HDC Program Outcomes Report AY 2018-2019

PROGRAM EVALUATION RESULTS
In AY 2018-2019, 18 students earned master’s degrees in the clinical mental health counseling (CMHC) program and 8 students earned master’s degrees in the school counseling (SC) program. The school counseling digital learning (SCDL) program was in year two of development and the first graduates are expected in May 2020.

Completion Rate
Of the 20 students admitted to the CMHC Program, 18 students (90%) completed the degree in human development counseling in 2019. The other two original CMHC students (10%) completed the degree in human development studies. Of the eight (8) students admitted to the school counseling program, all eight students (100%) completed the degree in human development counseling. The SCDL program is in its second year of development with first graduates expected in May 2020. The withdrawal rate for AY2017-2019 SCDL students was 10% and one SCDL student is completing a degree in Human Development Studies.

National Counselor Exam (NCE) and Praxis
Because the HDC on-campus programs are accredited by CACREP, students are eligible to take the National Counselor Exam (NCE) the semester before graduation. The NCE is not a program requirement but the majority of students in both tracks sit for this exam before graduation. Of the 17 CMHC students and 6 SC students who took the NCE exam in 2018, 22 (96%) passed the exam. School counseling students are required to take the Praxis exam as part of the requirements for Tennessee licensure as a school counselor. Pass rate for this exam was 100% (6 of 6).

Job Placement Rate
Of students pursuing full time employment after graduation, 100% (8/8) of SC 2019 graduates obtained full time employment in counseling within three months of graduation and 100% (18/18) of CMHC 2019 graduates obtained full time employment in clinical mental health counseling within three months of graduation.

Average Class Size
On-campus class sizes ranged from 3-24 students with an average of 12.7. SCDL class sizes ranged from 5-14 students with an average of 8.8.

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD:
PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FOR FALL 2018 and 2019
New admissions for Fall 2019 include 36 CMHC on-campus students, 15 on-campus school counseling students, and 16 school counseling digital learning students. Total enrolled students across the three programs now number 81 students enrolled in the CMHC program, 28 students enrolled in the on-campus SC program, and 54 students enrolled in the SCDL program.
On Campus Program Demographics
The following graph shows the on campus gender proportion of the Fall 2018 incoming students compared to the new Fall 2019 incoming students. HDC’s attempts to recruit more males led to a substantial increase in the proportion of male students.

The racial characteristics of the 2019 class (current) also was more diverse than the 2018 (previous) class, primarily due to an influx in international students from China and India, but also new students of Hispanic descent.

Finally, the average age of the 2019 (current) class increased to 25 years of age from 23.7 years for the 2018 (previous) class.

SCDL Program Demographics
Demographics for the school counseling digital learning program are presented below. The ages of SCDL students range from 22-49 with a median age of 29 and an average of 31 years of age. Student gender held steady at 87% female, similar to the on campus percentage. The SCDL students demonstrate greater racial diversity than the on campus students. Only one international student has been enrolled in the digital learning program at this point and he completed a previous degree at Vanderbilt.
PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS AND SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAM CHANGES

In the 2019 U.S. News and World, Peabody was ranked #6 in the nation as a college of education (https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-education-schools/education-rankings), and Vanderbilt University was ranked #15 (https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities). We are pleased to report that the HDC program was in a three-way tie for 10th place in the national rankings for counseling programs (https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-education-schools/student-counseling-rankings). Importantly, HDC is the only program ranked in the top 20 without a counseling doctoral program, so this national ranking is due solely to the strength of the master’s programs.

For AY2018-2019, HDC hired two full-time core faculty instructors to support the school counseling digital learning program. One of those faculty members was offered a continuing contract into 2019-2020. Fall 2019 represents the beginning of the third year of the SCDL program and we anticipate about 15 graduating students in May 2020. As a pleasant surprise, after its first year of operation, SCDL debuted as #1 in the national rankings for online school counseling programs by BestColleges.com (https://www.bestcolleges.com/features/best-online-masters-school-counseling-programs/) and #4 in the TheBest.org rankings (https://thebestschools.org/rankings/best-online-masters-school-counseling/).

The school counseling and CMHC programs agreed to change the names of the clinical experiences from a 100-hour practicum to a 200-hour Internship I and also change the name of the two-semester 600-hour internship to Internships II & III (300 hours completed in each semester). These changes took effect immediately after being accurately reflected in the Peabody College Graduate Catalog. The 200-hour Internship I (formerly known as practicum) was enacted for two primary reasons: (a) to allow students more time to develop and practice basic counseling skills with real clients and students, and (b) to make students more competitive for site placements. This change was in response to increasing preference for our interns over practicum students when making placement decisions coupled with increasing comments by site supervisors that supervising a practicum student for only a 100-hour experience was a great deal of effort for little return to the school or agency. Program faculty also made the name change to allow for the possibility that monetary stipends might be available for site supervisors. Previously, monetary stipends were available only for internship supervision. We continue to review data and supervisor feedback to better incentivize our current site supervisors and recruit more excellent sites for our interns, especially in light of increased program enrollments.

After many years of outstanding service as HDC program director and CACREP liaison, Dr. Gina Frieden has earned a well-deserved respite from these administrative responsibilities. Dr. Brad Erford assumed these roles in August 2019. Dr. Andy Finch continues to coordinate the SCDL program. Dr. Nicole Cobb was assigned to a new position as Associate Chair of the Department of Human and Organizational Development. She will continue to teach courses in HDC as she fulfills these new administrative responsibilities. The CACREP self-study report for the school counseling
digital learning program is due in October 2019. The full program CACREP re-accreditation self-study (CMHC, SC, and SCDL) is due in June 2020. The faculty continue to collect, analyze, and use program outcome data to make continual adjustments to all HDC programs, as needed.