

# **Radford University Counselor Education Annual Report**

AY 2023-2024

Dr. Bethany Lanier, Acting Department Chair

The Department of Counselor Education had another productive and busy year during 2023-2024. We have continued to deliver a high-quality program, invest in our students, and continue to utilize our resources as wisely as possible.

## Personnel Changes in the Department of Education

This year we had the opportunity to welcome Dr. Jessica Prince to our faculty in a limited term Special Purpose position. Dr. Prince is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She completed her undergraduate degree in Psychology at Radford University (2004) and holds a master's degree in Graduate Psychology-Clinical Mental Health Counseling Concentration from James Madison University (2008) and a doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision from Virginia Tech (2016). Dr. Prince has over 15 years of clinical mental health counseling experience at colleges, universities, and community agencies. As a counselor educator, she has taught and supervised masters-level students and provided on-site clinical supervision for counselors-in-training. Dr. Prince's areas of interest include college counseling, comprehensive well-being, basic needs (in)security, intersectionality, Appalachian communities, and building communities of care. We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Prince!

## Abingdon Cohort

The Department of Counselor Education was awarded a Virginia Tobacco Commission Grant to expand our program offerings to the Southwest Higher Education Center in Abingdon, VA. As a department, we feel strongly that training counselors in Southwest Virginia is critical. We were able to offer a second cohort with the grant, and we are thrilled to be able to continue to find innovative ways to support communities and schools in southwest Virginia. The Abingdon cohort will complete their internships experiences in K-12 schools in Southwest Virginia this academic year.

## Productivity of the Department of Counselor Education

Our program is viable and productive. We invest heavily in our students while they in our program. We care deeply about their counselor development and will continue to offer high quality training experiences that result in marketable and knowledgeable students. Our enrollment is currently 67 students (50 CMHC and 17 SC).

100% of our graduating students secure a job in the counseling field. Those that do not seek counseling employment typically chose to change their career paths.

### Summary of Assessment Results

Utilizing the Student Learning Outcome rubrics which are compiled every semester, the COED program is able to efficiently evaluate and measure students' successful attainment of CACREP standards. In each course, the department records the percentage of students who meet each standard assigned to that course and indicates the method of evaluating that standard. Among these standards, there are two Key Point Indicators (KPI's) assigned to 10 classes for a total of 20.

Each standard was met by at least 85% of the students in all KPIs.

### Initiatives in Counselor Education

We continue to develop and strengthen our connections, collaborations, and partnerships with other Radford University (RU) programs. We currently have a partnership with the Music Therapy master's program, and their students take our three counseling courses for their degree. We routinely support the School of Social Work and Psychology departments each semester as we also have students from those departments who take our courses. We work closely with the Career Services office in support of our COED 260 undergraduate course, titled "Seminar in Career Development."

We also continue our long-standing partnerships with agencies and organizations in the community, including Radford City Schools, Montgomery County Schools, Pulaski County schools, Integrated Behavioral Health programs, and New River Community Services Board.

### Curriculum Updates for 2024-2025

Due to a barrier with the timing of approval from the state for a 60-credit hour school counseling program, we were unable to accept a cohort of students for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years. This issue has been resolved and we are actively recruiting a new cohort for the 2025-2026 academic year. We are extremely proud of the dedication within our department in being able to develop a 60-credit hour program and are delighted to welcome a new cohort!

We continue to add additional information related to multicultural issues to our courses throughout the curriculum to ensure our students are best prepared for their future work in diverse communities.

### Looking Ahead to 2025-2026

We are looking forward to an exciting new year, as we train our students across two campuses, continue to work on our initiatives, and most importantly, train a new group of future counselors. Our strengths lie in our teaching, supervision, and clinical practice. We continue to be strong stewards of our profession, and students continue to learn the practice of counseling effectively. We also continue to work on providing opportunities for our department to explore issues of social justice and diversity in our field. Finally, we actively make use of our assessment processes to inform and improve our program.