

Alumni Survey of 2012-2014 Marriage and Family Counseling Emphasis MSCP Graduates

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During May 2015, an email discussion between the author and Ms. Angela Coloretti McGough, Chaminade University's Career Services Director regarding the new Outcomes Survey which started this year (2015) and the capability of breaking the results down by emphasis. The discussion led to a series of emails in which it was discovered that some data already existed on graduates from previous years via an older survey monkey questionnaire sent out by Ms. McGough, albeit minimal. That survey had questions related to employment and salary and utilization of career-placement services, but little program specific information and no information on licensure whatsoever.

Ms. McGough graciously consented to revising the older survey to include program specific questions and questions related to licensure and further graduate study and resending. This revised survey was then sent to the 92 MSCP graduates who had previously responded to the original survey in 2012 to 2014. Since there were 268 total MSCP graduates from those years this possible sample only included 34.3% of the possible respondents. Of those 92 graduates sampled, 40 responded to the revised survey (43%), 6 email addresses were no longer valid (6.5%) and 46 did not respond (50%).

As for the specific Marriage and Family Counseling Emphasis (MF) graduates, there were 107 total for the three years, 2012 - 2013 - 2014. Twenty-one MF graduates responded to the revised survey representing 19.6% of the MF graduates from those years. While these data are fewer than desired, they represent more information on MF graduates than previously available. This author hopes that some tracking mechanism be implemented now to increase the alumni information available to administrators for more valid program evaluation in the future. The following narrative represents a summary of the most salient information gleaned from the 21 MF alumni respondents.

Basic Respondent Information

Of the 21 total MF respondents, 20 were female (95.24%) and one was male (4.76%). Many ethnic groups and combinations thereof were represented including the following with more than one respondent: White (n=7), Black (n=2), Japanese (n=6), Chinese (n=3), Hawaiian (n=4), Hispanic (n=2) and Filipino (n=4). No age data were collected on this sample.

Licensure

The sample is very recent regarding the attainment of a license as both MF Therapist and Mental Health Counselor (MHC) licenses take additional post-graduate supervised experience of at least two years to attain. However, 2 of the respondents had already received their license

(10%), 8 (40%) were actively pursuing licensure (under supervision), 7 planned on attaining licensure in the future (35%) and 3 (15%) were not planning on it. Thus, 85% had attained or were pursuing licensure or were planning on it. The other 15% may be pursuing additional graduate education which would lead to a different licensure than MHC or MFT (e.g., Psychologist) or were satisfied with their current credentials.

Further Graduate School Attendance

Four respondents (19%) were pursuing additional graduate studies at this time, 7 (33.3%) were planning on it and 10 (47.6%) were not. One of the 7 planning to attend had already been accepted, 3 were in the application process and 3 were planning on attending later.

Career Services Utilization and Employment Status

Seventeen of the respondents (81%) did not use Chaminade University Career Services following graduation and 4 (19%) did. Thirteen (61%) had a full-time job, one (5%) had a part-time job, 3 (14%) had both a full-time and a part-time job, and 4 (19%) were either unemployed or were performing unpaid, volunteer work at this time. Thus 17 respondents (81%) were employed. Two other respondents reported their status as completing post-graduate work which might indicate further graduate schooling. Specific information regarding employers and positions is not reported in this summary. Also, at this point in the survey, two respondents chose not to respond to specific questions and thus only partial data are available from here on.

Fourteen (73.7%) considered their work to be directly related to their MSCP degree and 5 (26.3%) did not. Eight (42%) believed that earning their MSCP degree helped them to secure employment, 2 (10.5%) were unsure and 9 (47.5%) did not believe that it had helped. Twelve respondents limited their search for employment to local (within Hawaii) employers and only 4 conducted nationwide employment searches.

Salary Information

Data from only 16 of the respondents indicate the following salary levels, 6 respondents (37.5%) were earning between \$20,000 and \$35,000 annually, 6 respondents (37.5%) were earning between \$35,000 and \$50,000 annually and 4 respondents (25%) were earning above \$50,000 annually.

Broad Impact of MSCP Degree – Marianist Values

Twenty respondents answered this group of questions asking them to rate the impact of their degree upon their personal values. Results are represented in Table 1 below with some rating categories being combined for readability.

Table 1. Impact of MSCP upon Values

<u>Value</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Helpful/Very Helpful</u>
Having a positive impact on society	10% (2)	90% (18)
Ability to adapt and change	5% (1)	95% (19)
Awareness of my community-family	5% (1)	95% (19)
Having a quality education	15% (3)	85% (17)
Formation of faith	40% (8)	60% (12)

Broad Impact of MSCP Degree - General Skills

Twenty respondents answered this group of questions related to the impact of their MSCP degree upon their professional skills. Results are summarized in Table 2 below again with some rating categories being combined for readability.

Table 2. Impact of MSCP upon Skills

<u>Skill</u>	<u>Unhelpful/No Opinion</u>	<u>Helpful/Very Helpful</u>
To write and speak well	15% (3)	85% (17)
To reason quantitatively	15% (3)	85% (17)
To think critically	5% (1)	95% (19)
To apply knowledge & skills to new situations	15% (3)	85% (17)
To obtain and weigh information	10% (2)	90% (18)
To work with diverse groups	5% (1)	95% (19)
To judge the ethical consequences of actions	5% (1)	95% (19)

Impact of MSCP Degree upon Specific Counseling Psychology Knowledge Areas

Twenty respondents also answered this group of questions related to the impact of their MSCP degree upon some specific knowledge areas in the counseling psychology field. Results

from these ratings are summarized in Table 3 below again with some rating categories being combined for readability.

Table 4. Impact of MSCP upon Specific Knowledge Areas in Counseling Psychology

<u>Knowledge Area</u>	<u>Unhelpful/No Opinion</u>	<u>Helpful/Very Helpful</u>
Human Growth & Development	20% (4)	80% (16)
Social & Cultural Foundations	15% (3)	85% (17)
Career & Life-Style Development	10% (2)	90% (18)
Counseling Theories & Skills	5% (1)	95% (19)
Professional issues & Ethics	10% (2)	90% (18)
Appraisal	25% (5)	75% (15)
Research & Evaluation	30% (6)	70% (13)

Conclusions

These data from alumni respondents support previous institutional research indicative of an excellent graduate training program meeting the stated objectives and outcomes and thus leading to professional, post-graduate employment and credentials. Future surveys could be improved if based upon a better tracking system of graduates which would enable a greater response rate from respondents more than two years post-graduation when licensure occurs and thus more valid program evaluation data. However, the data presented above should be viewed very optimistically. The author wishes to express his gratitude to Ms. Angela Coloretti McGough for her assistance in revising and collecting the alumni survey data. Without her assistance this report would not have been possible.