

Academic Year 2022–2023

Data Type 10 – Capstone Paper Assessments

Data from student end-of-program Capstone Papers are utilized as a form of assessing Key Learning Objectives and Key Professional Dispositions at graduation. Capstone Paper scores provide summative comprehensive assessment of each core domain of counselor education: Primary Theoretical Model of Counseling and Helping Relationships; Ethics; Multiculturalism; Human Development; Career Development; Group; Assessment; Research; Spirituality/Religion; Interdisciplinary Work; Clinical Mental Health Counseling; and Goals for Continued Professional Development. Capstone Papers are assessed with a Rubric during Internship II to see that graduates are meeting benchmark of “2.0 – Meets Standards” or above on each area designated.

A summary of Capstone Paper Assessments is reviewed by the MHC program faculty at each End-of-Semester Review to assess individual student’s performance and ensure they have met the benchmark set at 2.0 “meets standard” in each core and specialty area, in order to qualify for graduation. Aggregate information from the Capstone Paper Assessments are shared by the Internship II Instructor with the MHC faculty at the End-of-Semester Review meeting to assess program effectiveness.

Individual scores are also compiled to yield an aggregate score for the program as a whole, including percentage of papers submitted meeting the benchmark of 2.0 “meets standard”, for the purpose of program assessment, reviewed annually by the MHC program faculty, and every three years by the interdisciplinary MHC Program Assessment Committee, and recommendations are then forwarded to MHC program faculty, advisors, and administrators for program modification.

Current MHC Program Graduating Senior “Capstone Paper” Data Report:

“Capstone Papers” Evaluated	Fall 2017	Spr 2018	Sum 2018	Fall 2018	Spr 2019	Sum 2019	Spr 2020	Spr 2021	Spr 2022	Spr 2023
1. Papers Evaluated	2	2	2	8	10	2	3	13	17	22
2. Papers Meeting Benchmark of “2.0” or above	2	2	2	8	10	2	3	13	17	21
3. Pass Rate	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95%

NOTE: Data represents aggregate student ratings by the Internship II instructor at the end of the course (which is at the time of MHC program completion). Benchmark for Rubric assessment was set at 2.0 (Meeting Standard); Recommendations for program or curriculum modifications/changes will be considered following any academic year with a “Capstone Paper” that falls below this standard.

Capstone Paper Assessment data from 2022–2023 showed that all 21 or 95% of papers evaluated were found to meet the Benchmark set at 2.0 or above, per rubric completed by the Internship II instructor and verified by MHC faculty at End-of-Semester Review.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

Last AY, the MHC Core Faculty noted that the instructions for the Capstone Paper could use updating, and the recommendation was made to compare the instructions for the Personal Model of Counseling paper assigned in Practicum with the instructions for the Capstone Paper, and ensuring we are including assessment of spiritual competency and anti-racism and also being clear when we're asking for citations. This improvement was made last AY, and seems to have been helpful based on faculty feedback.

The lower pass rate this AY will be monitored in coming AY's with an eye toward trends and determining, in consultation with the Southwest Gatekeeping Taskforce whether the Capstone Paper is the best method for assessing comprehensive student knowledge in a culturally and racially responsive manner.