

Program Mission Statement and Objectives

The University of Wyoming Counselor Education and Supervision program fosters the development of clinical excellence through an empirically grounded, humanistic emphasis on the therapeutic relationship across the lifespan. Our experiential curriculum prioritizes the integration of counseling knowledge, skills and dispositions and promotes creativity for careers serving all communities in alignment with professional ethical standards. This program develops mental health and school counselors as generalist clinicians prepared to work in Wyoming's diverse communities. We believe that students become professional counselors through an iterative process that includes instruction, action, feedback and adjustment, embedded in a supportive learning environment. Students and faculty belong to a cohort-based, collaborative community that supports meaningful interaction and learning from one another. Working together, we create a safe space for vulnerability, discovery, and growth. Within our community we seek to nurture each student's mastery of research-based counseling competencies, and the development of their unique professional identity. We value meaningful self-awareness, healthy self-regulation, and personal responsibility. Therefore, a key element in our approach to counselor preparation is the expectation that we will all engage in ongoing reflective practice and pursue a holistic wellness lifestyle. Our commitment to supporting the needs of all community members in alignment with our professional ethical guidelines is supported through programmatic reflective practice and community engagement, which supports our commitment to meet the unique needs of our stakeholders.

Program Objectives

Mental Health Counseling Program: The mental health counselor is a helping professional prepared for clinical practice. Graduate education and clinical training prepare counselors to provide a full range of services for individuals, couples, families, adolescents, and children across the lifespan. These may include assessment and diagnosis, treatment planning, intervention, group, career, and substance use work. Our mental health program prepares counselors to practice in a variety of settings such as independent practice, community agencies, integrated delivery systems, hospitals, and addictions treatment settings.

School Counseling Program: The school counselor is a school leader who consults and collaborates with students, teachers, administrators, parents, and other members of the community to promote culturally relevant P-12 student growth in personal/social, career, and academic domains. On a daily basis, school counselors may offer a variety of direct services (e.g., classroom lessons, small groups) as well as systemic interventions (e.g., advocacy, consultation) to enhance student development. School counseling programs

often encompass character education, conflict resolution, career planning, and much more to build on students' strengths.

As a faculty, we strive to:

1. Prepare students who demonstrate academic preparation by completing an approved program of study that meets the standards set forth by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).
2. Prepare students who demonstrate development as culturally competent, skilled & ethical counselors.
3. Support students to develop a professional identity as a professional counselor including the areas of advocacy, leadership, social justice, and promotion of caring communities.
4. Help students demonstrate a clear vision of their professional and academic goals.