Moving Forward with Fieldwork Assessment!

Kathryn K. Yamamoto, Ph.D., CRC (Hawai‘i Rehabilitation Counseling Program)

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa * College of Education * Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science

Introduction
The Hawai‘i Rehabilitation Counseling program (HRC) prepares graduate students to become successful practitioners and administrators in the field of vocational rehabilitation. This 48-credit distance education program leads to a MS degree in Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science with a specialization in Rehabilitation Counseling. The three clinical courses provide culminating student learning experiences through fieldwork in the HRC Program. They provide excellent direct evidence of student achievement of program learning outcomes. This project presents the program assessment refinement process, with the focus on the revision of the fieldwork supervisor evaluation form, so that the results are informative about program outcome achievement and actionable for program improvement.

Program Facts
Number of Faculty: 2 (plus 4 instructors)
Number of Students: 23
Number of Graduates: 7-8
Cohort based with new cohort of 10 students beginning each Fall

Project Goals
Goal 1: Streamline program’s Student Learning Outcomes
Goal 2: Update curriculum map
Goal 3: Refine clinical supervisors’ evaluation form to be in line with relevant SLOs and PLOs

Timeline
- Aug 2014: Aligned and consolidated original SLOs (n=139) with PLDs and CORE accreditation standards
- Sept 2014: Reviewed and updated curriculum map based on alignment with accreditation standards
- Oct 2014: Facilitated faculty meeting to identify and review SLOs that pertained to clinical courses
- Nov 2014: Drafted clinical supervisors’ evaluation forms to assess relevant SLOs
- Dec 2014: Drafted site supervisors to critique draft
- Spring 2015: Drafted revised evaluation form in two clinical courses (KRS 703R and KRS 734R)

Soliciting Key Voices
(Engaging Clinical Supervisors and Instructors)

To gather valuable, relevant, and timely data for this assessment and to promote updates to the fieldwork evaluation document, I chose to solicit and listen to the voices of accomplished professionals in the field who have served as clinical supervisors for the program. Two accomplishments individuals in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation (1 from public VR and 1 from private VR) reviewed and commented on the original assessment and updated draft. These individuals have each worked in the field of VR for over 15 years and continue to serve individuals with disabilities.

Allison Lee, MEd, CRC (State of Hawai‘i Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Hawai‘i Branch VR Administrator) “Overall, the form is easy to understand and complete. If I had to re-rate [student], I would give her 4’s instead of 5’s. ‘Ready for professional work’, but not ‘exceptional.’ Exceptional to me would be someone who has a lot more experience in the field, demonstrating the competencies.”

Laneille Yamane, MS, CRC, NCC, LMHCA (Private Rehabilitation Counselor) “…a profile and/or explanation of what is the ‘average student intern’ may help new site supervisors better chose their ratings.”

Project Outcomes
This assessment process provided an impetus for program faculty to evaluate current practices, determine areas of weakness, and take steps to improve practice. The process was personally inspiring as well as productive for the program in general. As faculty and community site supervisors were engaged in the process, this has led to increased discussion and engagement in the process of assessing student learning in the program. The revised assessment system:
- Is in line with CORE accreditation standards
- Is in line with the program’s goals and mission
- Assists instructional faculty to tailor curriculum to course outcomes
- Provides a user-friendly instrument to fieldwork supervisors

Recommendations
- Involve and engage other faculty and appropriate community players in the process of assessment.
- Revise assessment process on a regular basis (We plan to revisit this assessment after one year of implementation)

Next Steps
- Promote collaborative faculty discussion of results
- Use the results to enhance curriculum
- Revise process in one year

Original SLOs Related to Ethics (number =12)
1. Students can identify established rehabilitation counseling ethical standards for confidentiality and apply them to actual case situations.
2. Students can promote ethical decision-making and personal responsibility that is consistent with an individual’s culture, values, and beliefs.
3. Students can explain the practical implications of the CRCC Code of ethics as part of the rehabilitation counseling process.
4. Students can apply knowledge of ethical, legal, and cultural issues in research and evaluation

Revised PLO
Defined and developed a professional identity and the practice of ethical behavior.

Recruited clinical instructor and site supervisors to review and critique student evaluation form.

S N A P S H O T  O F  P R O C E S S

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Revise clinical assessment that were aligned with SLOs and accreditation standards