

MSCP – Marriage and Family Emphasis Advisory Board Survey 2014

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The Marriage and Family (MF) Emphasis Advisory Board for 2014 is comprised of four adjunct faculty (two of whom also serve as internship site supervisors), two program alumni (one of whom serves as a site supervisor) and four site supervisors. All were surveyed with a qualitative feedback instrument in July 2014. The survey instrument asked whether or not they would recommend the Chaminade University MSCP MF Program; what aspects of the program they perceived as positive or negative; and, what changes they would recommend. The following is a report of the results of that survey.

One of the site supervisors informed the internship director that they would shortly be leaving the agency for which they worked leaving nine professionals to be surveyed. Of these nine, five responses were received for a response rate of 55 percent.

Regarding whether or not they would recommend the MSCP MF Program to others, all five respondents (100%) replied “yes.” Some of the comments included: “A solid program.” “Program offers the best option for receiving a license eligible degree in the community.” “I was able to work full time, receive my education and the program prepared me for licensure.” “The size of the school, quality and knowledge of the professors, provided an ideal setting to expand my educational experience and professional opportunities.” “Certainly would recommend to everyone because of quality and depth.”

Regarding positive or negative aspects of the program, the vast majority of comments were positive. They included: “Class sizes are appropriate, a well-rounded program, covers theory well, interns are very competent and have a good foundation to build upon.” “The foundational information has been solid and comprehensive. The students have been hard-working, eager to learn and professional.” “I enjoyed the evening classes and I felt confident in the knowledge and skills I received.” “Students seem well-prepared.” “Generally provides a broad base for doing therapy. Program has manageable course units and is economical.”

Aspects of the program which could be improved include: “Should offer coursework specific for human sexuality issues and also cognitive behavioral approaches to counseling.” “Students would benefit from understanding how play enhances family therapy with young children.” “Apparently, some of the teachers use the same exams over and over again and students share this information. But the students still have to pass the final, comprehensive, program exam without assistance, so they do have to have their own knowledge-skill base to pass.” “The timing of the graduation does not coincide with the actual end of the program classes and deprives students of earning honorable mention acknowledgements.” “Perhaps more advanced family systems theories courses would be useful.” “The students would benefit from an introduction to child psychotherapy.”

All of the above comments were perceived as useful. The solicitation of specific comments via an anonymous survey of program stakeholders was deemed a success by the clinical director, although the response rate could have been a little higher.

The majority of program improvement suggestions seemed to be requesting additional coursework. Given the current program structure (meeting the MHC academic license requirements with the core MSCP courses, as well as meeting the MFT academic license requirements with the MF Emphasis courses), there is little room to increase course offerings and still compete with the other MFT eligible program on O'ahu which is currently 51 credits (nine less than the CUH program already). Further thought needs to go into the possibility of perhaps offering a MF seminar-type class which would address issues related to several comments including those wanting information regarding child psychotherapy, play therapy, sexual relationship theories, cognitive therapy, etc. For now, it might have to remain an option for students to pursue these through post-graduation continuing education. Continuing education is now a requirement for MFT, social worker and Psychologist license renewal in the State of Hawaii. CUH could offer additional coursework which could specifically be used for this purpose.

The scheduling of a separate ceremony honoring MSCP graduates specifically has been discussed previously, but was cost prohibitive for several reasons including parents and other invited guests traveling to (attending) two separate ceremonies, as well as costs involved in renting a suitable space for the separate ceremony, etc. Further discussion is needed on this issue.