

## ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR:

Psychology

(Instructional Degree Program)

M.S.

(Degree Level)

2009-2010 Academic Year

(Period Covered)

August 15, 2010

(Date Submitted)

### MISSION AND GOALS

#### **Department's/Program's Goal(s) in Support of Institutional Mission:**

It is the mission of the master's program in psychology at NMHU to train master level psychologists who can utilize critical thinking skills, demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method, and apply their knowledge of the diverse fields of psychology to their work as teachers, researchers, or practitioners. The program is designed to prepare students for either work as master level clinicians or continued study in psychology at the doctoral level. This mission is achieved through a high level of professor-to-student interaction, ample opportunities for research and practical experience, and exposure to a multicultural community setting.

#### **Intended Educational Outcome 1**

Develop hypotheses based on a body of research, and design and implement a research methodology to test those hypotheses and present the results in both written and oral form.

##### **A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 1**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** This outcome will be demonstrated by the successful completion of a thesis. Successful completion means a satisfactory oral defense and an approved written copy submitted to the NMHU library. Each year, the theses completed during that academic year will be reviewed by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for quality.

**Summary of results from data collected:** Two theses were completed during the time covered by this evaluation. Results indicate that this outcome was met.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 1:** The results do not suggest any changes to the program.

#### **Intended Educational Outcome 2**

Prepare students to be M.S. level counselors or doctoral candidates in other graduate institutions

**A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 2**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Every five years the program will complete a survey of alumni. The survey will include information on occupational status. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 80% of our alumni demonstrating employment or graduate studies in some area of psychology.

**Summary of results from data collected:** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness began surveying graduate alumni beginning in the summer of 2008. Only one response was collected. For this reason this activity was not completed.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 2:** We need to re-design our outcome assessment plan to add other measures to the survey instrument.

**B. Second Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 2**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** For those students who take a state exam to become a certified psychological counselor, we expect a 90% rate of passing. We will obtain this information in the alumni survey, as well as the scores that they received on the exam.

**Summary of results from data collected:** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness began surveying graduate alumni beginning in the summer of 2008. Only one response was collected. For this reason this activity was not completed.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 2:** We need to re-design our outcome assessment plan to add other measures to the survey instrument.

**Intended Educational Outcome 3**

Adopt a high standard for ethical behavior and work performance.

**A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 3**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Each year the department will compile data from the “Faculty Review of Graduate Students”. This form is filled out at the end of the first two semesters of graduate work. It reflects a consensus opinion of the psychology faculty regarding the student’s performance. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by a significant increase in average student scores in the second semester compared to the first semester.

**Summary of results from data collected:** The mean score of the 8 graduate students evaluated in the fall 2009 semester was 3.85 (out of a possible 5). In the spring semester, the mean score was 4.16, indicating that this criterion was met.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 3:** The results do not suggest any changes to the program.

#### **B. Second Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 3**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Each year the department will compile data from the Field Supervisors' review of practicum students placed in that year. This is a qualitative review of practicum student performance. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of practicum students receiving comments indicating that their performance was considered above average by their supervisors and with no students receiving comments indicating that their performance was unsatisfactory.

**Summary of results from data collected:** There were three graduate students in practicum placements during the fall 2009 semester, and eight during the spring 2010 semester. Field Supervisors consistently evaluated six students as "above average" or "superior" in every category. Two students received an overall "average" rating. None of the Field Supervisors were dissatisfied with student performance and all were willing to work with the student again.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 3:** The results do not suggest any changes to the program.

#### **C. Third Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 3**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Every five years the program will complete a survey of alumni. The survey will include information on occupational status. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of our alumni indicating employment in some area of psychology and at least 25% of those employed in psychological work indicating that their job involves the supervision of other employees or the direction of programs.

**Summary of results from data collected:** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness began surveying graduate alumni beginning in the summer of 2008. Only one response was collected. For this reason this activity was not completed.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 3:** We need to re-design our outcome assessment plan to add other measures to the survey instrument.

#### **Intended Educational Outcome 4**

Apply knowledge of cross-cultural differences to the understanding and practice of psychology.

**A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 4**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Each year the department will compile data from the Field Supervisors' review of practicum students placed in that year. This is a qualitative review of practicum student performance. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of practicum students receiving comments indicating that their practicum involved work with diverse populations and that they performed well in these settings.

**Summary of results from data collected:** There were three graduate students in practicum placements during the fall 2009 semester, and eight during the spring 2010 semester. Field Supervisors consistently evaluated six students as "above average" or "superior" in every category. Two students received an overall "average" rating. None of the Field Supervisors were dissatisfied with student performance and all were willing to work with the student again.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 4:** The results do not suggest any changes to the program.

**B. Second Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 4**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Every five years the program will complete a survey of alumni. The survey will include information on occupational status. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 50% of those alumni who demonstrate employment in some area of psychology reporting that their work involves diverse populations.

**Summary of results from data collected:** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness began surveying graduate alumni beginning in the summer of 2008. Only one response was collected. For this reason this activity was not completed.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 4:** We need to re-design our outcome assessment plan to add other measures to the survey instrument.

**C. Third Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 4**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** The grade that students receive in their Multicultural Psychotherapy and Counseling (Psy 650) course will also be used to assess the outcome.

**Summary of results from data collected:** Data collected from 3 students. Three students received an A, whereas one received a C.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 4:** The results do not suggest any changes to the program.

### **Intended Educational Outcome 5**

Apply theoretical knowledge and interpersonal skills to therapeutic relationships.

#### **A. First Means of Assessment for Educational Outcome 5**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Each year the department will compile data from the Field Supervisors' review of practicum students placed in that year. This is a qualitative review of practicum student performance. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of practicum students receiving comments indicating that their performance was considered above average by their supervisors and with no students receiving comments indicating that their performance was unsatisfactory.

**Summary of results from data collected:** There were three graduate students in practicum placements during the fall 2009 semester, and eight during the spring 2010 semester. Field Supervisors consistently evaluated six students as "above average" or "superior" in every category. Two students received an overall "average" rating. None of the Field Supervisors were dissatisfied with student performance and all were willing to work with the student again.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 5:** The results do not suggest any changes to the program.

#### **B. Second Means of Assessment for Educational Outcome 5**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Every five years the program will complete a survey of alumni. The survey will include information on occupational status. Successful completion of this outcome will be demonstrated by at least 50% of those alumni who demonstrate employment in some area of psychology reporting that their work involves the application of therapeutic interventions.

**Summary of results from data collected:** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness began surveying graduate alumni beginning in the summer of 2008. Only one response was collected. For this reason this activity was not completed.

**Use of Results for Educational Outcome 5:** We need to re-design our outcome assessment plan to add other measures to the survey instrument.