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The Counseling Department is one of six academic units within the College of Education and one of two departments providing graduate level training only. The purpose of the Counseling Department is to prepare a diverse student population at the Master's Degree level (recognized as the terminal practitioner degree) for professional service as school counselors, professional mental health counselors, student affairs professionals and/or advanced study. Our department houses one of only three professional counseling programs in Nebraska accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), a division of the American Counseling Association, and the counseling department in the state that holds accreditation for both the School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling specializations. The Counseling program is also accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE/CAEP). These accreditations illustrate the program's adherence and commitment to the highest academic and professional standards in the counseling profession.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha's Role and Mission Statement approved by the Board of Regents in 1990, designates UNO as the major provider of educational opportunities in the metropolitan Omaha area. The following excerpt from the Board's statement summarizes UNO's mission:

UNO exists for the purpose of providing appropriate educational opportunities, discovering and disseminating knowledge through research and teaching, and offering public service to the citizens of the State, particularly the residents of the Omaha metropolitan area. Through these traditional, interdependent, and mutually-reinforcing functions, the faculty of the University of Nebraska at Omaha enrich the lives of students; advance the frontiers of knowledge; and contribute to the social, cultural, international and economic development of the community, State and region.

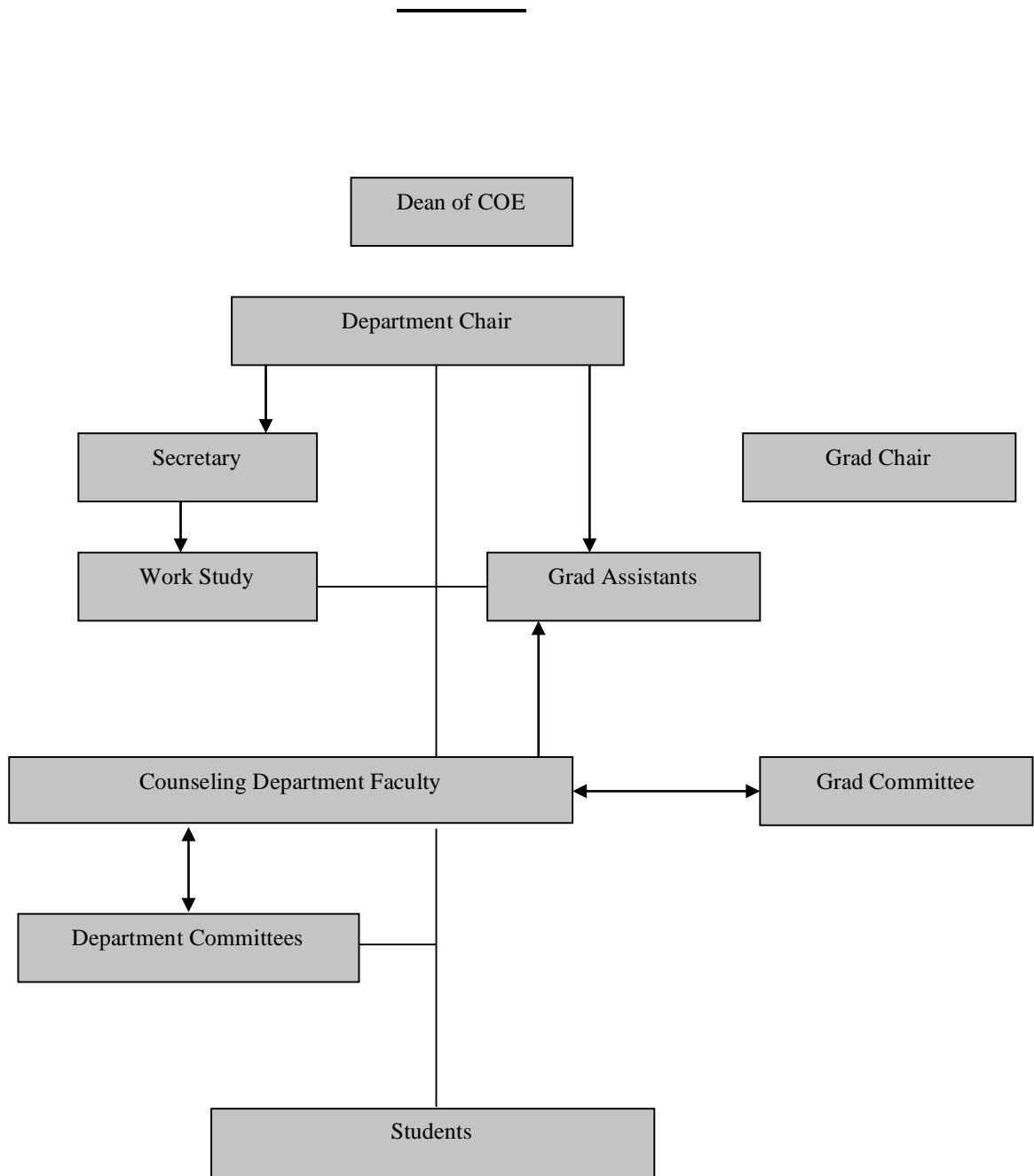
Importantly, the Comprehensive Statewide Plan

members of the Omaha metropolitan community specifically-and Nebraska and the nation at large. The vast majority of the Counseling Department's graduates in each of the three specialization areas seek and obtain professional employment in the Omaha metropolitan area. Others seek to pursue post-graduate education in counselor education, psychology, or higher education administration at programs across the country.

The mission of the UNO Counseling Department is to provide high quality academic and clinical preparation leading to eligibility for licensure and certification as professional counselors. Through a rigorous, evidence-based curriculum designed to train critical thinkers and reflective practitioners, candidates are prepared to work with diverse clients across multiple professional settings and engage and remain active as advocates and future leaders within and for the counseling profession and those we serve.

UNO's Counseling Department is the only graduate program in Nebraska offering two CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) accredited degree programs (Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling). CACREP is the accrediting body of the American Counseling Association and is evidence of an attitude and philosophy that rigorous, evidence-based programs of excellence remain the fundamental goal. Because of our commitment to a rigorous curriculum and student-centered focus, UNO Counseling students earn degrees that offer maximum licensure portability while enjoying the benefit of public school tuition rates.

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1. The Counseling Department successfully completed our major curriculum revision and submitted all revisions for approval (since approved) for courses to begin Fall 2017. (See Item 5: Highlights of the Year for details)
 2. Core counseling faculty publications for 2016 included





Department/School:

Program Title:

Program Description:



Department/School:

Program Title:

Department/School:

The counseling department highlights expected parameters of ethical and professional behavior as a requirement for continued enrollment in the program. These parameters are stated during the new student orientation, in course syllabi, field placement manuals, and in the department's student handbook along University and Department policies related to addressing ethical concerns or issues during both the didactic and clinical portions of their program. All faculty within the UNO Counseling Department are required to adhere to the ethical codes of the American Counseling Association, American School Counseling Association, and/or Association for Counselor Educational and Supervision. Each of these involves professional, ethical, and legal best practices with clients, students, supervisees, and other professionals.

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- The Counseling Department undertook a major curriculum revision during the 2016 academic year. All changes were unanimously agreed on by the faculty multiple faculty discussions concerning the needs, vision, mission, and goals of each specialization and the department as a whole. The department believes these changes build on past successes and create a forward thinking, student-centered, curriculum that meets and exceeds all CACREP standards. All revisions were through appropriate UNO committees, are set to begin fall 2017, and are empirically grounded.

Key aspects of the process are listed here:

1. The department engaged in a systematic review of current curriculum map and, as a result, re-designed the curriculum map to reflect a more intentional and consistent curriculum. This includes course revisions, course additions, improved/CACREP aligned rubrics, and additional distance learning courses when appropriate.
2. The School Counseling curriculum added several CACREP core standards as part of an overall curriculum revision include additional core CACREP standards.

The full curriculum revisions are listed below.

! Created 3 credit

! Created 3 credit

by consolidating COUN 8050 (Intro to SC) & COUN 8620 (Survey Issue in SC).

! Created 3 Credit

! Created 3 credit

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curriculum

from School Counseling

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: Counseling engaged in two significant revisions of the curriculum map during the academic year 2016. As part of this process, faculty discussed and placed or relocated CACREP standards (i.e., student learning outcomes/SLO's) within the context of the revised curriculum slated to begin fall 2017.

Core and adjunct faculty revised their course syllabi and assignments to accommodate changes to the curriculum revision stated above and in response to student course evaluations.

: Both core and adjunct faculty have worked closely with IDEAS Room/Livertext coordinator Kim Gangwish on rubric development/improvement. Core faculty have held several meetings regarding rubric design. In conjunction with input from Dr. Connie Schafer, the counseling faculty has revised their rubric design for fall 2017 from a 4 to 3 point rubric. Discussions with Kim Gangwish and Dr. Schafer have also led to subtle rubric design changes in order to ensure all SLO's are assessed in conjunction with program assessment needs.

: Beginning Fall, 2016, core faculty have been integrated 1 course per semester into Livertext in order to have all courses they teach integrated into Livertext by Fall 2016. This staggered approach is used to ensure courses are designed and utilized in a manner that allows data to be collected and analyzed for program improvement and development curri

: The Counseling Department continues to improve its delivery of hybrid courses to students. As such, we continue to work in partnership with the School of Social Work to ensure students have access to the hybrid courses and that all hybrid courses remain aligned with all necessary CACREP standards.

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The School Counseling program's practicum and internship courses continued to utilize the UNO electronic portfolio for documenting hours and assessing student learning outcomes.

The revised school counseling curriculum addresses previous gaps in courses related to career counseling/college preparation. These additions were recognized through faculty discussions regarding CACREP standards and bolstered by anecdotal discussions between school counseling faculty and several administrators, staff, and teachers in the Omaha public schools and surrounding metro school districts.

Madeline Moore, a M.S. student in CMHC, became the first student from Upsilon Nu Omicron, the department's Chi Sigma Iota charter, to have her proposal accepted to present at the 2017 American Counseling Association's national conference** through the CSI exception.

**Maddie also had a proposal accepted at the 2016 Association of Counselor Education and Supervision conference, the national conference for counselor educators.

Department Chair provided funding from BHECN grant for student poster boards for all students presenting research at the Nebraska Counseling Association conference in Fall 2016 semester.

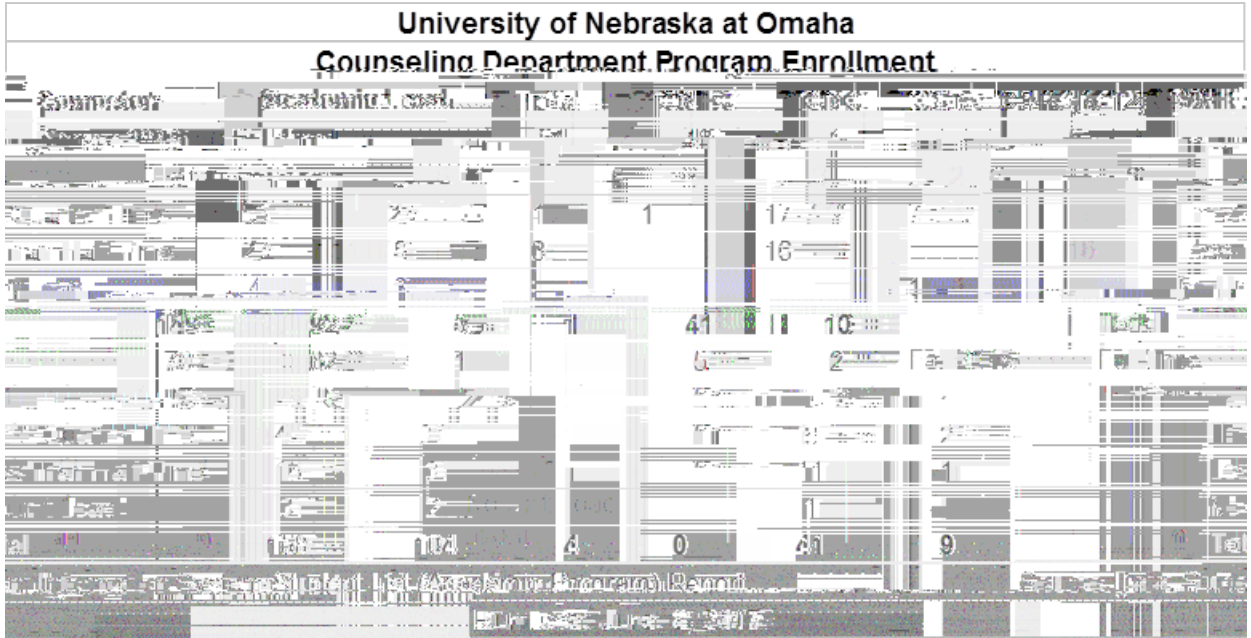
The department continues to promote UNO's Research and Activity Fair, with Dr. Bjornsen and Dr. Luther serving as judges this year. In addition:

Students completing a thesis are now expected to submit their proposal for presentation at the Research & Activity Fair.

This year, two CMHC students presented their thesis proposals at the Fair, the first two to do so.

A "faculty 411" section continues to be included in each departmental

Dr. Luther (co-



Spring-Summer-Fall 2016	Total	CMHC	School	Student Affairs
Graduates	37	24	9	4

- : Department continues to expand site placements for students that provide opportunities at all levels of care (clinical) and all educational levels (P-12). Specifically, advanced students enrolled in practicum and internship courses continue to have an extensive range of site placements in school, clinical mental health counseling, and student affairs settings. Placements sites include opportunities for students to work in settings and with clients from across the demographic spectrum, include minority and underserved populations, correctional facilities, school systems with distinct free and reduced lunch %'s, as well as hospitals and for-and non-profit mental health agencies serving clients with varying types and degrees of emotional and psychological issues and concerns.

- : Counseling faculty continue to collaborate with area school districts to recruit prospective school counselors who are currently serving in teaching positions. The recruiting sessions were held at area district offices and school sites. This year our discussion also included the impending (now approved to begin August 2017) secondary routes to certification as NE school counselor. Specifically, students with a non-teaching bachelor's degree are now eligible, with 12 additional credits, to gain certification as a school counselor beginning Fall 2017.

The Counseling faculty continues to recognize need to diversify both our student body and faculty and continues to work with our advisory committee, program stakeholders, and other interested parties on ways to diversify our student body and faculty.

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The Counseling Department's homepage underwent a major revision during the summer semester, with a focus on clarity, depth, and breadth of our mission. Examples include posting of program mission and vision (w/link o COE vision and mission), required documents (field placement manuals, programs of study, etc.), links within the website were revised to provide ease of use, and content regarding admissions and other departmental processes/requirements. Anecdotal feedback from faculty and applicants suggests the revision was very effective. Data from recent COEA meeting indicating counseling department website was second more accessed COE department website.

The Vision and Mission of COE are communicated through the department's focus on providing programs and experiences that align with the stated COE and UNO Mission and Vision. These are communicated through our CACREP accredited curriculum, focus on personal as well as professional development throughout the program, and an increased focus and expectation for scholarship and research at the regional, national, and

The Community Counseling Clinic is a service of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Graduate Counseling Department, a part of the College of Education. The Counseling Department provides graduate students with a quality education, part of which is supplied by their practicum experiences within the Clinic. The clinic is staffed by graduate students in the UNO Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialization. These students have completed specified pre-requisite courses that ground them in the counseling skills and knowledge necessary to prepare them to begin providing direct client services under the supervision of department faculty and/or licensed mental health practitioners (w/ valid NE license(s)). The Department Chair serves as the Clinic Director, with additional clinical supervision from department faculty serving as practicum instructors and/or site supervisors. Further, a licensed counseling professional serves as the clinic supervisor during open clinic hours.

The UNO Community Counseling Clinic is among the most modern stand-alone graduate level counselor training facilities in the country. This year the Department Chair, in conjunction with the new Clinic Supervisor and clinical faculty, continue to assess and revise clinic documentation, policies, and procedures. In doing so, several revisions were made to clinic documents, policies, and procedures in order to create a clinic/clinical experience for students that, to the extent possible, parallels a community agency mental health clinic in form and function. One notable addition is the increased data collection role of the clinic supervisor. More specifically, the department will be expanding data collection to improve data on number of new clients, referral source, no-show rate, cancellation rate, payments, and client survey of clinic and their counselor-in-training. This data will be instrumental in helping the department assess the clinic's areas of strength and concern

Clinic Fee Schedule*			
*Fee was implemented for only Summer/Fall 2016 semesters			
Year	2015	2016	2017
Individual Counseling	Free to current UNO students \$5 non-UNO student/community member	\$10 fee for all individual sessions.	Same as 2016
Couples Counseling	Free to UNO student \$10 per couple	\$20 fee for all couples	Same as 2016
Initial Intake Session	Free to UNO student \$5 non-student/community members	\$10 fee for all individual \$20 fee for all couple	Same as 2016

The data below reflects clinic usage for 2016. Beginning in January 2017, the clinic expanded data collection to include client cancellations and “no-shows”. In short, a clearer picture of clinic services/usage will be available in the 2017 annual report.

125 total client sessions (15 Students). It should be noted that these three semesters averaged 5 students. These lower numbers were consistent with the purposeful reduction in enrollment aligned with our 2015 CACREP site visit. These numbers have now rebounded as will be noted on the 2017 annual report.

125 total clients/15 students is mean of just over 8 clients, a solid case load for practicum students experiencing their initial clinical experience.

600 (15 students X 40 direct hours)

In addition to our current referral partners (i.e., UNO Counseling Services), new referral sources continue to be developed. This year new referral sources include:

1. Nebraska Medicine
2. Douglas County Corrections
3. Behavioral Health Education Consortium of Nebraska (BHECN)
4. Several Independent Private practitioners
5. Metropolitan Community College¹²⁵

Overall, the UNO Community Clinic continues to provide students with an excellent training opportunity in a modern facility found among only a small number of counselor education programs significant strides this year and expects the trend to continue next year. As awareness of our services expands in and around UNO and the metro region, so to do the training opportunities for our students. For citizens in the metro, this expansion also translates to more access to low-cost, quality mental health care.

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- a. The Counseling Department will complete and submit the additional CACREP standards needed to attain the additional 6 year accreditation.
 - b. The Counseling Department will continue designing new rubrics and syllabi to correspond with the curriculum map that was revised in Fall 2015 and finalized in Spring 2016.
 - c. The Counseling Department will expand use of Livetext across all courses, with attention to rubric develop designed to facilitate program assessment, development, and improvement.
 - d. The Counseling Department will utilize Livetext data to inform CACREP accreditation report.
 - e. The Counseling Department will continue to review and, when appropriate, revise UNO Community Counseling Clinic policies and procedures to ensure best practices and provide quality, low-cost counseling services to citizens of the Omaha metro community.
 - f. The Counseling Department will continue to review quality and quantity of hybrid and online courses when they are consistent with the vision and mission of the department and COE.
 - g. The Counseling Department will conduct ongoing assessments of implications of curriculum revisions that begin in Fall 2017-

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NOTE: The Office of Academic Affairs uses this information to document campus and COE engagement activities for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Please include activities that occur between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

1. The UNO Counseling Department sponsors an annual Supervision Seminar as part of their CACREP accreditation. These seminars range from 2-4 hours and provide education and training in areas surrounding the provision of clinical and administrative supervision to counselor trainees and licensed mental health practitioners. Seminars are slated independently for clinical mental health and school counselors, respectively.
2. CSI chapter Upsilon Nu Omicron will continue to identify community partnerships consistent with the academic and service mission of Chi Sigma Iota. Potential outcomes of their efforts could be, but are not limited to, volunteer opportunities for students, the development of an on-going partnership between UNO and community mental health providers and schools, and opportunities for students to gain research, advocacy, and leadership experience.
 - a. The theme of these partnerships or service learning activities to center primarily on advocacy and professional leadership.
3. Counseling faculty provided seminars on Wellness as part of Graduate Studies student series. These presentations focus on conceptualizing wellness as a holistic concept and creating a wellness lifestyle that can reduce stress, improve health and relationships, and improve overall wellbeing.
4. The UNO Counseling Department will continue to develop our partnership with UNMC and, specifically, with the Behavioral Health Education Consortium of Nebraska (BHECN), a partnership that has provided, to date, 13 HRSA grant funded internships for UNO Counseling students.
5. Counseling faculty will continue to build relationships with Omaha Police Department, Douglas County Corrections and Douglas County Sheriff's department with the goal of developing future research projects.
6. Counseling faculty will continue to develop relationship with local non-profit A Time to Heal in order to complete anticipated collaborative research project.