



### School Counseling Program Evaluation Comments 2020-2022

1. Overall I had a wonderful experience in the program. Some of my lack of knowledge can be attributed to the combined school and clinical coursework that focused predominantly on clinical work. I do however feel I received and sought out the knowledge I needed through other school counseling coursework.
2. It was apparent from the beginning that the faculty have a genuine interest in the success of students enrolled in the graduate counseling program at Xavier. I feel like the reputation of the program has opened doors to opportunities outside of XU. The program does not remain stagnant...it continues to evolve. It's difficult to manage the components of school counseling and clinical counseling under one umbrella. I feel like efforts are in place to address the differences between school & clinical and provide the best experience for a student who is on either track. Also, in the school path, there could be more structure around the 9.0 hours of electives that are required for graduation.
3. Overall, I had a great experience with the school counseling program. I do feel that I have a lack of knowledge regarding the education side of school counseling, and would like to have taken a class educating me on the basics of how schools are operated. Other than that, I am happy with the knowledge received from this program.
4. Areas of strength are found in the intro and advanced school counselor courses. I found that both of these classes facilitated helpful conversations, collaborations, and understanding of the profession. I also feel like psych/achievement testing, special edu ID, school law, ethics, and career counseling have been very instrumental in my success at practicum and internship. Pre-prac was great, too, since I was able to practice my skills and receive instant feedback in a safe (judgment-free) environment. I'm sure as time goes on, more of my course work will show itself useful in my practice. My only gripes with XU's counseling program is the 9 hours of electives needed to graduate. I have tried to take courses/workshops relevant to school counseling but most are offered in summer, which can be a difficult time to schedule around. I believe the program could benefit from teaching a course on classroom environment/teaching methods and counselor skills building re: psycho-educating on executive functioning/organizational techniques/academic success strategies. The intro to college counseling course could also benefit by being longer (more than 1 credit hour). Another area that I feel the program could touch on is 504 coordinating. I know it's not in ASCA, but that is not the professional reality and it would be better to prepare for this in the safety of classroom environment rather than on site, in my opinion. I also wish I could have taken a workshop on grief counseling. We touch on the subject a little during lifespan and crisis, but it would be nice to have a workshop related to this topic. Overall, I feel as if Xavier has done a wonderful job in preparing me (pandemic and all) to become a competent and professional school counselor!

5. Being in the program has been a tremendous blessing. I am so grateful for the professors I have had and my experiences within the program. I would recommend it over and over again!
6. I believe that I received a thorough education in the field of counseling over the course of my program. The program evolved during my experience as a graduate student, and although it was extra work, I am grateful for what I learned and its application during my practicum and internship. Also, I truly appreciate the support that the administration offered to me during these years at Xavier. Without their encouragement and patience as I juggled life and school I would not have made it. Thank you for believing in me and all of your help.
7. I think it is a great program overall with great professors who care about their students. I've learned a great deal throughout the program. There were a handful of times however, in certain courses that both clinical and school counseling folks had to take, that felt like it was geared toward clinical folks and was difficult to apply to school counseling.
8. The program was a tremendous blessing in my life and I grew not only professionally, but personally. I would choose it over and over again!
9. Tevera needs work.
10. I feel that if I was not currently working in a school setting I would be very lost on what school counselors actually do. There was very little prep or understanding of the role school counselors take on. The program sets you up to believe school counselors are actually able to have counseling sessions 80% of the time when this is not the reality for most schools.
11. I wish there was a greater emphasis on the school counseling program within our courses. Could it be possible to group the school counselors together when completing classes, even earlier within the program, to help tailor courses to the students working towards school counseling? In many classes, I have felt that the presentation of materials have been geared towards clinical students.
12. The program has amazing professors that truly care about their students. Most classes allowed for holistic growth as a counseling student and I believe the quality of the program as a whole is excellent. If there is one thing I think that could improve the program, it's to have more separate courses between the clinical mental health counseling and school counseling tracks.
13. The majority of the staff were extremely flexible and accommodating. I had to finish during the pandemic which made classes very difficult to complete but all my professors did a phenomenal job helping me adjust to school during the pandemic. However I did feel like the program could do a better job of teaching us how to seek out on the job consultation and supervision. In my current role as an elementary school counselor I could greatly benefit from discussion with another helping professional who has been in a similar situation as me in the past.
  
14. Each course has helped me gain a better understanding of counseling in general - large concepts such as ethics, trends in diversity, addiction, cultural sensitivity, career, etc. have been addressed thoroughly. I would say that imbedding more specific counseling techniques would be very beneficial.
15. I appreciated the consideration of grad students work schedule when designing the time slots for classes. I also appreciated the support from faculty members throughout the entire 3-year journey to acquire my MA degree. In addition, I really liked the 1-semester hour elective

courses to broaden my perspective regarding mindfulness and spirituality. \*\*\*\*\* I'm glad that Xavier does not "teach to the test" regarding the licensure exam, however, I do feel like earlier exposure to the exam would be helpful to help manage the task of passing the exam.

16. "I was more than satisfied with Xavier's Counseling program. It is staffed by thoughtful, intelligent, empathetic and flexible staff who are committed to creating a learning environment where it is safe to ask questions and growth is encouraged.
  
17. I would challenge the department to continue maintaining their high standards of professionalism, instruction and empathy. This is a fine program and I am fortunate to have been accepted. I am better for having had this experience!"
18. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Xavier's counseling program. The only negative I have about the program is that it seems geared more towards the clinical mental health side of the program when it comes to the classes that are required by both school counseling students and clinical students. Overall, this program has been extremely beneficial.
19. Professors are excellent. Wealth of knowledge in many areas of counseling and very approachable. Some classes had such little content for school counselors it felt like a waste of time and money. I feel completely prepared to be a school counselor now that I've completed the program. I know I passed the licensure exam on the first try because the program prepared me through the entire 2 year course load. Comprehensive program that is dedicated to the field of counseling and it shows.
20. Xavier's program is amazing and armed me with all the tools I need to be successful as a School Counselor even during a Pandemic. Keep it up. The staff/professors are phenomenal.
21. Overall, I cannot say enough good things about this program. I have learned so much. One area I can think of to improve is to encourage students, supervisors and faculty, during practicum and internship to have clear guidance as to meeting ASCA competencies.

#### **Programmatic Responses to Likert Scores and Concerns Noted in Comments:**

Overall Xavier students are very satisfied with their experience in the program. A recurring theme throughout the feedback from School Counseling students is they felt as though the Xavier Faculty truly cared about their well-being and success in the program.

With our focus on continuous improvement, this evaluation provides several opportunities to focus on programmatic changes.

1. The nine elective hours seems to be too much for the students to manage. The nine hours has been reduced to five elective hours.
  - Two classes were added to the requirement for the school counseling program. The additional classes are COUN 639-01 Substance Use and Prevention (Ohio Department of Education Requirement) and COUN 540-01 School Culture and Climate (school counseling students only).
2. Again, a recurring theme is the need to focus on school counseling specific examples in combined courses with clinical and school counseling students.

- COUN 773, Practicum is now being co-taught by the Full-time School Counseling Faculty. Again, Faculty are encouraged to integrate additional school examples, speakers and case scenarios into their course content.
3. The need for additional school related courses for school counseling students.
- The addition of two School Counseling courses were added COUN 515 – School Licensure Preparation Course and the COUN 540 – School Culture and Climate.

RLN.