

## **2010 MSCP School Counseling Program Evaluation 9/15/11**

In order to determine the effectiveness of the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP) School Counseling program, four quantitative assessment tools were used for the purpose of program evaluation. The assessment tools are as follows:

- MSCP core comprehensive examination
- MSCP School Counseling emphasis comprehensive examination
- MSCP School Counseling program evaluation
- Site Supervisor's Evaluation of School Counseling Candidate

### **MSCP Core Comprehensive Examination**

The MSCP core comprehensive examination consists of 125 multiple-choice questions evaluating the cumulative knowledge of all School Counseling students on the core subject areas. The total number of students in this group is 28 (n-size). The total possible points were 125. The mean score was 99.50, the median score was 99.29, and the standard deviation was 10.96. The reliability coefficient (KR20) was .88. The range of scores was from 66 to 116. Out of 28 candidates, only one did not meet the minimum required score for passing on the initial administration of this examination.

In conducting an item analysis the following items resulted in a total correct group response of lower than 60 percent.

- #38 (57.14 percent correct/point biserial = .36) According to professional code of ethics, sexual relationships between client and counselor are considered to be ethical if: (correct answer = C. they are not considered to be ethical under any circumstances; most frequent incorrect answer = D. the therapeutic relationship has ended and a referral has been given.)
- #48 (39.29 percent correct/point biserial = .45) School-to-work is designed for the: (correct answer = D. all of the above; most frequent incorrect answer = C. high school.)
- #49 (53.57 percent correct/point biserial = .51) All of the following are procedures in reality therapy that are said to lead to change except for: (correct answer = C. the therapist's evaluating of his or her own behavior; most frequent incorrect answer = A. exploring wants, needs, and perceptions.)
- #52 (42.86 percent correct/point biserial = .17) \_\_\_\_ validity has come to be recognized as the fundamental and all-encompassing validity concept (correct answer = A. construct; most frequent incorrect answer = C. Content.)
- #53 (14.29 percent correct/point biserial = .17) Which type of group leader is most likely to focus on energy and blocks to energy (correct answer = B. Gestalt leader; most frequent incorrect answer = C. Psychoanalytic leader.)
- #55 (46.43 percent correct/point biserial = .35) Sunny Hansen's integrative approach to life planning is most similar to: (correct answer = C. a spiritual approach; most frequent incorrect answer = D. trait and factor theory.)

- #56 (25 percent correct/point biserial = .04) Which approach to family therapy stresses the importance of explaining patterns from one's family of origin (correct answer = A. Bowenian family therapy; most frequent incorrect answer = C. structural family therapy.)
- #65 (57.14 percent correct/point biserial = .15) An elderly person who can look back on life with satisfaction and reminisce with a sense of completion has attained Erikson's stage of: (correct answer = E. integrity; most frequent incorrect answer = A. generativity.)
- #69 (53.57 percent correct/point biserial = .40) Shana has just learned that she has been fired from her job as a sales clerk in a department store. According to Hopson and Adams, she is likely to be in this transition stage: (correct answer = C. immobilization; most frequent incorrect answer = D. self-doubt.)
- #71 (32.14 percent correct/point biserial = .22) According to self-concept researchers, a person who offers a high number of social self-descriptions on the twenty statement test is likely to come from: (correct answer = D. a collectivistic culture; most frequent incorrect answer = B. an individualistic society.)
- #81 (50 percent correct/point biserial = .27) A psychologist studied dependency by measuring how many times children in school asked an adult for help. A critic argued that asking for help is not a good measure of dependency. In fact, the critic said, asking for help shows resourcefulness and initiative. The critic in this situation was disputing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the dependency measure. (correct answer = B. construct validity; most frequent incorrect answer = A. face validity.)
- #93 (53.57 percent correct/point biserial = .28) The statement, "Obese persons eat faster than non-obese persons" is an example of \_\_\_\_\_ behavior, and the statement, "The different eating habits of obese and non-obese persons are caused by physiological factors" is an example of \_\_\_\_\_ behavior (correct answer = C. describing; explaining; most frequent incorrect answer = D. predicting; explaining.)
- #94 (25 percent correct/point biserial = .55) The importance of understanding cultural diversity as part of the educational process is best exemplified by the Marianist Educational Value of: (correct answer = B. Educate for Formation of Faith; most frequent incorrect answer = A. Educate in Family Spirit.)
- #108 (28.57 percent correct/point biserial = -.03) Of "offering alternatives," "information giving," and "advice giving," the response that has the most potential for harm is \_\_\_\_\_ and the one that has the least potential for harm is \_\_\_\_\_. (correct answer = C. advice giving; information giving; most frequent incorrect answer = D. all of the above are equally harmful.)
- #118 (53.57 percent correct/point biserial = .37) The Marianist Educational Value that advocates for a holistic education where education is not just academic but also includes social, psychological, physical and spiritual is: (correct answer = C. Provide an Excellent Education; most frequent incorrect answer = B. Education for Formation in Faith.)
- #124 (50 percent correct/point biserial = .23) How long have you been married? is an example of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ type of question? (correct answer = B. closed; most frequent incorrect answer = D. both b and c.)

## Analysis and Summary

Based on the 97% passing rate of the School Counseling students it is clear that overall, they are far exceeding the standard in core curriculum content knowledge. As a program, we will be discussing the test items listed above to ascertain exactly where the information is covered and how the teaching of those concepts can be strengthened.

### MSCP School Counseling Comprehensive Examination

The MSCP School Counseling comprehensive examination consists of 50 multiple-choice questions evaluating the cumulative knowledge of all School Counseling students on the School Counseling subject areas. The total number of students in this group is 28 (n-size). The total possible points were 50. The mean score was 38.96, the median score was 39.17, and the standard deviation was 4.45. The reliability coefficient (KR20) was .66. The range of scores was from 27 to 46. Out of 28 candidates, only one did not meet the minimum required score for passing on the initial administration of this examination.

In conducting an item analysis the following items resulted in a total correct group response of lower than 60 percent.

- #25 (46.43 percent correct/point biserial = .41) In three of the following situations, positive reinforcement is occurring. In which situation is positive reinforcement no occurring? (correct answer = C. Mr. Salazar smiles at Ellen every time she acts appropriately toward her classmates, but Ellen's social behaviors decrease; most frequent incorrect answer = B. Ms. Villareal scolds Jeremy every time he speaks out of turn, but Jeremy's speaking out is increasing rather than decreasing.)
- #27 (57.14 percent correct/point biserial = .38) Mr. Johnson wants a hyperactive boy to be able to sit quietly for at least 15 minutes at a time. To do this, he begins praising the boy for sitting still for one minute, then for two minutes, and then only for four minutes, and so on. Mr. Johnson's strategy reflects which one of the following concepts (correct answer = C. Shaping; most frequent incorrect answer = D. Intermittent reinforcement.)
- #28 (50 percent correct/point biserial = .44) Which one of the following is the best example of punishment as behaviorists define it? (correct answer = B. After Norma spends a few minutes in the time-out room for hurting a classmate's feelings, she acts more compassionately toward that classmate in the future; most frequent incorrect answer = C. Leonard is a real distraction to his classmates, often burping in a way that makes other students laugh. His teacher places him in a corner where others can't hear him burping.)
- #39 (46.43 percent correct/point biserial = .09) The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board sets the school counselor performance standards for the profession. HTSB Standard III: Adapts to Learner Diversity includes all of the following performance criteria except for one. Which one is not included in Standard III? (correct answer = D. Engages students in self-assessment activities and

- encourages them to set personal achievement goals; most frequent incorrect answer = B. helps every student achieve success.)
- #41 (57.14 percent correct/point biserial = .22) Which of the following principles is not characteristic of brief counseling in an educational setting? (correct answer = D. teachers and school administrators need to have students comply with rules; most frequent incorrect answer = A. solutions are based on developing “non-problem” behaviors.)
  - #46 (50 percent correct/point biserial = .10) The Standard of Care test for professional school counseling ethics is best characterized by: (correct answer = A. considering the actions of a reasonably competent school counselor; most frequent incorrect answer = C. setting the standards for school counseling programs.)
  - #48 (46.43 percent correct/point biserial = .10) Comprehensive school counseling programs that include a strong component of career development have all of the following features except which one: (correct answer = D. understanding gender equity; most frequent incorrect answer = B. visualizing a positive future.)

### **Analysis and Summary**

Based on the 97% passing rate of the School Counseling students this year it is clear that they are far exceeding the standard in successfully achieving the school counseling emphasis learning objectives. As a program, we will be discussing the test items listed above to ascertain exactly where the information is covered and how the teaching of those concepts can be strengthened.

### **MSCP School Counseling Program Evaluation**

The MSCP School Counseling Program Evaluation consists of 200 multiple-choice questions evaluating each candidates overall evaluation and effectiveness of the School Counseling program. The total number of students in this group is 27 (n-size). The total possible points were 200. The mean score was 183.70, the median score was 194, and the standard deviation was 33.12. The reliability coefficient (KR20) was .99. The range of scores was from 22 to 200.

In conducting an item analysis the following items resulted in a total correct group response lower than 60 percent.

- #121 (40.74 percent either agreed or strongly agreed) ....competence in the knowledge of computer-assisted guidance programs.
- #198 (51.85 percent either agreed or strongly agreed) ....understanding of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) standards for School Counselors.

### **Analysis and Summary**

Based on the results of the MSCP School Counseling Program Evaluation it is clear that the School Counseling students are satisfied with their experiences in the

program and feel that they are acquiring the information, skills and competencies that they need in order to be an effective and successful school counselor. The two areas identified above dealing with computer assisted guidance programs and the CACREP standards have been targeted as areas that require strengthening as part of the School Counseling curriculum in PSY501 and PSY771.

### **Site Supervisor's Evaluation of School Counseling Candidate**

Assessing the candidates' ability to perform the duties of a school counselor is determined by the candidate's site supervisor evaluations. Site Supervisors are asked to complete an evaluation on the School Counseling candidate once per term (Practicum, Internship A, and Internship B). Site Supervisors are instructed to provide a rating of the candidate's current level of professional and personal competence at their respective site. Site Supervisors are provided the following Likert scale:

- Not Applicable or not enough information to form a judgment (0 points)
- Far Below Expectations – needs much improvement, a concern (1 points)
- Below Expectations – needs improvement, a concern (2 points)
- Acceptable – meets standards at an average level for Practicum student/Intern (3 points)
- Above Expectations – performs above average level for Practicum student/Intern (4 points)
- Far Above Expectations – a definite strength, performs well beyond average levels for Practicum student/Intern (5 points)

A passing score would be Acceptable, Above Expectations, and Far Above Expectations.

The following are the mean scores from the Internship B term:

- The student displays understanding of the basic principles of human growth and development and how this facilitates the learning and counseling process.
  - n = 49
  - mean = 4.22
- The student demonstrates a clear and concise understanding of the various counseling theories, techniques, and procedures.
  - n = 49
  - mean = 4.12
- Has developed a therapeutic style of counseling that is theory-based.
  - n = 49
  - mean = 4.04
- Understands the dynamics of the individual behavior in the counseling process and is knowledgeable about techniques of behavior change.
  - n = 49
  - mean = 4.20
- Is able to accurately assess client needs, reach an approach diagnosis, and develop a coherent treatment plan.

- n = 49
  - mean = 4.10
- Can communicate effectively with clients and assist clients in integrating information into their current lifestyle.
  - n = 49
  - mean = 4.41
- Is empathetic, understanding and genuine in interactions with clients; projects acceptance of client behaviors and value systems even when different from one's own.
  - n = 49
  - mean = 4.53
- Develops and maintains supportive relationships with others including staff, supervisors, and other professionals.
  - n = 49
  - mean = 4.53
- Demonstrates emotional stability, security, confidence and an ability to take initiative.
  - n = 49
  - mean = 4.35
- Recognizes personal limitations and is open to appropriate supervision.
  - n = 49
  - mean = 4.49
- Demonstrates understanding and respect for diverse cultural, ethnic, sexual, and social backgrounds.
  - n = 49
  - mean = 4.49

### **Analysis and Summary**

School counseling students were evaluated as highly competent across all areas by their Site Supervisors as demonstrated by their evaluations. We are very satisfied with the results of these evaluations and will continue to implement and reinforce the current learning objectives of the program!