



**Counselor Education Program  
Annual Program Outcomes Report  
2024-2025**

**Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
and  
School Counseling**



**2025 CACREP Vital Statistics Report**  
**Master of Science in Counselor Education**  
**Clinical Mental Health Option**  
**School Counseling Option**

Western Connecticut State University is a public institution in the North Atlantic Region. We have two programs accredited under the 2016 CACREP standards – MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling (60 semester hours) and MS School Counseling (60 semester hours). CACREP national accreditation for the program extends to 2027. This survey is to be completed by all CACREP-accredited programs and must be publicly reported in a program outcomes report on the program website. Data for this report was received from Western’s Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

| <b>WCSU Student Demographics Unique Headcount in FY 2025</b> | <b>School Counseling</b> | <b>School Counseling</b> | <b>Clinical Mental Health</b> | <b>Clinical Mental Health</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Gender</b>                                                | Number                   | Percent                  | Number                        | Percent                       |
| Male                                                         | 7                        | 14                       | 25                            | 31                            |
| Female                                                       | 44                       | 86                       | 55                            | 69                            |
| Transgendered/Non-Conforming                                 | 0                        | 0                        | 0                             | 0                             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                 | 51                       | 100                      | 80                            | 100                           |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                                             | Number                   | Percent                  | Number                        | Percent                       |
| American Indian                                              | 0                        | 0                        | 0                             | 0                             |
| Asian                                                        | 1                        | 2                        | 3                             | 3                             |
| Black/ African American                                      | 1                        | 2                        | 2                             | 2                             |
| Hispanic/ Latino                                             | 7                        | 14                       | 7                             | 8                             |
| Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander                                   | 0                        | 0                        | 0                             | 0                             |
| White                                                        | 40                       | 78                       | 60                            | 75                            |
| Multiracial/ Two or more races                               | 0                        | 0                        | 4                             | 5                             |
| Other/Unknown                                                | 2                        | 4                        | 6                             | 7                             |
| Nonresident Alien                                            | 0                        | 0                        | 0                             | 0                             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                 | 51                       | 100                      | 80                            | 100                           |
| <b>WCSU Student Outcomes</b>                                 | <b>School Counseling</b> | <b>School Counseling</b> | <b>Clinical Mental Health</b> | <b>Clinical Mental Health</b> |
| Number Graduated in FY 2025                                  | 12                       |                          | 16                            |                               |
| Completion*                                                  |                          | 80%                      |                               | 82%                           |
| Certification/Licensure Eligibility                          |                          | 100%                     |                               | 100%                          |
| Job Placement**                                              |                          | 92%                      |                               | 94%                           |
| <b>Admissions Applications #</b>                             | 23                       |                          | 66                            |                               |
| * within three years of matriculation                        |                          |                          |                               |                               |
| ** within six months of graduation                           |                          |                          |                               |                               |

### **Counselor Education Program Annual Student Survey Report 2024-2025**

All students enrolled in the program were surveyed in May of the 2024-2025 academic year  
86 students responded

#### **Professional Membership and Engagement Questions**

The table below indicates the percentage of students who replied yes to each statement. Total n=86

| <b>Question</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>%</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| I am a member of a state clinical mental health counseling association or school counseling association                           | 78%      |
| I attended a state or regional clinical mental health counseling or school counseling conference since becoming a student at WCSU | 17%      |
| I am a member of a national clinical mental health counseling association or school counseling association                        | 62%      |
| I attended a national clinical mental health counseling or school counseling conference since becoming a student at WCSU          | 6%       |

#### **Faculty, Academic, University and Advisor Questions**

The table below indicates the percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement. Total n=86

| <b>Question</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>%</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Overall, faculty communicated course expectations clearly (in course syllabi and verbally).                                                                 | 90%      |
| Overall, faculty used a variety of teaching methods that helped me learn.                                                                                   | 93%      |
| Overall, faculty used a variety of assessment methods (e.g., tests, homework assignments, reports) effectively in determining if course objectives were met | 94%      |
| Overall faculty were responsive to my questions or concerns (in person, via e-mail, text, or phone)                                                         | 88%      |
| Overall faculty were knowledgeable in course content.                                                                                                       | 94%      |
| Overall faculty were prepared to teach course content.                                                                                                      | 95%      |
| Overall faculty were quality instructors.                                                                                                                   | 86%      |
| Faculty utilized university resources (e.g., library resources, classroom technology, academic                                                              | 86%      |

|                                                                                                                                                                             |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| databases, on-line access, software, labs) to effectively accomplish course objectives                                                                                      |     |
| From a learning perspective, the sequence of courses was well organized.                                                                                                    | 85% |
| Overall required courses supported my professional preparation.                                                                                                             | 91% |
| The university provided an adequate classroom environment (online and/or on campus).                                                                                        | 95% |
| The university provided appropriate adequate resources that I needed as a graduate student (e.g., library resources, computers, online access, up-to- date software, labs). | 86% |
| My advisor was accessible (i.e., in person, via e-mail, text, or phone).                                                                                                    | 87% |
| My advisor communicated advisement information.                                                                                                                             | 88% |
| My advisor communicated accurate advisement information.                                                                                                                    | 87% |
| I felt supported by my advisor.                                                                                                                                             | 85% |

### **Culture and Climate Questions**

The table below indicates the percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement. Total n=86

| <b>Question</b>                                                                                                     | <b>%</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| The Counselor Education Program fosters a sense of belonging and community among students (online and/or on campus) | 90%      |

The table below indicates the percentage of students who chose quite welcoming or extremely welcoming for each statement. Total n=86

| <b>Question</b>                                                     | <b>%</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| How welcoming have you found the Counselor Education Program to be? | 92%      |

The table below indicates the percentage of students who chose quite a bit of respect or a tremendous amount of respect for each statement. Total n=86

| <b>Question</b>                                                                               | <b>%</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| How much respect do other students in the Counselor Education Program show toward you?        | 94%      |
| How much respect does the faculty in the Counselor Education Program at WCSU show toward you? | 87%      |

The table below indicates the percentage of students who chose quite happy or extremely happy for the statement. Total n=86

| Question                                                    | %   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| How happy are you with your choice to be a student at WCSU? | 84% |

The table below indicates the percentage of students replied yes for the statement. Total n=86

| Question                                                                      | %   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Would you recommend this program to people interested in this field of study? | 81% |

### **Program Strengths and Areas for Growth**

Strengths:

Online format, flexibility in format, in person classes, the professors, supportive classmates, real world examples

Areas for Growth:

More in person classes, more electives, more information sessions about fieldwork and help finding a fieldwork site

### **Counselor Education Program Graduation Exit Survey Report for 2025 Graduates**

All graduates are required to complete this survey at the time of graduation.

The table below indicates the percentage of students who replied satisfied, very satisfied, or extremely satisfied with each statement. Total n=28

| <b>Question</b>                                                                                   | <b>%</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| How would you rate your satisfaction with the WCSU counseling program?                            | 97%      |
| How would you rate your satisfaction with your interactions with the counselor education faculty? | 93%      |

The table below indicates the percentage of students who replied prepared, very prepared, or extremely prepared with each statement. Total n=28

| <b>Question</b>                                                                                  | <b>%</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| How do you feel the course work you have taken thus far has prepared you to work as a counselor? | 93%      |

The table below indicates the percentage of students who replied yes. Total n=28

| <b>Question</b>                                                                      | <b>%</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Would you recommend the WCSU Counselor Education Program to a colleague?             | 97%      |
| The Counselor Education Program at WCSU was a good value for my investment.          | 97%      |
| Have you found employment as a counselor in your specialty area prior to graduation? | 47%      |

## **Counselor Education Program Annual Alumni (6 Months Post Graduation) Survey Report**

All alumni who graduated in 2025 were asked to complete the survey

20 out of 28 students who graduated responded

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Alumni Responses 50%

School Counseling Alumni Responses 50%

### **Employment Questions**

The following employment questions were asked of all alumni who graduated in 2025.

Total n=20

| <b>Question</b>                                                                                           | <b>%</b>                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Are you currently employed?                                                                               | Yes 95%<br>No 5%                                                                                                                                                          |
| Are you employed as a counselor?                                                                          | Yes 75%<br>No 8%                                                                                                                                                          |
| Did your practicum or internship organization hire you directly?                                          | Yes 45%<br>No 55%                                                                                                                                                         |
| How long were you actively seeking your first post-degree job before you found employment as a counselor? | I obtained employed as a counselor before graduation: 40%<br>Within 3 months: 40%<br>Within 6 months: 0%<br>I am still looking for a job: 5%<br>I did not seek a job: 15% |

### **Licensure/Certification Question**

The table below indicates the percentage of students who replied passed on the first try, passed on the second try, did not take the exam yet, or did not need to take an exam. Total n=20

| <b>Question</b>                                                                                         | <b>%</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| If you have taken a licensure/certification exam...<br>How many times did it take you to pass the exam? | Passed on the first try: 40%<br>Passed on the second try: 0%<br>I have taken the exam two times and have not passed yet: 0%<br>I have not taken the exam yet: 35%<br>I did not need to take an exam: 25% |

### **Professional Membership and Engagement Questions**

The table below indicates the percentage of students who replied yes to each statement. Total n=20

| <b>Question</b>                                                                                            | <b>%</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| I am a member of a state clinical mental health counseling association or school counseling association    | 75%      |
| I am a member of a national clinical mental health counseling association or school counseling association | 60%      |

### Professional Preparation Questions

The table below indicates the percentage of students who selected good, very good, or excellent. Total n=20

| Question                                                                                                                 | %   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| How would you describe the overall professional preparation that you received from the WCSU Counselor Education Program? | 85% |

The table below indicates the percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement. Total n=20

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                 | %   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you to identify as a professional counselor and apply ethical standards?                                                                                | 90% |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you with the counseling skills necessary to develop, maintain, and manage a helping relationship?                                                       | 90% |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program provide you with the knowledge and skills necessary to be a successful Clinical Mental Health Counselor and/or School Counselor?                                | 90% |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you with the ability to research evidence-based practices and create interventions for counseling issues?                                               | 80% |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you with the career theory knowledge to use contemporary approaches in career assessment and practice?                                                  | 75% |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you with skills and knowledge in group counseling and group work?                                                                                       | 90% |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you to apply multicultural competencies in both individual and group counseling settings?                                                               | 85% |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you to select, conduct, and interpret assessments, and to use the data to formulate culturally and developmentally appropriate goals and interventions? | 85% |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you with dispositions in line with the humanistic, legal, and ethical parameters of the counseling profession?                                          | 85% |



### Program Strengths and Areas for Growth

Strengths: Real world issues, trauma informed, Saturday Simulations, interview preparation, schedule of classes, great communication with professors and help, great professors, highly skilled guest speakers, practicum and internship placements, attention to cultural sensitivity

Areas for Growth: More experience with 504 plans, more training on interventions, diagnosing, and evidence-based treatments, more in person, more case formulation

### Employer Evaluation Data 2024-2025

Six months after graduation, employers were asked to rate the following areas related to the employee's level of preparedness for their professional role. The table below indicates the percentage of employees rated as good or excellent within each area.

Only two supervisors responded

Total n=2

| Foundational Counseling Curriculum Areas                       | %    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical/Legal Practice | 100% |
| Social and Cultural Identities and Experiences                 | 100% |
| Lifespan Development                                           | 100% |
| Career Development                                             | 100% |
| Counseling Practice and Relationships                          | 100% |
| Group Counseling and Group Work                                | 100% |
| Assessment and Diagnostic Processes                            | 50%  |
| Research and Program Evaluation                                | 50%  |
| Trauma-Informed Counseling and/or Crisis Management            | 100% |

| Overall Counseling Skills, Knowledge & Dispositions | %    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|
| Overall Counseling Knowledge                        | 100% |
| Overall Counseling Skills                           | 100% |
| Overall Counseling Professional Dispositions        | 100% |

### Program Strengths and Areas for Growth

What strengths (if any) of the WCSU Counselor Education Program have you identified through the employee's performance?

Excellent critical thinking and assessment skills taught, important focus on person-centered counseling

What areas of improvement (if any) for the WCSU Counselor Education Program have you identified through the employee's performance?

Additional training on assessments and scoring

## Counselor Education Program Annual Alumni (One Year Post Graduation) Survey Analysis Report

All alumni who graduated in 2024 were asked to complete the survey

26 out of 33 students who graduated responded.

School Counseling Alumni Responses 54%

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Alumni Responses 46%

### Employment Questions

Total n=26

| Question                                                                                                  | %                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Are you employed as a counselor?                                                                          | Yes 92%<br>No 8%                                                                                                                                                   |
| Did your practicum or internship organization hire you directly?                                          | Yes 31%<br>No 69%                                                                                                                                                  |
| How long were you actively seeking your first post-degree job before you found employment as a counselor? | I obtained employed as a counselor before graduation: 35%<br>Within 3 months: 38%<br>Within 6 months: 12%<br>Within 1 year: 8%<br>I am still looking for a job: 8% |

### Licensure/Certification Question

The table below indicates the percentage of students who replied passed on the first try, passed on the second try, I have taken the exam two times and have not passed yet, I have not taken the exam yet, or I did not need to take an exam. Total n=26

| Question                                                                                                | %                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| If you have taken a licensure/certification exam...<br>How many times did it take you to pass the exam? | Passed on the first try: 42%<br>Passed on the second try: 8%<br>I have taken the exam two times and have not passed yet: 0%<br>I have not taken the exam yet: 15%<br>I did not need to take an exam: 35% |

### Professional Membership and Engagement Questions

The table below indicates the percentage of students who replied yes to each statement. Total n=26

| Question                                                                                                   | %   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| I am a member of a state clinical mental health counseling association or school counseling association    | 65% |
| I am a member of a national clinical mental health counseling association or school counseling association | 58% |

### Professional Preparation Questions

The table below indicates the percentage of students who selected good, very good, or excellent. Total n=26

| Question                                                                                                                 | %   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| How would you describe the overall professional preparation that you received from the WCSU Counselor Education Program? | 88% |

The table below indicates the percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement. Total n=26

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                 | %    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you to identify as a professional counselor and apply ethical standards?                                                                                | 96%  |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you with the counseling skills necessary to develop, maintain, and manage a helping relationship?                                                       | 100% |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program provide you with the knowledge and skills necessary to be a successful Clinical Mental Health Counselor and/or School Counselor?                                | 84%  |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you with the ability to research evidence-based practices and create interventions for counseling issues?                                               | 85%  |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you with the career theory knowledge to use contemporary approaches in career assessment and practice?                                                  | 77%  |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you with skills and knowledge in group counseling and group work?                                                                                       | 96%  |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you to apply multicultural competencies in both individual and group counseling settings?                                                               | 92%  |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you to select, conduct, and interpret assessments, and to use the data to formulate culturally and developmentally appropriate goals and interventions? | 77%  |
| Did the WCSU Counselor Education Program prepare you with dispositions in line with the humanistic, legal, and ethical parameters of the counseling profession?                                          | 89%  |

**Program Strengths and Areas for Growth**

Program Strengths: Knowledgeable and supportive professors, cultural competence, real world discussions in practicum and internship, group counseling

Areas for Growth: Assistance with finding employment, more theories and techniques, more case notes, more assistance with finding fieldwork sites, more information on 504 plans, more in person classes