

**Texas A&M International University
Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review (AIER)
for Academic Programs**

Program: Masters of Arts in Counseling Psychology

Assessment Period Covered: March 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009

Program Coordinator (Preparer of Report) Bonnie Rudolph

List Other Program Faculty:

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The Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review for Academic Programs is directed at Goal 1: Academics of the Texas A&M International University 2006-2010 Strategic Plan:

Develop, maintain, assess, and improve academic programs, administrative/educational support services and student services, to admit, retain, and graduate students who achieve established learning outcomes designed to prepare them for success in their chosen careers.

Institutional Mission

Texas A&M International University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, prepares students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society ... Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University embodies a strategic point of delivery for well-defined programs and services that improve the quality of life for citizens of the border region, the State of Texas, and national and international communities.

Academic Program Mission

The mission of the MA Program in Counseling Psychology at TAMIU is to prepare students to become professional helpers skilled in counseling and psychology. Counselors will be prepared to utilize preventive strategies to promote mental health as well as creatively identify, address and serve the counseling and psychological needs of communities and individuals in multicultural contexts, such as the growing populations along the Southern border of the United States and Mexico. We prepare professional helpers to value all cultures and to respond sensitively to the special issues of life in border communities

Provide summary of the last cycle's use of results and changes implemented

Program faculty reviewed the outcomes. Analysis of the assessment data collected indicate, that like last assessment cycle, not all students made the benchmark in knowledge of psychotherapy and counseling. However faculty believes that results of student APA writing are improved. Faculty reviewed comprehensive results and there will be further discussion of how to improve student performance on the objectives

Selected list of program-level intended student-learning outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate ability to critically evaluate and integrate a relevant body of psychological literature in a paper written in APA style.
2. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of theories of counseling and psychotherapy, including strengths and weaknesses and areas of application.
3. Students will demonstrate basic counseling and professional competencies in direct services to clients.

Section I: Planning and Implementation

Outcome(s): *The outcome(s) that will be focused upon this year are:*

1. Improve student writing using APA style.
2. Improve demonstration of knowledge of theories of counseling and psychotherapy.

Please indicate if the outcome(s) is (are) related to writing (QEP).

Methods of assessment to be used:

Comprehensive exams in psychology are given twice a year, Fall and Spring. The comprehensives include the Counseling and Psychotherapy Theories & Applications Objective Test. Dr Rudolph scores the objectives tests and will summarize the results and produce the reports.

Papers from graduate research course are scored using the APA rubric developed by faculty. The instructor sends the results to Dr. Rudolph who then analyses them as to the benchmark set.

Assessment(s) will take place in:

Fall 2008 (November) and Spring 2009

Criteria/Benchmark(s):

Students will score an average of 80 on the papers and no student will score less than 70%.

No student will score below 70% on the Objective Test of the Comprehensives and the average score will be no less than 88%.

Section II: Analysis of Results

What were the results attained?

Results suggest students still are not meeting the benchmark set for objective testing of theories and principles of counseling and psychotherapy. This remains a weakness in the program. Writing scores are improving slightly but one student of 9 did not meet the 80% benchmark.

What were the conclusions reached?

Meeting of psychology faculty in January 2008 included discussion of results on the objectives. Faculty were of the opinion that students focus so much on the essay portions, and particularly research, that they neglect sufficient review of theories.

Describe the action plan formulated. (The plan may be multi-year in nature.)

Graduate faculty agreed to meet in February and discuss ways to improve student scores on the objectives and continue improvement in writing in APA style. Methods decided upon will be introduced no later than Fall of 2009.

Section III: Resources

Resource(s) to implement action plan: *Describe the resources that will be needed to implement the action plan. Also indicate if the resources are currently available, or if additional funds will be needed to obtain these resources.*

Funding

- None

Physical

- Primarily faculty/staff time

Provide a narrative description and justification for requested resources (include linkage to Strategic Plan)

DNA

Identify proposed outcomes for the next assessment cycle:

Continuation of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for continuation):

We will continue to current outcomes, as more progress is needed to meet benchmarks.

New Outcome(s) – (List outcomes below):

None

Modification of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for modification):