GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING, M.Ed.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department is to educate and train community and educational leaders using the most advanced theoretical, managerial, and technological knowledge, skills, and abilities available.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the program for the M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling will be able to demonstrate the following:

Content

- Identify the basic concepts of major counseling theories.
- Recognize the relationship of personality, learning, and human development theories to counseling theories.
- Apply counseling theories and techniques appropriate to specific situations and populations.
- Recognize the criteria for selection of individual and/or group counseling as an intervention.
- Articulate knowledge of small and large group dynamics.
- Articulate knowledge of small and large group counseling and leadership skills.
- Articulate knowledge of appropriate listening and responding skills.
- Identify major counseling approaches appropriate for specific developmental levels.
- Articulate knowledge of behavior change strategies.

Critical Thinking

- Articulate knowledge of accepted accountability and research methodology.
- Analyze, interpret, and apply the results of research, evaluation, and follow-up.
- Articulate knowledge of needs assessment and program evaluation techniques.
- Identify program objectives and determine appropriate outcomes based on assessment data.
- Articulate knowledge of the purposes, types, and basic steps in program evaluation and follow-up.
• Articulate knowledge of basic measurement concepts (validity, norming, reliability, error of measurement, standardization).
• Identify conditions that may affect test results.
• Articulate knowledge of the major functions, strengths, and limitations of standardized and nonstandardized assessment procedures.
• Interpret and apply the results of formal and informal assessment procedures.
• Articulate knowledge of synthesizing data from a variety of sources to develop a comprehensive assessment of an individual.

Communication
• Articulate knowledge of activities that teach communication skills, decision-making skills, social skills, and study skills.
• Articulate knowledge of a crisis intervention plan.
• Articulate knowledge of conflict resolution and mediation training programs.
• Identify, evaluate, and select materials and resources for implementing counseling techniques and programs.
• Identify self-destructive and addictive behaviors and develop appropriate intervention strategies.
• Articulate knowledge of group guidance programs.
• Articulate knowledge of peer-helper programs.

Integrity/Values
• Articulate knowledge of legal mandates and ethical standards concerning student advisement and assessment data.
• Articulate knowledge of American Counseling Association and American School Counselor Association professional and ethical standards.
• Articulate knowledge of legal rights of students and parents with regard to student records.
• Articulate knowledge of legislation concerning students with special needs.

Project Management
• Identify components essential to a consultation model.
• Articulate knowledge of collaborating with school personnel and families to identify needs and develop strategies to facilitate student success.
• Articulate knowledge of using appropriate data and resources to assist individuals and groups in collaborative decision making.
• Identify appropriate procedures for student transition and follow-up.
• Select appropriate procedures to communicate information to students, staff, families, and the community.
• Specify appropriate referrals and referral procedures for in-school and out-of-school individuals and/or agencies.
• Identify effective communication techniques that inform the community about services rendered through the guidance program.
• Identify components and procedures necessary for the organization and administration of a student services program.
Application Skills

- Identify knowledge of major career development theories.
- Identify guidance activities related to career development.
- Apply decision-making models with students in various stages of career development.
- Identify and evaluate materials to be used in career development.
- Interpret student appraisal data relevant to career development.
- Identify appropriate procedures to assist students in developing employability skills.
- Articulate knowledge of resources available to provide specific information about educational and technical training opportunities.
- Identify ways to assist students in selecting postsecondary opportunities.
- Articulate knowledge of financial assistance sources for further educational opportunities.
- Identify approaches for enhancing student awareness of academic and other requirements for graduation and scholarships.
- Interpret student academic assessment data for appropriate educational placement and student progression.
- Identify approaches for assisting students with course selection to prepare for postsecondary educational or employment opportunities.
- Articulate knowledge of the use of technology in student record management.
- Articulate knowledge of the appropriate use of technology in student services.
- Articulate knowledge of societal changes and trends.
- Articulate knowledge of characteristics and needs of diverse populations.
- Articulate knowledge of issues relevant to diverse family constellations and individual lifestyles.
- Articulate knowledge of counselor responsibility to address biases in self and in others relative to diversity within the school and surrounding community.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Guidance and Counseling students will acquire skills needed to become guidance counselors. Students demonstrate what they have learned through classroom assignments, examinations, research and creative activities. This will also be assessed by the capstone experience in the student degree program (practicum). Final achievement of these SLOs is demonstrated by passing the state certification test for Guidance and Counseling.

Job Prospects for Masters in Guidance and Counseling Graduates

Guidance Counselor (Elementary, Middle, Secondary Schools)

Find out more about a M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling at UWF:
http://uwf.edu/pcl/