Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program
Valparaiso University
2026 Annual Report
For Academic Year 2025-2026

Program Review Findings

Overall achievement across core competencies remains strong, with the majority of Key Performance Indicators (KPI_A, C, D, E, and H) fully meeting program standards. Clinical site supervisors consistently rated students across all cohorts at intermediate to mastery levels, demonstrating solid foundational knowledge and skill development across primary learning domains.

Identified Deficits & Data Constraints

Despite overall success, key deficits were identified in Group Counseling (KPI_F) and Diagnostic and Clinical Assessment Skills (KPI_G). For KPI_F, 38 students received "N/A" supervisor ratings due to a lack of group therapy opportunities at clinical sites, bringing the overall pass rate to 67.80%, below the 80% program target. Similarly, KPI_G was partially met; while evaluated students showed proficiency, 10 students lacked faculty annual evaluation ratings, resulting in a 70.27% pass rate. Additionally, students in COUN688 accounted for 86% of those failing to meet minimum benchmark scores in diagnostic assessments.
Evaluation efforts were further constrained by missing data, including uncollected Case Conference Assessments for COUN686 ($n = 9$), delayed Stakeholder Assessments, and unrecorded annual faculty evaluation ratings.

Progress Across Cohorts

Student performance demonstrated consistent growth as cohorts progressed through the curriculum from Cohort 1 to Cohort 3, as well as across sequential coursework from COUN685 through COUN688. Notably, second year students in KPI_A showed significant progress over first year students, increasing benchmark attainment from 72.31% to 88.20%.

Actionable Next Steps

To address recurring programmatic gaps and missing data, the program will implement the following actions:

1. Expand hands-on opportunities for students in diagnosis and group therapy across clinical placement sites.
2. Standardize assessment rubrics across courses, with specific priority on COUN686 Case Conference Assessments.
3. Administer and enforce compliance for Fall Key Professional Dispositions and Stakeholder Assessment evaluations.