

2012 Mental Health (MH) Emphasis Comprehensive Exam Score and Site Supervisor Evaluation Summary

**By
Ronnie Mulford, Ph.D.**

Introduction

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 18 Mental Health (MH) Emphasis students in the 2012 cohort group.

Comprehensive Examination

The same comprehensive examination used with last year's MH cohort was used again in 2012. This exam had previously been subjected to several reliability and item analyses and found to be reliable. The mean score of the 50 item, multiple choice exam was found to be 35.56 with a standard deviation of 2.29 with $N = 18$. The KR-20 reliability coefficient was found to be 0.00. This compares to a mean score of 37.09 ($SD = 3.40$, $N = 11$, $KR-20 = 0.55$) the previous year (2011). All Mental Health track students passed this test the first time it was administered, as with last year.

Site Supervisor Evaluations

The same 18 MH 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 (the 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. 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 3.62 to 4.055 indicating student performance in the "Acceptable" to "Above Expectations" range. The four highest rated items included: "Demonstrates emotional stability, security, confidence and an ability to take initiative" ($M = 4.055$). "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" ($M = 4.007$). "Can communicate effectively with clients and assist clients in integrating information into their current lifestyle" ($M = 3.95$). "Conducts oneself in a professional manner with clients; respects the right of others" ($M = 3.94$).

The lowest rated items included: “The student demonstrates a clear and concise understanding of the various counseling theories, techniques and procedures” (M = 3.62). “Is able to accurately assess client needs, reach an appropriate diagnosis, and develop a coherent treatment plan” (M = 3.70).

Conclusion

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