

**Progress Report on the Action Recommendations of the
MS in Counseling: Concentration in College Counseling & Student Services
Program Review
6-23-09**

The MS in Counseling: Higher Education Program (HEd) was reviewed in 2005. Partially in response to this review, the faculty made the decision to significantly revise and enhance the program. As a result, the program was renamed, MS in Counseling with a concentration in College Counseling and Student Services (CCSS), the focus of the program broadened, the curriculum considerably strengthened, and the applied components of the degree enhanced. Program changes were incorporated into the 2006-2007 university catalogue and the first class of CCSS students was admitted in the Fall of 2006.

The following summarizes progress made towards the program review recommendations.

Recommendation 1. Broaden focus of concentration to include student affairs/service skills. Goal accomplished. As described above, the program has been significantly revised to broaden the academic topics covered.

Recommendation 2. Increase the required fieldwork hours to 300 over 2 semesters. Goal accomplished. The applied component of the degree has been expanded, over and above the recommended amount.

Recommendation 3. Take advantage of fieldwork opportunities at ULV other than the Career Center. Goal accomplished. Since the Spring of 2007 the program has offered an apprenticeship opportunity for CCSS students. A number of student services offices across the university provide opportunities for students through this class. In addition, since September of 2007, CCSS students have been completing their year long fieldwork placement. A number of student service offices at La Verne are providing opportunities for student placements and many CCSS students have pursued opportunities at universities and community colleges in the region.

Recommendation 4. Tailor the competency exam to deal more directly with Higher Ed theory and application. Goal accomplished. A revised competency exam, designed specifically to assess the learning experiences of CCSS students, was started in the summer of 2007.

Recommendation 5. Strengthen alumni network. In progress. Initial attempts have been made to communicate with alumni and several past alumni are now teaching classes for the program. Additional contacts will be made over time. Accomplishing this recommendation will be a long-term goal.

Recommendation 6. Market the program to a variety of undergraduate majors-behavioral science, communication, liberal arts, organizational management, at NASPA and other conferences on higher education. In progress. Recruitment efforts have begun to enhance marketing of the CCSS program. This has included attending professional conferences in the student affairs/student services area, visiting local universities and community colleges, and sending information to professionals working within local colleges and universities. Additional marketing will be conducted over the next years.

Recommendation 7. Hire faculty with a higher education background and experience to teach in the concentration. Limited progress. As funding permits, recruitment of a full-time tenure-track faculty member with expertise in the student services/student affairs area is desired. The faculty currently includes several members with experience in student services who are contributing to the CCSS program. Adjunct faculty members with strong skills are also being employed to assist students.

Recommendation 8. Seek CACRP accreditation. Faculty discussion has begun regarding this recommendation. At this time, the resources necessary for accreditation are not available. Additional financial and other tangible supports would be required from the university before accreditation could be successful. Consideration of this recommendation will be revisited in the future.

Recommendation 9. Rename the concentration: MS Counseling: Student Affairs. Goal accomplished. After consideration of the state of the field, the program was renamed MS Counseling: Concentration in College Counseling and Student Services.

Recommendation 10. Consider delivering the concentration at off-campus centers. Goal accomplished. Faculty discussion was conducted to consider this recommendation. At this time, needed resources are not available to insure that this program could be adequately supervised off campus. Given the large applied components of the program (see recommendation 2 above) off campus sites would not be possible without additional full-time faculty hires at the additional sites. Given the training needs of students in this type of program, and the resources available, expansion to other centers appears ill advised.