

2011 MF Emphasis Comprehensive Exam Score and Site Supervisor Evaluation Summary

**By
Tim W. Ficklin, Ph.D.
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A summative evaluation of counseling program students usually occurs by two methods, an academic examination and an evaluation of actual counseling skills demonstrated in practicum and/or internship coursework. The following data and analyses of the data represent the summative evaluation of the 32 Marriage & Family (MF) Emphasis students in the 2011 cohort group.

Comprehensive Examination

The same comprehensive examination used with last year's MF cohort was used again in 2011. This exam had previously been validated for content and subjected to several reliability and item analyses and found to be both valid and reliable. The mean score of the 50 item, multiple choice exam was found to be 37.13 with a standard deviation of 8.11 with $N = 32$. The KR-20 reliability coefficient was found to be 0.90. This compares to a mean score of 36.59 ($SD = 5.56$, $N = 34$) the previous year. Four students missed the cutoff score this year compared to two students the previous year. These students were retested and subsequently passed.

Site Supervisor Evaluations

The same 32 MF students were rated by their Practicum and Internship A and B site supervisors. Some students may have had different site supervisors for each of these three field experiences and/or more than one practicum/internship site, thus more than one site supervisor. Therefore, ratings across all three field experiences (Practicum, Internship A and Internship B) were used in the analysis of this cohort group. The Supervisor's Evaluation of Student Form has 15 items rated on a 1 to 5 Likert scale as follows: 1. Far Below Expectations; 2. Below Expectations; 3. Acceptable; 4. Above Expectations; and, 5. Far Above Expectations. The means and standard deviations for each of the items across all three field experiences were calculated.

Overall mean ratings on the 15 items ranged from 3.68 to 4.13 indicating student performance in the "Acceptable" to "Above Expectations" range. The three highest rated items included: "Is empathetic, understanding and genuine in interactions with clients; projects acceptance of client's behaviors and value systems even when different from one's own" ($M = 4.13$). "Conducts oneself in a professional manner with clients; respects the rights of others" ($M = 4.07$). "Demonstrates emotional stability, security, confidence and an ability to take initiative" ($M = 4.05$).

The lowest rated items included: "Is able to accurately assess client needs, reach an appropriate diagnosis, and develop a coherent treatment plan" ($M = 3.68$). "Has developed a therapeutic style of counseling that is based in theory" ($M = 3.70$).

“Understands the dynamics of the individual behavior in the counseling process and is knowledgeable about techniques of behavior change” (M = 3.79).

Conclusion

The analysis of this data confirms that this cohort has successfully mastered the academic material presented in the MSCP MF Emphasis. It also illustrates the students' successful demonstration of counseling skills and competencies taught in the program as evaluated by field supervisors.