

Western Illinois University – Quad Cities
Department of Counselor Education
September 2012

Since our site visit in April, 2008, the Department of Counselor Education at Western Illinois University - Quad Cities, faculty have resigned, retired, and some have been hired. The department gained an additional faculty line in 2010 as a result of moving to the 60-hour clinical mental health counseling specialization. Dr. Carrie Alexander-

Minor changes have been made directly to clinical instruction since the site visit to continue to comply with the transition to 2009 standards. Each year we update our *Field Experience Manual for Practicum and Internship* (See Appendix F) and the *Department of Counselor Education Practicum and Internship Packets*, which contain applications, agreements, and contracts (See Appendix G). Updates include clarification of group counseling hours and changes to the contracts. We continue to conduct on-campus training for site supervisors (See Appendix H). Further, we have implemented a bi-weekly site supervisor contact form that all faculty who teach Practicum may use as they have contact with site supervisors (See Appendix H).

provide a training facility for practicum and internship students, but will also provide direct service delivery based upon a sliding fee scale to members of the community. The tentative plans show the clinic will contain: 3 individual counseling rooms, a play therapy room, 2 family counseling rooms, 3 observations rooms, a waiting room, and office space. The proposed project includes a clinical director, a support staff worker, and a request for \$105,000 for the purchase of an integrated state of the art technology package.

a. Changes in Support Services

Since the site visit there have been personnel changes within primary administrative ranks of the university. At the university level, Dr. Al Goldfarb retired as President of Western Illinois University in June of 2011. Dr. Jack Thomas, the University Provost, was selected as President of the University. Dr. Ken Hawkinson, associate provost, was promoted to Interim Provost and later was selected as Provost in January 2012. At the college level, Dr. Nick Digrino retired as Dean of the College of Education and Human Services in 2011, and Dr. Sterling Saddler was hired as Dean. Dr. Erskine Smith was hired as Associate Dean for Administration in June of 2010. Dr. Lance Ternasky Associate Dean for Academic Affairs retired in May 2012. In July 2012 the College of Education and Human Services appointed Dr. Marcia Carter as Assistant Dean of the

c. Student Enrollment Figures

The Institutional Research and Planning office at Western Illinois University reports and publishes student enrollment numbers annually. Below are the enrollment numbers, according to their numbers. These are mostly consistent with our submitted vital statistics reports depending on the time of the report generation. Please find this information at:

There have been a number of program improvements since the site visit. The faculty examined the Department's admission, retention, and exit requirements. The following changes were implemented:

Admissions Changes:

A decision was made to increase the required undergraduate GPA from 2.75 to 3.0 and incorporate GRE scores into the admissions process. The Department website explains the current GPA and GRE requirement as follows: "Applicants must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher (includes all undergraduate work attempted at all institutions), or 3.25 for the last two years (60 semester hours) of undergraduate work, or a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher (includes all graduate work attempted at all institutions) and a completed master's degree from a regionally accredited university. Applicants failing to meet the minimum undergraduate requirements may be considered for probationary admission with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75-2.99. Applicants with a cumulative undergraduate GPA between 2.6-2.74 may request consideration for probationary admission – an additional portfolio must be submitted by the applicant at the time of application. The additional material included in the portfolio is intended to assist the Selection and Retention Committee's evaluation of the applicant's potential success as a graduate student in the Department of Counselor Education. All applicants admitted as probationary students must petition for full admission after completing nine graduate hours from any of the following courses: CN 540, CN 541, CN 545, CN 551, CN 554, or EIS 500." The complete admissions process can be viewed at:

http://www.wiu.edu/coehs/qc/cned/future_students/admission.php

Note that since this initial change, we have had time to review the impact on our program and made the determination to eliminate the GRE requirement except for applicants with cumulative GPAs less than 2.75.

The second change to the admissions procedures was the addition of a mandatory background check for newly admitted students. The Department web site explains: "As a part of the admission process to the Department of Counselor Education, all students are required to undergo a criminal background investigation, as many school/agencies require a criminal background check before considering students for clinical field experiences. Students admitted to the Department of Counselor Education are expected to comply with the Illinois State Police and FBI fingerprint background investigation requirements as set forth by the Department of Counselor Education, Background Investigation Policy. Students who do not comply with the policy will not be allowed to register and/or attend classes in the Department of Counselor Education. Student already admitted into the Department must immediately submit to the background check process. The complete Department Background Check Policy can be

