diversity.
3. human growth and development.
4. career development.
5. helping relationships.
6. group work.
7. assessment.
8. research and program evaluation.

Students in the clinical mental health counseling concentration will demonstrate, integrate and apply knowledge pertaining to:
9. foundations of clinical mental health counseling.
10. counseling, prevention and intervention in the field of clinical mental health counseling.
11. diagnosis and treatment planning in the field of clinical mental health counseling.
12. diversity and advocacy in the field of clinical mental health counseling.

Students in the school counseling concentration will demonstrate, integrate and apply knowledge pertaining to:
13. foundations of school counseling.
14. counseling, prevention, and intervention in the field of school counseling.
15. diversity and advocacy in the field of school counseling.
16. academic development of students in the field of school counseling.
17. collaboration and consultation in the field of school counseling.
18. leadership in the field of school counseling.

Learning Activities and Experiences and Evaluation of Student Learning Outcomes

Various learning activities and experiences (LAEs) are utilized to help students develop the knowledge, skills and practices of professional counselors that are specified in the common core and specialty area standards throughout the course of their training programs. The Professional Counseling faculty, in turn, use multiple-choice tests such as the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination and the end-of-program knowledge assessment exams to evaluate LAEs pertaining to the eight core curricular area standards and knowledge standards of the specialty area standards (i.e., CMHC and SCCO) upon which SLOs are based. Alternatively, grading rubrics, supervisor evaluation forms, etc. are used to evaluate the LAEs pertaining to skills and practices standards upon which specialty area SLOs are based. (Note: Rubrics are still in the process of being developed for some courses.) Also, Professional Counseling students are continuously evaluated on four broad dimensions termed “core counselor characteristics” discussed in greater detail below.

The Professional Counseling faculty reviews evaluation data and, in conjunction with key players (e.g., advisory board) makes programmatic changes and, when necessary, changes in the measures used to assess outcomes to improve (or more accurately measure) the achievement of outcomes. In addition, the faculty periodically reviews and updates the mission statement and program objectives based on the evolution of training philosophies and standards promulgated by professional associations and accreditation bodies, scholarly writings reported in professional journals, advisory board recommendations, and, in the future, SLO evaluation results.