

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary

Rural Human Service Certificate Program

College of Rural and Community Development

AY 2013-2014

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1. Assessment information collected

- A. RHS certificate completion rate for the program for the 2012-2104 is 75%.
 - B. The RHS 287 Practicum course was selected for assessment of the RHS program objectives and outcomes. Ten representative student Practicum reports, summaries, activities were selected and evaluated. The Practicum materials were evaluated for demonstration of:
 - Application of critical thinking skills related to the behavioral health field: This was reviewed via the assessment of their community readiness/needs survey/data collected by the student. (Step 1 &2)
 - Efficacy in analyzing, summarizing written and oral community project goals and objectives: This was done through analysis of the goals and objective assignments embedded in the Practicum course. (Step 3)
 - Demonstration of increased understanding and skill in one or more areas of behavioral health: chemical dependency, behavioral health, case management, family, and/or community: This was evaluated through review of the final Practicum reports submitted by all students. (Step 5)
- * Materials from the Practicum used for this assessment also included journals, summary reports, and presentation materials.

2. Conclusions drawn from the information summarized above

1. Application of critical thinking skills related to the behavioral health field:

Pertinent materials from the RHS Practicum submissions were evaluated using 4 characteristics of critical thinking: striving for accuracy, linking multiple concepts, clear communication, and reasonable conclusions.

The assessment indicated overall strength in drawing reasonable conclusions and striving for accuracy. However, there seems to be only passable development in linking multiple concepts and clear communication of ideas and conclusions.

2. Efficacy in analyzing, summarizing, a written and oral community project goals and objectives:

Students demonstrated understanding of and how to outline goals and objectives for a community project. Students were clear about how their community work via the goals and objectives they worked on also had an impact on their own personal and professional goals. It appears that this assessment plan objective is being met. Faculty discussed particular classroom activities that are currently used to enhance this skill and further discussed how to ensure that adjunct faculty.

3. Demonstration of increased understanding and skill in one or more areas from the behavioral health field:

Review of the practicum materials for this assessment was through the lens of a behavioral health provider. In other words, did the student reflect, communicate and evaluate their final report via an emerging behavioral health provider identity?

Notably the practicum evaluated demonstrated what is a hallmark of behavioral health ethics, that is, skill with personal awareness and process.

All of the practicums reviewed had a particular behavioral health focus as assessed and identified by the community the student worked with (chemical dependency, family systems, and social issues for example)

3. Curricular changes resulting from conclusions drawn above

1. Critical thinking skill development recommendations:
 - Orient faculty including adjuncts teaching within the RHS program towards the need for highlighting multiple perspectives when engaging class dialogue. Provide exercises and materials that help facilitate the development of this skill.
 - Coordinate with the English teacher on dovetailing reading and writing more closely with RHS curriculum. This would help with student ability to clearly communicate via writing their analytical thoughts about RHS course content.
2. Review all RHS courses in order to clarify (and unify among all faculty who teach in RHS) the learning goals and objectives for each RHS course.

4. Identify the faculty members involved in reaching the conclusions drawn above and agreeing upon the curricular changes resulting

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