College of Education

Location: Fort Walton Beach

In January of 1993, the Florida Region opened an administrative office with classrooms on Beal Parkway, in Fort Walton Beach; the Florida Region had by that time increased the number of its sites considerably, and it seemed appropriate to have an off-base office for its administration.

Classes in all programs at Hurlburt Field and Eglin were offered in the classrooms of this site, expanding the area’s capability for offering classes and making it possible for more civilians to attend. After 9/11, this became more important, since civilian access to the bases became limited.

With the addition of this location, since all three locations are within a few miles of each other, the concept of a formal Fort Walton Beach area became feasible, and an office for the administration of this three-location area was established. While Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB each has a Site Director and staff, the Area Director at Fort Walton Beach is the chief administrator for all three locations.

COE Programs Offered:

Psychology Bachelor of Science

Counseling and Psychology Master of Science
  • Clinical Mental Health

Program Description

Psychology - Bachelor of Science

The Psychology program has been offered at the Fort Walton site since 1972. The purpose of program: A major in psychology provides students with (1) a useful foundation for further study at the graduate level, leading to various careers in psychology, or to study in the health professions and social work; (2) skills related to employment at the baccalaureate level for the pursuit of careers in mental health services, industry, human services, or areas where the knowledge of human behavior would be deemed beneficial; and (3) a sound preparation for describing, understanding, predicting, and controlling the events in their own lives.
**Status of Students:**

Students can take courses within the Counseling degree program in both a face to face and through limited course offering via distance learning.

**How Students are Assessed:**

Students are assessed by way of the Major Field Test using the:

1. “Natural Science” subtest of the Major Field Test for Psychology and will obtain a score equivalent to the 50th percentile of the national average.
2. “Social Science” subtest of the Major Field Test for Psychology and will obtain a score equivalent to the 50th percentile of the national average
3. “Applied Psychology” subtest of the Major Field Test for Psychology and will obtain a score equivalent to the 50th percentile of the national average; and
4. By performing successfully (70% or greater) on a standardized statistics exit exam to be given at the end of PSY 3301 (Basic Statistics) in all OGU locations.

**Psychology Assessment data from Ft. Walton:**

**Psychology:** From the time period fall 2007 – fall 2008, four (4) Ft. Walton psychology students were administered the Major Field Test (MFT). Scoring results indicate the average MFT score for the four students was 153. The national average is 156. The average of the four students was slightly below the national average.

**Actions being taken as a result of assessment:**

**Psychology:** The Troy University College of Education Psychology Curriculum Committee is currently developing a plan to establish university norms for the Major Field Test. Data from the past few years of the MFT will be examined to establish university norms. Troy University norms will provide a more accurate benchmark for student assessment goals. After norms are established, the committee will re-evaluate the assessment goal. The committee is also recommending that Department Chairs offer more courses in each of the major psychology areas. This action is based on the overall MFT subscores of students.

**Program Description**

**Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program:**

Counseling programs have been offered at Ft. Walton since the 1970’s. During the early 1990’s, the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program was implemented. This was in response to Florida Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor statutes that increased academic training for state licensure.
The Clinical Mental Health program is designed to train mental health counselors. This 60 semester hour program has been tailored to meet educational requirements for state and national specialized credentials. The program is designed to provide students with knowledge of theory, application of counseling skills to culturally diverse populations, knowledge of both normal and pathological development and behavior, and expertise in treatment planning. The program complements Troy University's goal of providing outstanding academic programs which are nationally accredited.

Status of Students:

Students can take courses within the Counseling degree program in both a face to face and through limited course offering via distance learning.

How Students are Assessed:

Students are assessed by:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the eight core areas bypassing the comprehensive examination with a 70% pass rate on first attempt.

2. Graduates or graduating students will pass the National Counselor Exam with a pass rate of 70% on first attempt.

Assessment data from Ft. Walton:

Sites in Global campus who offer the Clinical Mental Health program have moved from a faculty developed multiple choice comp assessment to the CPCE which will provide data based on national norms in the eight core areas. The clinical mental health counseling students are also administered a case study to which they must respond. There are instructions provided which are consistent across all C&P specialty comps. There is a scoring rubric which was developed at Troy and is used for evaluation at all sites. There are two faculty readers for each case study. This preparation parallels the national exam process.

Actions being taken as a result of assessment:

Plan for Improvement: SLO #2 Clinical Mental Health

(1) Make a list of available departmental resources available to prepare for the NCE including: audiotapes of 8 CACREP areas; sample old NCE exams; and NCE Flashcard Secrets using the 8 CACREP areas;

(2) Promote/announce three Saturday two-hour sessions of refresher study for the NCE sponsored by Chi Sigma Iota using new DVD NCE study materials purchased from the American Counseling Association;

(3) Encourage students to also enroll for use of the Study Guide available on Blackboard