




May 10, 2011

CALIFORNIA
STATE
UNIVERSITY,
FRESNO

MEMORANDUM

TO: Carol Rankin, Program Coordinator
Rehabilitation Counseling Graduate Program

FROM: Marilyn Wilson, Chair 
University Graduate Committee

RE: **Program Review for Rehabilitation Counseling**

MSC: The University Graduate Committee (UGC) recommends approval of the Rehabilitation Counseling Graduate Program as a Program of Quality and Promise.

Dr. Rankin has recently become the graduate coordinator. The self-study was written by the previous coordinator, Dr. Charles Arokiasamy. Both presented at the review by the University Graduate Committee.

The program currently has 96 graduate students. The program has a long history; they are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. It has grown immensely under Dr. Arokiasamy's leadership and at one time, prior to enrollment caps, was up to 120 students. They have 35-40 graduates per year and admit up to 50-60 per year. It is a very hands-on program, providing students with varied community and clinical field experiences. The current program is designed to take five semesters to complete (over half of students complete in this time), but can be completed in four semesters. They reported employment rate of graduates is more than 90%.

There was a discussion of the pass rates and procedures for comprehensive examination. Students can take the exam multiple times.

The program has been well funded by multiple grants obtained by faculty. Concerns were expressed over the current economic climate and more limited availability of both grant and state funding. However, the program has ambitious goals for an undergraduate program, a joint doctoral program, and a new building.

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Areas for improvement:

Visitors stated that “SOAP is the biggest weakness,” but a faculty member has been assigned to address this. To date, no Student Outcome Data have been provided. It was recommended that the program develop employer and exit surveys and use field evaluations of students for SOAP data.

Another source of data is an examination required of persons starting to work in the profession.

Faculty members from the program are concerned about the writing competency of some of their graduate students, including resume writing. To date this has been addressed by providing faculty feedback on written work and students being referred to the writing lab. There is a course in technical writing for the profession. The Graduate-level Writing Requirement has been failed by two students in the past year. Additional research on the writing challenges, including admission criteria, is recommended.

Conclusion:

Overall the program appears strong, with excellent leadership and support. We encourage the Rehabilitation Counseling Program Department to continue with the energy evident in their review.

MW:vb

cc: Albert Valencia, Chair
Department of Counseling and Special Education

Paul Beare, Dean
Kremen School of Education and Human Services

Karen Carey, Dean
Graduate Studies

William Covino, Provost