Department of Counseling and Higher Education

Janice Holden, Ed.D., Department Chair

Our mission is to promote human development through education, research and service that advance the professions of, and scholarship in, counseling and higher education. Our vision is to seek local, state, regional, national and international prominence as a collaborative and transformative community engaged in exemplary research, education and service that benefit the professions of counseling and higher education, the publics they serve and humanity at large.

Students
- Over 100 undergraduate minors
- Over 350 master’s students
- Over 150 doctoral students
- Approximately 30 students pursuing graduate academic certificates

Academic Programs

Counseling

Undergraduate Program - minor in counseling associate studies

Graduate Programs
- M.Ed. and M.S. in counseling
  - Clinical mental health counseling track (CACREP accredited)
  - Elementary and secondary school counseling tracks (CACREP accredited)
  - College/university counseling track (CACREP accredited)
  - Ph.D. in counseling (CACREP accredited)

Higher Education

Graduate Programs
- M.Ed. and M.S. in higher education
- M.Ed. full-time cohort
- Ph.D. and Ed.D. in higher education
- Graduate academic certificates (post-bachelor’s and post-master’s)

Faculty and Staff
- 17 tenured and tenure-line faculty members
- 4 non-tenure line faculty members
- 7 administrative staff members
- 22 doctoral level teaching and research assistants

Centers & Clinics

Counseling Program
- Center for Play Therapy
- Child & Family Resource Clinic
- Counseling and Human Development Center

Higher Education Program
- Bill J. Priest Center for Community College Education
- Council for the Study of Community Colleges

Annual Conferences

Center for Play Therapy
- Fall Play Therapy Conference (October)
- Summer Play Therapy Institute (July)

Counseling Program
- Institute in Counselor Supervision (January, February)

Higher Education Program
- Texas Higher Education Law Conference (March or April)
Scholarships and Endowments
• Don A. Buchholz Chair in Community College Education
• In 2012, the department alone awarded its students 46 scholarships totaling over $35,000
• Bettye Curry Hackett Fund to support programs in curriculum development and counseling techniques with junior high school students

Faculty Research Expenditures
• $44,000 in 2012
• Addressing such counseling areas as mental health services for low-income clients, counseling and play therapy in schools, and research on near-death experiences
• Addressing such higher education areas as community-to-four-year-college transfer student issues and increasing the U.S. undergraduate degree completion rate

Awards and Recognition
Department
• Since 2008, over 50 awards to department graduate students from professional associations and foundations
• Since 2008, over 35 awards to department faculty members for teaching, research and service

Counseling
• Ranked 13th nationally, 1st in Texas (U.S. News & World Report, 2013)
• Among first recipients of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision’s Outstanding Program Award in 1984; received again in 2000
• Received Association for Counselor Education and Supervision’s 2010 “Publication in Counselor Education and Supervision” Award for their 2010 book, The Professional Counselor: Portfolio, Competencies, Performance Guidelines, and Assessment (4th ed.)

Professional Organizations
• Association of Graduate Students in Higher Education (AGSHE)
• Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International (CSI), Rho Kappa Chapter
• International Counseling Student Club (ICSC)

Employment Opportunities for Graduate Students
Counseling Master’s degrees
• School counselor certification – to work as a school counselor in P-12 settings
• Texas licensure as a professional counselor – to provide counseling services outside the public school and religious setting such as community mental health agencies, colleges and universities, private practice, and business and industry (licensure optional in religious settings)

Counseling Doctoral degree
• Counselor educator – to provide teaching, research and service in a counseling program at the college/university level
• Counselor supervisor and administrator – to direct counseling facilities

Higher Education Master’s degrees
• Administrator – to work in student affairs, advancement and other lower to mid-level administrative positions at the community college or university level

Higher Education Doctoral degrees
• Mid to upper level administrator – to work in student affairs, advancement or institutional research at the community college or university level, or in academic administration at the community college level
• Instructor – to teach at the community college level (discipline in master’s degree)
• Professor – to provide teaching, research and service in the higher education discipline graduate degree programs at the university level