

SCSU School Counseling Program CACREP Outcomes Report

Posted: Fall, 2022 by Dr. Bill Lepkowski, School Counseling Program Director

The School Counseling Program at St. Cloud State University is a CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) accredited program. This accreditation provides students with the assurance that our program meets the highest of academic standards in training high quality school counseling professionals. Below is recent data regarding our program's outcomes.

Program Graduates and Completion Rate:

In May of 2022 we had 19 students successfully graduate from our program. This was a 100% completion rate for all students who entered the program with a plan of study to graduate in May of 2022. Historically, our graduation rate has been approximately 97%. These findings suggest that once selected to enter our program, students and faculty work hard to ensure student success.

Comprehensive Exam Pass Rate:

In the spring of 2022, 100% of all school counseling students who took our School Counseling Comprehensive Exam as a final academic test of their knowledge related to the counseling profession passed on their first attempt. Historically, we have a 95% comprehensive exam pass rate on the first try and 100% after the second try. These findings demonstrate that students gain a strong command of the eight core CACREP knowledge-based content areas and two school counseling specialty areas from their experience in our program.

School Counseling Job Placement Rate:

95% of the spring 2022 graduates obtained school counseling or related employment. Prior years of data indicates about 93% of our graduates obtaining employment shortly after graduating. For those who do not obtain jobs as school counselors, the reasons are primarily due to choosing positions in related fields. These data indicate that our graduates are very competitive in the school counseling job market, and job market in general.

Program Admission Rate, Active Students, and Class Sizes:

We typically admit 20 school counseling students per academic year. On average 15 of those students are on a full-time two-year plan of study and 5 are on a part-time plan of study and/or are admitted to the school counseling certificate program. On average we receive 25-35 applicants for these 20 spots in the program, so we are fairly selective in whom we admit to the program. Due to the relatively few students admitted, class sizes are small with 15-25 students in the average core program course classroom, 6 students per faculty member in the practicum courses, and no more than 12 students per faculty members during the internship experience. We therefore provide students with a high level of individual attention during instruction and supervision in their school counseling preparation. During the 2021-2022 academic year we admitted 15 new students and have 34 students actively working at some point in their school counseling plan of study.

Other Benefits of being a School Counseling Program Student at St. Cloud State University:

In addition to the small class sizes, CACREP accreditation, and excellent success rates among our students, there are other benefits to joining the School Counseling Program at St. Cloud State University, including (but not limited to) receiving:

1. An opportunity to receive instruction and supervision from highly qualified counselor educators, former school counselors, and other helping profession instructors, many of whom have many years of counseling experience in addition to teaching and supervision experience.
2. An opportunity to be a part of a program which values multicultural competence, diversity, and building strong faculty-student relationships.
3. A very competitive and affordable tuition rate, and many opportunities for graduate assistantships to help finance your education.
4. A large focus on interpersonal skills training and practical application of knowledge.
5. Live supervision during practicum experiences in our clinical space, which includes cutting edge recording and observation technology.
6. Day, evening, and summer course offerings as well as a few courses offered online.
7. The opportunity to intern with excellent school counselors in central Minnesota, many of whom have supervised our interns for many years.
8. The opportunity to participate in area, state, and national conferences and professional committee work.
9. The opportunity to become license eligible as a K-12 school counselor in Minnesota, as well as in many other states in the country.
10. The opportunity to begin a career in a highly meaningful profession.