

Graduates Survey Results

The School Counseling Program was designed to prepare you as a Professional School Counselor. Please circle the number that is representative of the degree to which you agree with each statement.

1 = Strongly Disagree (SD) 2 = Moderately Disagree (MD) 3 = Agree (A) 4 = Moderately Agree (MA) 5 = Strongly Agree (SA)					
Percent in each category (n=16)					The School Counseling Program at Valdosta State University helped me to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to:
SA	MA	A	MD	SD	
41	46	13			1. increase students' social/emotional development and career preparedness
29	43	18			2. enhance students' academic success
25	50	25			3. advocate for school policies, programs, and services that are equitable and responsive to cultural differences among students
19	30	38	13		4. coordinate a school to transition plan for each student
47	33	20			5. provide leadership in the development, implementation, evaluation and revision of a comprehensive school counseling plan that contributes to school renewal by promoting increased academic success, career preparedness, and social/emotional development for all students.
28	43	18	<1 (.06)		6. use student outcome data to facilitate student academic success.
56	18	25			7. provide individual and group counseling that promote academic success, social/emotional development, and career preparedness for all students.
66	20	14			8. provide classroom guidance that promote academic success, social/emotional development, and career preparedness for all students.

19	56	25			9. assess student needs and make appropriate referrals to school and/or community resources.
1 = Strongly Disagree (SD) 2 = Moderately Disagree (MD) 3 = Agree (A) 4 = Moderately Agree (MA) 5 = Strongly Agree (SA)					
Percent in each category (n=19)					10. apply the content knowledge in each of the CACREP eight core areas: Professional Identity and Orientation Social and Cultural Diversity Human Growth and Development Career Development Helping Relationships Group Work Assessment and Evaluation Research and Program Evaluation
SA	MA	A	MD	SD	
35	42	22			
41	58	1			
46	53	1			
29	55	16			
46	53	1			
53	46	1			
29	49	20			
28	43	28			
37	43	18			11. collaborate with other professionals in the development of staff training, family support, and appropriate community initiatives that address student needs.

1 = Strongly Disagree (SD) 2 = Moderately Disagree (MD) 3 = Agree (A)					
4 = Moderately Agree (MA) 5 = Strongly Agree (SA)					
					The School Counseling Program at Valdosta State University helped me to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to:
SA	MA	A	MD	SD	
43	37	18			12. Implement organizational tasks when required by my job responsibilities.
43	37	18			13. Communicate information, ideas, and contrasting points of view in an effective and professional manner
53	46	1			14. Assume a leadership role in my profession
33	65	1			15. Share my knowledge and expertise with others in my profession and community
51	32	15			16. Create and maintain a safe environment for students
56	31	12			17. Foster and maintain professional relationships
37	43	18			18. Solve problems encountered in my professional practice
37	37	12	12		19. Use technology in professional practice
1 = Strongly Disagree (SD) 2 = Moderately Disagree (MD) 3 = Agree (A)					
4 = Moderately Agree (MA) 5 = Strongly Agree (SA)					
SA	MA	A	MD	SD	
58	27	14			20. Address issues of exceptionality and cultural diversity

50	25	25			21. Reflect on my own capabilities and dispositions and how these affect my effectiveness as a professional school counselor
39	39	19	1		22. Use a variety of formal and informal assessments to evaluate my performance and the performance of others
Percent in each category (n=18)					Overall Program Evaluation: Please indicate your degree of agreement with the following statements
SA MA A MD SD					
70	18	12			23. The school counseling program at VSU provided the educational and experiential experiences I needed for certification/licensure.
56	18	25			24. The school counseling program at VSU provided the skills I needed for employment and/or further employment.
52	46	1			25. My overall degree of satisfaction with the knowledge and skills I gained in the School Counseling Program at VSU is:
62	18	18			26. My field experiences prepared me for employment as a school counselor.
					Overall Faculty Evaluation: Please indicate your degree of agreement with the following statements
SA MA A MD SD					
75	12	12			27. During the program, I developed a positive working relationship with one or more counseling faculty members.
86	1	13			28. With the assistance of the counseling faculty, I progressed both academically and professionally.
43	37	18			29. With the assistance of the counseling faculty, I increased my ability to understand and use research in counseling.
79	17	1	1		30. I developed positive relationships with other students in the counseling program.
58	20	20	1		31. One or more faculty members took a genuine interest in my professional growth.

SA	MA	A	MD	SD	
62	26	12			32. While in the program, I had the opportunity to apply what I learned in the classroom to actual practice.
59	39	1			33. I think I was enrolled in a quality counseling program.
71	26	1	1		34. The counseling professors are competent as instructors and internship supervisors.
62	25	12	1		35. My advisor was helpful in directing my plan of study.
56	31	12			36. My advisor was available during scheduled office hours.

What changes would you suggest that we make in the program?

I think there should be one class or workshop that prepares one for how to go about getting certification and/or licensure similar to what is available in the Marriage and Family Therapy program.

I answered the above questions based off of my job. I am not a school counselor. My job however does have counseling proponents and I have implemented some of my personal/social activities with my residents.

More information on dealing with specific situations...abuse, grief, homeless, etc. Also, more how to use or get in touch with community resources.

Overall, I LOVED VSU's Counseling Program. I gained a great deal of knowledge and skills that I now use in my school. I also am still very close to friends I met in this program. Great life experiences that I will always carry with me.

Overall I felt the School Counseling program prepared me to be a successful school counselor. However, when I got into the school counseling profession I realized I was unprepared in areas that aren't really "counseling duties," but that most counselors in south Georgia are in charge of or at least part of. A few examples of this would be: Response to Intervention, 504 individual accommodation plans, Documentation requirements of the job, Court cases (truancy, DFCS, Custody, etc.), Standardized testing, Making time for actual counseling when we have so many other responsibilities, etc.

As a part of one of the internships, the student should be required to work with the person that handles testing, accommodations, Special Education, create a mock IEP and go through the process.

I would have like to receive more experience in dealing with students with specific issues such as ADHD/ADD and behavioral problems. I would have like more experience in grief/death and loss. I also would have like more experience in classroom management skills.

Overall I am very happy with my time in the school counseling program. However, there are several things I'm encountering as a professional that I wish I had learned more about as a student. One is facilitating parent conferences. This is something I didn't do a student, and I do regularly as a professional. Another is developing specific interventions and monitoring procedures for students who aren't performing as we would like them to do academically.

I went into the school counseling program with a degree that was unrelated to the education field. One class that would have been beneficial to have would have been a classroom management class. I am confident in my ability to take charge in the classroom, and I have not had any problems with classroom management, however, it still would have been a very helpful class to have under my belt.

With this being my 3rd year middle school counseling, I think I needed more administrative experience to get a better feel for how school counselors work with assistant principals. There's been a principal change and 2 AP changes since I've started and this has had a big impact on the direction of the counseling department. And since I don't have experience in the classroom, I don't find myself to be very effective when trying to help kids improve their academic success...Most of the time my suggestions are things that have already been suggested by the classroom teachers.