

## **FALL 2014 MSCP Mental Health Emphasis Advisory Board Survey**

Between September 2, 2014 and September 6, 2014 sixteen surveys were mailed to key Mental Health Emphasis Advisory Board members with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to return them. A letter accompanied the survey with an explanation of the purpose of the survey, and that the findings would be used for more in-depth feedback and discussion at the more formal Spring 2015 Advisory Board meeting.

The members were comprised of fourteen on and off-site supervisors for MH Practicum and/or Internship students, and two prior MSCP mental health emphasis graduates who are currently working in the counseling field.

Of the sixteen surveys mailed out, seven were returned. Six of the surveys had advisory board member names on the bottom line; one was anonymous. Although it was hoped there would be a higher return, a 44% response rate is considered satisfactory. The questions and responses are as follows:

***1. Given your knowledge of our MSCP Mental Health students, alumni, or program in general, what three characteristics, positive or negative, best describe them or it:***

Program: Accessible; convenient.

Alumni: Competent (My particular sample was very pleasing/agreeable and serious).

Enthusiasm; Focus and support by professors; compassionate.

Empathetic; good intentioned; applying theory to practice not as good as it should be.

Comprehensive; prepared; willing.

Determined' outcome driven; competitive

Chaminade is responsive to practicum sites; questions, concerns, issues addressed in a timely manner.

Students applying for practicum placements are enthusiastic, listen to directives/feedback. Our agency has hired the majority of them.

Knowledgeable; responsible; open to learning; can be more open to feedback.

**2. Given your knowledge of our MSCP Mental Health program emphasis, what suggestions for improvement do you have?**

Hard to say; students seem pleased with the program/process. Very little program complaining.

More hours at one site at a time.

Need to improve on critical thinking skills and problem solving skills. Many sites do not allow videos. This can be problematic in the practicum/internship classes because a true and accurate assessment cannot be made.

None at this time.

It would be nice to meet the practicum adviser(s) face-to-face [and] to include other on-site instructors from different agencies.

Great program. Keep it up! As for suggestions, how about doing a preparation licensing class for alumni/graduates.

Bridge the gap of disparities between mental health services and substance abuse. Substance abuse courses should also be part of the school track program.

**3. Would you recommend the MSCP Mental Health graduate program to others?**

YES (7)

NO (0)

The Program and the University are very agreeable to students. It is convenient and accommodating. Students seem professional and ethical and good matches for counseling.

Excellent program/knowledge/skill base provided by Chaminade.

This program develops caring professionals. Their ability to establish rapport, maintain ethical relationships, and their overall awareness and diversity is very high.

The students that come from the program are prepared for real-world experiences and are open to guidance and feedback from their sites.

We have hired graduates successfully.

This program prepares the individual for the field well. I have supervised many students from different institutions and find CUH students better prepared and [with] strong clinical background.

In regards to Item #1 - ***Given your knowledge of our MSCP Mental Health students, alumni, or program in general, what three characteristics, positive or negative, best describe them or it:*** Characteristics included, “enthusiastic, empathetic, and competent.” An area mentioned that could use some improvement was that the students “could be more open to feedback.”

In regards to Item #2 - ***Given your knowledge of our MSCP Mental Health program emphasis, what suggestions for improvement do you have?*** Suggestions included, “More hours at one site at a time, need to improve on critical thinking skills and problem solving skills, it would be nice to meet the practicum adviser(s) face-to-face, do a preparation licensing class for alumni/graduates, and bridge the gap of disparities between mental health services and substance abuse.” These suggestions will be further explored and discussed at the Spring 2015 Mental Health Advisory Board Meeting.

In regards to Item #3 - ***Would you recommend the MSCP Mental Health graduate program to others?*** All seven respondents (100%) said “Yes.” Although no other response was asked for, most of the respondents wrote in comments such as, “The Program and the University are very agreeable to students; it is convenient and accommodating; students seem professional and ethical and good matches for counseling; [it is an] excellent program/knowledge/skill base provided by Chaminade; this program develops caring professionals; [the students] ability to establish rapport, maintain ethical relationships, and their overall awareness and diversity is very high; we have hired graduates successfully.”

This survey is considered to be successful and insightful by the Mental Health Clinical Director and Internship Director, and overall the feedback seemed quite positive. Although the response rate could have been higher, the responses received were clear and thoughtful, and will provide impetus for further exploration at the upcoming Spring 2015 meeting.