

Revised Program Mission & Objectives

Program Mission

The mission of the Piedmont University Department of Counseling is to prepare competent, ethical, and culturally responsive professional counselors through high-quality graduate education. The program is committed to aligning curriculum, training, and assessment with CACREP standards and evidence-based practices to support student development in knowledge, clinical skills, and professional dispositions. The program is guided by input from faculty, students, alumni, and community stakeholders, which enables the programs graduates to meet the mental health needs of diverse individuals, families, and communities.

Program Objectives

The Department of Counseling has established the following measurable program objectives, which are reviewed regularly using stakeholder input and program evaluation data:

Standards Alignment - Ensure curriculum and training experiences align with CACREP standards and reflect current best practices and emerging trends in clinical mental health counseling, as evaluated through curriculum review and program assessment data.

Counseling Knowledge and Skills - Prepare students to demonstrate competence in counseling theories, therapeutic communication, evidence-based interventions, and clinical decision-making, as measured through key performance indicators (KPIs), course-embedded assessments, and fieldwork evaluations.

Experiential Learning and Professional Readiness - Provide supervised practicum and internship experiences that enable students to apply counseling skills in professional

settings and demonstrate readiness for entry-level practice, as measured through site supervisor evaluations and clinical performance assessments.

Ethical and Professional Practice - Prepare students to demonstrate ethical decision-making, professional behavior, and adherence to legal and ethical standards in counseling practice, as assessed through disposition evaluations and applied coursework.

Self-Awareness and Reflective Practice - Promote student self-awareness, reflective practice, and professional growth necessary for effective counseling practice, as evaluated through reflective assignments, faculty feedback, and supervision processes.

Licensure and Professional Outcomes - Support student preparation for successful completion of national and/or state licensure and certification requirements, as evaluated through licensure examination pass rates and post-graduation outcome data.

Program Objective & Academic Quality Indicator (AQI) Crosswalk

<i>Program Objective</i>	<i>Academic Quality Indicator (AQI)</i>	<i>Data Source(s)</i>	<i>Threshold</i>	<i>Use of results</i>
1. Standards Alignment Ensure curriculum aligns with CACREP standards and best practices.	Curriculum alignment and coverage	Curriculum maps; faculty review	100% CACREP standard coverage	Curriculum revisions; course updates
2. Counseling Knowledge & Skills Prepare students to demonstrate counseling competence.	KPI achievement rates	Course-embedded assessments; CPCE aggregate scores	≥ 80% of students meet KPI thresholds	Instructional improvement; remediation planning
3. Experiential Learning & Professional Readiness Prepare students for entry-level practice.	Fieldwork performance & placement rates	CCS-R aggregate scores; practicum/internship placement data	≥ 85% satisfactory performance; 100% placement	Field placement quality review; site development

4. Ethical & Professional Practice Prepare students for ethical and professional conduct.	Professional disposition ratings	Disposition evaluations; faculty reviews	$\geq 90\%$ meet disposition standards	Student advisement; policy refinement
5. Self-Awareness & Reflective Practice Promote reflective professional development.	Reflective competency achievement	Course evaluations; supervision feedback	$\geq 80\%$ meet reflective criteria	Curriculum enhancement; faculty development
6. Licensure & Professional Outcomes Support licensure and employment readiness.	Licensure pass rates & employment outcomes	Graduate surveys; licensure data	Licensure pass rate \geq national/state average	Program improvement; advising enhancements