

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES PRE-DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
ACCREDITATION REPORT AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report for the Student Counseling Services Pre-Doctoral Internship Program in the Division of Student Affairs at Iowa State University.

Executive Summary: The Student Counseling Services Pre-Doctoral Internship Program (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards and criteria defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. The program was accredited for a period of seven years. This report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to provide “educational excellence and impact” as well as Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

Background:

- ◇ Description of Program. The pre-doctoral internship program in Student Counseling Services provides comprehensive internship training in professional psychology. The Student Counseling Services, accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services, is an integral part of the Division of Student Affairs and its work is central to the Division’s mission of “enhancing the academic experience and personal growth of Iowa State University students.” The program is a one-year full-time internship and engages in actions that indicate respect for and understanding of cultural and individual diversity in all relevant aspects of its operations. The goals of the program are as follow:
 - ⇒ The staff will maintain a high level of involvement in the training program which creates an essential vitality for the agency.
 - ⇒ Interns will become competent generalist practitioners.
 - ⇒ In keeping with a practitioner-scholar model of psychology practice, interns will integrate evidence and research into practice and will have the opportunity to participate in research activities.
 - ⇒ Interns’ professional growth will be facilitated via a developmental training model, geared to individual levels and designed to gradually become more complex as training progresses.
 - ⇒ Interns will offer programming based on a workshop model of learning styles.
 - ⇒ Interns will be provided with leadership and administrative opportunities.
 - ⇒ Interns will be supported in their development as professional psychologists.
 - ⇒ Attention to multicultural issues will be integrated throughout the training program.
 - ⇒ Interns will follow the American Psychological Association ethics code and the state laws of Iowa.

- ◇ Purpose of Accreditation. An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met state and national standards for its development and evaluation. To employers, graduate schools, and licensure, certification, and registration boards, graduation from an accredited program signifies adequate preparation for entry into the profession. In fact, many of these groups require graduation from an accredited program as a minimum qualification. Accreditation is also intended to protect the interests of students, benefit the public, and improve the quality of teaching, learning, research, and professional practice.

- ◇ Accrediting Agency. The accrediting body is the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association.
- ◇ Review Process. The self-study prepared by the Student Counseling Services Pre-Doctoral Internship Program contained the responses to the standards (domains) required by the accrediting body – eligibility; program philosophy, objectives, and training plan; program resources; cultural and individual differences and diversity; intern-staff relations; program self-assessment and quality enhancement; public disclosure; and relationship with accrediting body.
- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In October 2008, the visiting team determined that the Student Counseling Services Pre-Doctoral Internship Program met the requirements for accredited status.
- ◇ Strengths Identified by the Visiting Team.
 - ⇒ “Required written policies are present and complete.
 - ⇒ The program is represented in the agency’s operating budget, enabling the program to achieve its goals and objectives.
 - ⇒ The program has clearly stated goals, objectives, and competencies and requires interns to demonstrate intermediate to advanced skills, competency, and knowledge in the areas outlined in the *Guidelines and Principles for Accreditation*. The training experiences are sequential, cumulative, and graded in complexity.
 - ⇒ The program has sufficient resources to conduct training to achieve the program goals and objectives.
 - ⇒ The program appears to have made systematic efforts to attract and retain diverse staff and interns. The program has a thoughtful and coherent plan to provide interns with relevant knowledge and experiences about the role of cultural and individual diversity.
 - ⇒ Site visitors noted that ‘interns reported feeling supported and valued for their experience and contributions to the center.’
 - ⇒ With the appropriate involvement of interns, the internship program engages in self-studies that address its expectations for the quality of interns’ preparation prior to beginning training, as well as procedures to maintain current achievements or to make changes as necessary.
 - ⇒ The program demonstrates its commitment to public disclosure by providing written materials and other communications that appropriately represent the program to the public.”
- ◇ Accreditation Status. In November 2008, the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association awarded accreditation to the Student Counseling Services Pre-Doctoral Internship Program at Iowa State University for the maximum period of seven years.