

M.Ed. in School Counseling

Executive Summary of Program Modifications for CACREP Self-Study

Liberty University's M.Ed. in School Counseling Program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The school counseling program is nationally recognized by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)/Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Below are program modifications based on assessment outcomes and highlights from a comprehensive program evaluation conducted for 2014-2015, 2015- 2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018 academic years.

All targeted action items from previous findings were accomplished and objectives met (outlined in the Comprehensive Assessment Handbook). Noteworthy program modifications over the past year have included:

- The M.Ed. in School Counseling degree was revised and will be implemented in Fall 2019. The revision was needed in order for the CACREP online M.Ed. School Counseling degree to better serve the M.Ed. School Counseling students and in better alignment with other CACREP counseling core courses. Three new courses are part of the School Counseling Concentration: COSC 521: Foundations of Exceptionality, COSC 604: Foundations of Education, and COSC 622: Educational Assessment and Intervention. These courses have the same content as EDUC 521: Foundations of Exceptionality, EDUC 604: Foundations of Education, and EDUC 622: Educational Assessment and intervention. However, due to CACREP accreditation (core versus non-core, and FTE ratios), the M.Ed. School Counseling program director needed to ensure that the degree program is only housed in the School of Behavioral Sciences. Legislation was approved by the Graduate Senate and approved by the LU administration.
- Additional core faculty members have been hired.
- An additional Faculty Support Coordinator was hired to support the School Counseling program.

Program evaluation highlights detailed in the Comprehensive Assessment Handbook:

- Alumni, employers, site supervisors and candidates report overwhelming program success in preparing candidates for the practice of school counseling.
- Program maintains a diverse faculty and student body.
- Assessment of candidate dispositions is consistently positive across stakeholders.
- Candidates engage in culturally diverse field experiences across the country.
- Program learning outcomes demonstrate candidate success in mastering CACREP-approved curriculum.

A comprehensive assessment process is used for the M.Ed. in School Counseling program, including the collection and analysis of data using LiveText, an electronic data management system. The program draws upon assessment data of student learning outcomes for program evaluation and modification.