

**Idaho State University**  
**Department of Counseling**  
**CACREP 2024-2026 Aligned**  
**Annual Reports (Combined)**

**Program Contacts:**

Chair, Department of Counseling: Dr. David M. Kleist ([davidkleist@isu.edu](mailto:davidkleist@isu.edu))  
Dean, College of Health: Dr. Gabe Borgen ([teresaconer@isu.edu](mailto:teresaconer@isu.edu)) CACREP  
Liaison: Dr. Leslie Stewart ([lesliestewart@isu.edu](mailto:lesliestewart@isu.edu))

## **Idaho State University**

### **2024-2026 CACREP Annual Reports Combined**

#### **Introduction**

The Idaho State University Department of Counseling was created in 1958, awarded its first degrees in 1960, and became the first counseling program in the United States to be CACREP accredited in 1981. The principal mission of the Department of Counseling is to prepare quality counselors for various settings in Idaho and the nation. More specifically, we seek to prepare quality School Counselors for public schools in K-12 settings; Marriage, Couple and Family Counselors; Clinical Mental Health Counselors; and Clinical Rehabilitation Counselors for community agencies and other mental health settings, and Student Affairs Counselors for working in college settings such as advising, residence halls, and career centers. Our most recent CACREP re-accreditation was in Fall of 2018, and we currently operate under the 2016 CACREP standards.

We currently offer a master's degree (MCOUN) in counseling and a doctorate (Ph.D.) in Counselor Education & Counseling. Both 60-hour programs are housed in the Department of Counseling within the College of Health (COH), under the Kasiska Division of Health Sciences (KDHS). We have five counseling specialties for students to select from: Clinical Mental Health Counseling; Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (not yet accredited); Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling; School Counseling; and Student Affairs Counseling. Both our masters and doctoral programs boast a consistent 100% job placement rate for our graduates. In addition, we offer an Animal Assisted Intervention Certificate, and an Education Specialist degree in counseling (Ed.S.).

The Department of Counseling's Masters of Counseling program objective is to prepare students to be professional counselors with strong professional identity, a rich knowledge base, and expertise in the skills of counseling are essential to functioning as a professional in each counseling setting. As members of the counseling profession, and members of the American Counseling Association, we actively support our profession's efforts to promote the professional development of counselors, advocate for the profession, and ensure ethical, culturally-inclusive practices that protect those using counseling services. In addition, we prepare doctoral level counselor educators and supervisors to work primarily in institutions of higher learning as faculty members.

We believe it is also our mission to:

- Instill a strong sense of professional identity in students,
- Help students gain an appreciation of the rich knowledge base in the profession of counseling,
- Develop student expertise in the skills of counseling,
- Aid students to become licensed and/or certified,
- Aid students/graduates in their initial job placement,

- Teach and perform research applicable to the practice of counseling, counselor education and supervision,
- Aid students in understanding the diversity of views and cultures within our profession and the environment in which counselors practice.

The Department of Counseling also has a mission within the Kasiska Division of Health Sciences, College of Health, which is to represent the mental health perspective within the Division and to consult with Division faculty and departments encouraging a holistic perspective for health care services.

#### *Current Accreditation Information*

Currently, 5 out of our 6 specialty areas are CACREP-accredited. The Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (CRC) Program is not currently accredited under the 2016 Standards. The Idaho State University Department of Counseling developed and implemented the CRC Program in the Fall of 2020 in response to the discontinuation of the University of Idaho's CRC Program. ISU's creation of the CRC program ensures that graduate counseling programs specifically for CRC students continue to be offered in the state of Idaho.

The ISU Department of Counseling curriculum is offered at two (2) sites/locations: the Main Campus in Pocatello, Idaho, and at a campus in Meridian, Idaho. Although the curriculum is offered at both sites, the Department of Counseling remains a singular, unified program. Specialties offered by each site are below:

<b>Site</b>	<b>Program/Specialties Offered</b>
Pocatello	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Mental Health Counseling</li> <li>• Marriage, Couple &amp; Family Counseling</li> <li>• College Counseling &amp; Student Affairs</li> <li>• School Counseling</li> <li>• Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling</li> </ul>
Meridian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Mental Health Counseling</li> <li>• Marriage, Couple &amp; Family Counseling</li> <li>• Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling</li> </ul>

At both the Pocatello and Meridian sites, all curriculum is offered in-person, with some use of distance learning technology between campuses. The ISU Department of Counseling's distance learning technology allows students at Pocatello and Meridian sites to share the same classroom in real time. Aside from temporary adjustments to delivery methods necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, no significant changes occurred in the program delivery method since the last site visit.

## Section I: Changes in Program Operation

The current department organizational structure is detailed in the chart below. Regarding significant changes since our last annual report, we have lost some faculty, added some faculty, and have a current faculty line open.

<b>Current Departmental Organization Chart</b>	
<b>Chair</b>	
Dr. David Kleist (Full Prof)	
<b>Associate Chair</b>	
Dr. Elizabeth Horn (Full Prof)	
<b>Full Professors</b>	
Dr. Leslie Stewart, Dr. Chad Yates	
<b>Associate Professor</b>	
Dr. Leila Roach Dr. Renee Howells,	
<b>Assistant Professors</b>	
Dr. Hana Meshesha, Dr. Alex Gantt-Howery, and Dr. Ngoni Mpofu. [Open faculty line representing departure of Dr. Sacco in SU 2024]	
<b>Clinical Faculty</b>	
Dr. Conner Vbra	
<b>Clinical Directors</b>	
<b>Dr. Shawn Parmanand POC Clinic Director / Dr. Angelica Castillo, Clinical Assistant Professor and MER Clinic Director</b>	
<b>Administrative Assistants</b>	
Pocatello: Angie Sistrunk, Nichole Jenson; Meridian, Mikayla Miller	

### *Changes in Budget/Funding Support*

The Department of Counseling, now with ten tenure-track lines, two Clinical Directors, and three Admin Assistants, continues to receive substantial financial support to maintain operations and growth. The current departmental budget is over \$1.5M. We have been very grateful for the continued support from all levels of ISU administration.

## **Enrollment Summary**

### **Pocatello Campus Master's Enrollment Summary (Combined Cohorts of 2026 and 2027 Graduates)**

<b>Track</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year ('27 Grads)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year ('26 Grads)</b>	<b>2025 Graduates</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
CMHC	22	14	12	1	<b>49</b>
MCFC	3	5	4	1	<b>13</b>
CRC	1	1	5	0	<b>7</b>
SC	3	3	1	0	<b>7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>75</b>

### **Pocatello Summary**

The Pocatello Campus master's enrollment across the 2025, 2026, and 2027 graduating cohorts totals 75 master's students. This includes 28 first-year students, 23 second-year students, 22 students scheduled to graduate in 2025, and two third-year students who are completing extended plans of study.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) remains the largest specialty area with 49 students, followed by Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling (13 students), School Counseling (7 students), and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (7 students).

This distribution continues to demonstrate strong program viability, stable enrollment patterns, and sustained demand across all specialty areas—particularly CMHC, which continues to enroll the largest number of students across all three cohorts.

### **Meridian Campus Master's Enrollment Summary (Combined Cohorts of 2026 and 2027 Graduates)**

<b>Track</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year ('27 Grads)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year ('26 Grads)</b>	<b>2025 Graduates</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
CMHC	17	18	13	1	<b>49</b>
MCFC	10	6	2	0	<b>18</b>
CRC	0	1	2	1	<b>4</b>
SC	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>70</b>

### **Meridian Summary**

The Meridian Campus master's enrollment across the 2025, 2026, and 2027 graduating cohorts totals 70 master's students. This includes 27 first-year students, 24 second-year students, 17 students scheduled to graduate in 2025, and two third-year students completing extended plans of study.

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) specialty remains the largest track, with 49 total students, accounting for the majority of enrollment across all cohorts. Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling (MCFC) represents 18 students, maintaining its position as the campus's second-largest specialty area. The Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (CRC) specialty includes 4 enrolled students, distributed across the cohorts with stable representation. No School Counseling students are enrolled at the Meridian campus during this academic year.

Enrollment across the three graduating cohorts demonstrates strong, steady demand for CMHC and MCFC, with a consistent presence in CRC. The overall pattern reflects healthy program viability,

stable student progression, and adequate capacity across Meridian's specialty areas.

### **Combined Enrollment Summary**

To provide a comprehensive view of overall program enrollment across both instructional sites, the tables from Pocatello and Meridian campuses have been merged below.

<b>Track</b>	<b>1st Year ('27 Grads)</b>	<b>2nd Year ('26 Grads)</b>	<b>2025 Graduates</b>	<b>3rd Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>CMHC</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>MCFC</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>CRC</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SC</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>147</b>

Across both Pocatello and Meridian campuses, total master's enrollment for the 2024–2026 academic years is 147 master's students, distributed across the 2025, 2026, and 2027 graduating cohorts.

This includes:

- 56 first-year students ('27 graduates)
- 48 second-year students ('26 graduates)
- 39 students who graduated in 2025
- Four third-year students are completing extended academic plans

### **Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC)**

CMHC is the largest specialty area across the Department of Counseling, with 98 enrolled master's students. This strong representation reflects sustained demand, consistent applicant interest, and stable instructional capacity across both campuses.

### **Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling (MCFC)**

MCFC enrolls 31 students, making it the second-largest specialty area program-wide. Enrollment is balanced between campuses and consistent across cohorts.

### **Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (CRC)**

CRC enrolls 11 students across both campuses, demonstrating a stable but smaller cohort size appropriate to the specialty's statewide workforce needs.

### **School Counseling (SC)**

School Counseling includes 7 students; all enrolled at the Pocatello campus. While smaller in size, the SC specialty maintains steady representation and progression toward graduation.

### **Summary**

The Idaho State University Department of Counseling enrolls a total of 147 master's students across both campuses, representing the combined 2025, 2026, and 2027 graduating cohorts. Enrollment patterns remain consistent across years, with strong representation in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC), steady interest in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling (MCFC), and continuous enrollment in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (CRC).

School Counseling (SC) maintains a smaller but stable cohort on the Pocatello campus. The distribution of students across cohorts and specialties demonstrates program viability, alignment with workforce needs in Idaho, and sustained student progression across both instructional sites. Across campuses, CMHC continues to show the strongest demand, providing evidence of continued alignment with community mental health needs and internship site capacity throughout the state.



## **Changes in Technology**

Significant technological advancements have occurred since the last site visit, reflecting the Department of Counseling's ongoing commitment to improving instructional quality, supervision processes, and clinic operations across both campuses. Beginning in Spring 2024, the program successfully implemented Tevera as its primary student learning management and assessment system. Tevera has proven to be a robust, user-friendly platform for tracking student learning outcomes, clinical evaluations, hour logs, and KPI assessments. This transition replaces the former Taskstream system, which had become cumbersome and less aligned with our program needs.

Tevera is now fully operational across clinical courses and is being expanded program wide.

Additionally, the Department completed a major transition from Panopto to Vosaic as the official online video management system for clinical skills training, classroom recordings, and supervision review. Vosaic offers enhanced security, easier faculty and student workflows, and improved feedback features tailored to counselor education training needs.

Both the Pocatello and Meridian campuses underwent substantial technology upgrades to support these platforms and expand clinical and instructional capacity. Across the two sites, classrooms and counseling clinic rooms were updated with new computers, high-definition cameras, microphones, and recording equipment, ensuring that faculty and students can reliably engage in high-quality video recording, playback, supervision, and hybrid instruction. These upgrades support both clinical training and classroom activities and align with CACREP expectations regarding technological infrastructure for counselor education programs.

Collectively, these improvements represent an investment of nearly \$60,000 in enhanced program functionality, significantly modernizing the department's technological infrastructure and strengthening the training environment for students at both program sites.

## **New Non-Accredited Specialty Areas or Certificate Programs**

Our department offers one non-accredited certificate program—Dr. Stewart’s Animal Assisted Services Certificate Program. This certificate continues to be a robust and thriving area within the Department, demonstrating strong student interest and growing community engagement. Dr. Stewart’s program has experienced sustained success since its inception and continues to expand its reach. She recently added a new Resilience and Relationships course held onsite at the zoo, which has generated significant enthusiasm among students as well as members of the broader community. Additionally, Dr. Stewart’s ongoing work with the Research On Anthrozoological Relationships (ROAR) Lab led to her third international conference appearance, where she brought several doctoral and master’s students to present collaborative research—further highlighting the program’s vitality and continued momentum.

### **New Clinical Faculty Hire and Athlete Counseling Certificate Development**

The Department of Counseling recently hired Dr. Conner Vrba as a Clinical Faculty member on the Meridian campus to support instructional capacity and to lead the development of a new Athlete Counseling Certificate Program. Dr. Vrba brings specialized expertise at the intersection of counseling, athlete mental health, performance psychology, and the unique wellness needs of student-athletes.

In Idaho specifically, school districts, athletic departments, and community mental health agencies report limited access to counselors specifically trained to support athlete well-being, despite increased demand for services addressing emotional regulation, injury adjustment, team dynamics, and life transitions.

The Athletic Counseling Certificate will allow practicing counselors, healthcare professionals, coaches, educators, and mental health trainees to build specialized competencies in this rapidly growing subfield. This initiative aligns with our department’s mission to support underserved and specialized populations, expand behavioral health expertise across Idaho, and prepare counselors who can respond to emerging workforce needs.

### **New Certificate Program Development: Grief and Loss Counseling Certificate**

In addition, Dr. Elizabeth Horn is leading the development of a new Grief and Loss Counseling Certificate, which will be offered through the Department of Counseling. This certificate program in grief and loss counseling will benefit individual counselors who have an interest in this area but have not received adequate training to feel competent. Currently, given a lack of representation in the counseling accreditation standards, many counselors will graduate from masters and doctoral programs without ever receiving formal training directly tied to working with issues of grief and loss. Having more trained, certified grief counselors will hopefully benefit grieving individuals, families, and the communities in which they live.

The certificate will consist of three, three credit courses, that reflect the Grief and Loss Best Practices that were endorsed by ACA in 2025. A certification in grief and loss counseling will provide foundational and advanced training to mental health professionals and will benefit the

profession of counseling, sister mental health professions, and the communities these providers reach through their practices.

## **SECTION II: FACULTY**

### **Faculty Makeup**

The ISU Department of Counseling currently has ten tenure-track core faculty lines. One of our tenure-track lines is vacant as of Fall 2024. This line is the sole faculty line for the school counseling program. We are actively engaged in a search to fill this position for the Fall of 2025 New Core/Clinical Faculty Members

### ***Faculty Recruitment and Expansion***

To support program growth, enhance supervision capacity, and strengthen instructional coverage across campuses and specialty areas, the Department of Counseling welcomed two new faculty members during the 2024–2025 academic year. One faculty member was hired as a Clinical Assistant Professor, and the other as the Meridian Counseling Clinic Director and Clinical Assistant Professor, expanding both instructional and clinical leadership capacity.

### **Conner Vrba, Ph.D., LCPC-S, NCC**

#### **Clinical Assistant Professor – Meridian Campus**

Office: Meridian 516, 1311 E Central Dr., Meridian, ID 83642

Phone: (208) 373-1806

Email: [connervrba@isu.edu](mailto:connervrba@isu.edu)

**Specialty Areas:** Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Student Athletics, Injury Recovery Education

- Ph.D., Counselor Education and Counseling, Idaho State University (2022)
- M.Coun., Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Idaho State University (2020)
- B.S., Idaho State University (2016)

#### **Biography**

Dr. Vrba's research and scholarship focus on the mental health of student athletes, with attention to well-being, resilience, and the identity and transitional challenges athletes face—including performance pressures, injury recovery, and post-sport career transitions. As a former Division I football player, he brings a lived understanding of athletic culture and the complex biopsychosocial experiences of competitive sport.

Clinically, Dr. Vrba practices from a trauma-informed perspective that integrates Gestalt and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), emphasizing sustainable growth, adaptability, and authenticity. His expertise in athlete mental health and performance greatly strengthens the program's clinical and instructional offerings, adding depth in specialty areas relevant to contemporary counseling practice.

### **Angelica Castillo, Ph.D., LCPC-S, NCC**

#### **Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinic Director – Meridian Counseling Clinic**

Office: Meridian 557C

Phone: (208) 282-1969

Email: [angelicacastillo@isu.edu](mailto:angelicacastillo@isu.edu)

**Specialty Areas:** Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Bilingual Counseling & Supervision, Trauma-Informed Care, Mentorship

#### **Education**

- Ph.D., Counselor Education and Counseling, Idaho State University (2025)
- M.Coun., Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Idaho State University (2019)

- B.S. & B.A., Idaho State University (2017)

### **Biography**

Dr. Castillo joins the Department of Counseling as a Clinical Assistant Professor and the Clinic Director of the Meridian Counseling Clinic. She is deeply committed to mentorship, culturally responsive counselor training, trauma-informed care, and bilingual counseling and supervision. Dr. Castillo also maintains a private practice in Nampa, where she provides Spanish-English bilingual counseling services across the lifespan.

Her leadership experience includes service as an NBCC Doctoral Minority Fellow and as Co-Chair of the ACES Bilingual Interest Network. Her clinical, supervisory, and training expertise significantly expands the department's capacity to serve diverse communities and prepare multiculturally competent counselors. Outside of academia, she enjoys fishing, exploring new coffee shops, and spending time with friends and family.

### ***Program Impact***

The addition of Dr. Vrba and Dr. Castillo strengthens the department through:

- instructional coverage in the master's and doctoral programs
- supervision capacity in practicum and internship
- bilingual and multicultural service delivery
- research productivity and mentoring infrastructure
- clinical service operations in the Meridian Counseling Clinic

Their expertise directly supports departmental goals related to student success, CACREP standards, rural and underserved community engagement, and alignment with the College of Health's mission.

## **Core Faculty FTE Total: Faculty Teaching Load, and Core/Non-Core Distribution**

### **Faculty Coverage of Core and Specialty Coursework Across Pocatello, Meridian, and Doctoral Programs**

Across the Pocatello and Meridian campuses, core counselor education faculty continue to deliver the overwhelming majority of CACREP-required coursework. The table summarizing the past 12 months (Fall 2025–Spring 2026) shows that core faculty consistently teach between 71% and 100% of all CACREP core and specialty-area (SPA) coursework, even during a year where a full-time tenure-track faculty position in Pocatello remained unfilled and had to be covered by adjunct instruction.

There are a total of 52 credits assigned to the eight CACREP Core courses, inclusive of practicum (COUN 6697) and internship (COUN 6698). Despite faculty transitions, coverage remained robust, with adjuncts used in a limited and targeted manner to ensure continuity in instruction. The open 1.0 FTE line in Pocatello required full load coverage by adjuncts during this reporting period.

---

### **Pocatello – Master’s Program**

#### **Core Courses**

- 45 core credits delivered
- The majority delivered by core faculty

#### **SPA Courses**

Specialty Area	Credits	% Core Faculty	% Adjunct	Notes
CMHC	6 credits	85%	12%	Remaining 3% varies based on student elective choices
MCFC	5 credits	83%	15%	2% variable depending on electives
School Counseling	3 credits	80%	17%	3% variable
CRC	8 credits	88%	12%	Strongest core faculty coverage
Student Affairs (SA)	0 credits	0%	0%	No students enrolled this year

### **Meridian – Master’s Program**

#### **Core Courses**

- 42 core credits delivered
- Primarily instructed by core faculty

#### **SPA Courses**

Specialty Area	Credits	% Core Faculty	% Adjunct	Notes
CMHC	6 credits	80%	17%	3% variable
MCFC	5 credits	78%	20%	2% variable
CRC	8 credits	83%	17%	Consistent with Pocatello trends

## Doctoral Program (Pocatello & Meridian Combined)

- 71 total credits delivered across the doctoral curriculum this year
- 96% taught by core faculty
- 4% taught by adjunct faculty

Doctoral-level instruction is nearly exclusively facilitated by full-time core counselor education faculty, demonstrating exceptional compliance with CACREP doctoral staffing expectations.

## Term-by-Term FTE Ratios (Spring 2024 → Summer 2024 → Fall 2024)

- Spring 2024 FTE Ratio: 9.32
- Summer 2024 FTE Ratio: 11.72
- Fall 2024 FTE Ratio: 10.17

Across these three reporting points, the average program-wide FTE ratio is 10.52, demonstrating an overall balance of approximately 10.5 students per full-time-equivalent faculty member.

This ratio reflects strong program capacity, appropriate faculty coverage, and continued compliance with CACREP expectations for instructional, advising, and supervision loads.

---

### Program FTE Table (Spring 2024 – Spring 2025)

Term	Pocatello FTE Ratio	Meridian FTE Ratio	Program wide Average
Spring 2024	10.00	7.80	<b>9.32</b>
Summer 2024	7.80	11.65	<b>11.72</b>
Fall 2024	10.17	12.75	<b>10.17</b>
Average (Spring 2024 → Spring 2025)	—	—	<b>10.52</b>

---

### (Spring 2024 – Spring 2025)

- FTE ratios across the three terms ranged from 7.8 to 12.75, all within appropriate levels for a dual-campus counseling program.
- The program-wide average of 10.52 indicates consistent faculty capacity to meet instructional and supervision demands.
- These ratios illustrate:
  - Strong and balanced faculty coverage
  - Sustainable supervision load distribution
  - Adequate instructional staffing across both campuses

## Term-by-Term FTE Ratios (Spring 2025 → Fall 2025)

*(Summer excluded)*

- Spring 2025 FTE Ratio: 10.50
- Fall 2025 FTE Ratio: 10.68

Across these two reporting points, the average program wide FTE ratio is 10.59, demonstrating an overall balance of approximately 10.6 students per full-time-equivalent faculty member.

This ratio reflects strong program capacity, appropriate faculty coverage across both campuses, and continued compliance with CACREP expectations for instructional, advising, and supervision loads.

---

### Program FTE Table (Spring 2025 – Spring 2026)

*(Summer 2025 excluded)*

Term	Pocatello FTE Ratio	Meridian FTE Ratio	Program wide Average
Spring 2025	9.50	11.50	<b>10.50</b>

Term	Pocatello FTE Ratio	Meridian FTE Ratio	Program wide Average
<b>Fall 2025</b>	9.50	11.85	<b>10.68</b>
<b>Average (Spring 2025 → Spring 2026)</b>	9.50	11.67	<b>10.59</b>

### (Spring 2025 – Spring 2026)

- Program FTE ratios for Spring 2025 through Fall 2025 ranged from 9.5 to 11.85, all of which fall within appropriate levels for a two-campus CACREP-accredited counseling program.
- The program-wide average of 10.59 indicates strong and sustainable faculty capacity to meet instructional, advising, and clinical supervision demands.
- These ratios illustrate:
  - Balanced faculty resources across Pocatello and Meridian
  - Sustainable supervision and teaching load distribution
  - Adequate instructional staffing for enrollment levels

## SECTION III: CURRICULUM

Since our midcycle CACREP report, the Department implemented several curriculum revisions in 2024 to strengthen alignment with the CACREP 2024 Standards and to enhance content depth and sequencing across the master's curriculum. We are actively monitoring the impact of these changes during the 2026 and 2027 academic years as part of our systematic evaluation plan, including analysis of KPIs, dispositions, course evaluations, and faculty review.

### Program Structural Innovations

Here is the full section rewritten as a clean, consistent numbered list with nested bullet points:

#### 1. Curriculum Revisions Implemented in 2024–2025

- Revised COUN 6614 – Lifespan Development, increasing the course from 1 to 2 credits and updating the title from *Human Growth & Development*.
- Combined former theory courses (COUN 6627 and COUN 6628) into a single comprehensive 3-credit course: COUN 6627 – Conceptualizing Counseling Theory.
- Increased COUN 6625 – Crisis Intervention and Trauma from 2 credits to 3 credits to expand coverage of crisis response, trauma, and resilience.
- Added one additional credit to COUN 6630 – Addictions Counseling, making it a 3-credit course to strengthen content related to substance use and co-occurring disorders.
- Added an additional credit to COUN 6624 – Cultural Counseling, expanding the course to 3 credits to better address cultural foundations, multicultural competence, advocacy, and counselor identity development.

## **2. Course Consolidation for Stronger Standards Alignment**

- Combined assessment and diagnosis content into a single 3-credit course: COUN 6612 – Assessment and Diagnosis in Counseling, allowing students to develop assessment and diagnostic competencies in a unified, comprehensive format.

## **3. Elimination of the Small Group Experience**

- Eliminated the former 1-credit small group laboratory (COUN 6676 – Small Group Experience) and redistributed that credit within COUN 6630 – Addictions Counseling, now expanded to 3 credits.
- Integrated essential small-group process skills within COUN 6677 – Group Counseling Techniques, ensuring that group facilitation and interpersonal process competencies remain developmentally appropriate and fully covered within the core curriculum.

## **4. Internship Progression Revision (“Road to 900”)**

We are revising the way we support and evaluate student progression through the internship by proposing a new hour-counting and sequencing model, referred to as The Road to 900.

- This proposal restructures how internship hours are counted to increase clarity, consistency, and compliance with accreditation expectations.
- The proposal has been formally submitted to the ISU Graduate Dean, the Graduate Curriculum Council, and the ISU Office of General Counsel for review.

## **5. Commitment to Ongoing Evaluation (2026–2027)**

These revisions allow for clearer curricular mapping, stronger scaffolding of clinical skill development, and more thorough coverage of CACREP-required standards through stand-alone, discipline-specific courses rather than integrated fragments across multiple classes.

As part of our continuous improvement model, we will continue evaluating the impact of these 2024-2025 curricular and structural changes during the 2026 and 2027 academic years, monitoring:

- KPI and disposition performance trends
- Course-level assessments
- Student and site supervisor feedback
- Internship progression outcomes

## **SECTION IV: CLINICAL INSTRUCTION**

### **Supervision Ratios for Practicum/Internship**

No significant changes occurred in supervision ratios in practicum/internship since the last site visit. During practicum, our students are required to have 1 hour per week of individual/triadic supervision with their site supervisor and their faculty supervisor, totaling 2 hours of individual/triadic supervision per week. During internship, our students are required to have 1 hour per week with their site supervisor (s) and their doctoral student supervisors. Our doctoral students provide faculty-supervised individual/triadic supervision for our internship students. Internship students are typically required to have two internship sites, meaning they receive 3 hours of individual/triadic supervision per week. Additionally, internship students participate in 90-minute weekly group supervision labs facilitated by doctoral students under supervision. Our doctoral students facilitate lab groups, and all groups are overseen by program faculty. Each semester, we offer multiple sections of internship lab so none of the lab groups exceed the 1:12 ratio of students per doctoral supervisor.

### **Clinical Instruction**

Since the last site visit, no significant changes occurred in clock hour requirements, supervisors' qualifications and requirements, or practicum and internship site placements. We continue to exceed the CACREP Standard of a 600-hour internship with a 900-hour internship and a 100-hour practicum. This ensures that our graduates are eligible to apply for the Idaho Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) credential upon graduation.

### **Fieldwork Placement Rates and Site Development Support**

The Department of Counseling maintains a 100% fieldwork placement rate for all eligible students across practicum and internship experiences. This high rate reflects the program's active facilitation of clinical placements, strong community partnerships, and a developmental approach to student training.

### ***Structured Support for Securing Practicum and Internship Placements***

The program provides support to guide students in securing their fieldwork sites, including:

- Structured advising and orientation regarding site expectations
- Access to approved site lists across Pocatello, Meridian, and statewide partners
- Direct faculty support in connecting with site supervisors
- Development of new partnerships to meet student needs and training requirements

This structured process ensures that every student secures placements aligned with their clinical competencies, professional goals, and CACREP-aligned training outcomes.

### ***Requirement for Multiple Sites and Progressive Clinical Exposure***

To meet training standards and ensure breadth of clinical experience, all counseling students eventually complete fieldwork across at least two different clinical training sites. This two-site model supports:

- Increasing clinical independence

- Exposure to diverse populations and service settings
- Enhanced competency development across the internship year
- Stronger alignment with Idaho's licensure expectations

For School Counseling students, the program requires supervised fieldwork across multiple levels to ensure competence across the K–12 continuum. Students must complete experiences in a combination of:

- Elementary (K–5)
- Middle School (6–8)
- High School (9–12)

This multi-level requirement ensures that school counseling graduates develop the full range of skills needed to support Idaho school districts and meet state certification expectations.

### ***Use of Secondary Sites to Support Developmental Progression***

As students' caseloads grow and their clinical skills advance, faculty may recommend or approve secondary internship sites. Secondary placements are added to:

- Help students meet their hour requirements
- Provide access to diverse clinical opportunities
- Support specialization (e.g., crisis work, family counseling, athletics, rehabilitation)
- Strengthen preparation for post-graduation employment

### ***Secure Tracking and Documentation in Tevera (ELC)***

All fieldwork placements—including primary and secondary sites—are documented in Tevera, the department's secure online assessment and clinical training database. Tevera tracks:

- Site approval documentation and supervisor qualifications
- Practicum and internship agreements
- Clinical hours and supervision logs
- Student evaluations and site supervisor assessments

This centralized system ensures data accuracy, consistency across sites, and secure storage for accreditation and program improvement purposes.

## **SECTION V: Holistic Program Evaluation Narrative and Data Assessment Plan**

The ISU Department of Counseling maintains a comprehensive, systematic, and holistic assessment plan designed to evaluate student learning, monitor program quality, and ensure alignment with CACREP 2024 Standards—specifically Standards 2.D.1–8 and 2.E (E.1–E.2). This plan integrates findings from multi-year KPI trends, core professional dispositions, Academic Quality Indicators (AQIs 1–7), national exam outcomes, site feedback, and stakeholder surveys to create a coherent, data-informed approach to continuous program improvement.

We use multiple interlocking metrics—drawn from academic performance, clinical evaluation, demographic trends, graduate and employer surveys, licensure and certification results, and program completion and employment data—to assess program health and curriculum effectiveness. While each metric provides valuable insight, it is the relationship and convergence between these data sources that offers the most accurate picture of program functioning and student success.

### **Annual Faculty Review Meeting**

In addition to bi-weekly faculty review of student progress, the Department conducts a formal Annual Faculty Review Meeting each late spring. This meeting serves as the central point in the Department's written comprehensive evaluation plan, during which faculty systematically review:

- Student academic and clinical progression
- Multi-year KPI and disposition trend analyses (AQI 1 & AQI 2; CACREP E.1–E.2)
- AQI outcomes across all indicators (KPI success, dispositions, exam pass rates, completion, employment, certification)
- Curriculum effectiveness and required revisions (CACREP 2.D.1, 2.D.8)
- Site supervisor and Advisory Board feedback (2.D.4–5)
- Graduate and employer survey results (2.D.4; AQI 7)
- Program-level trends across campuses, cohorts, and specialty areas

All discussions, decisions, and action items are documented in faculty meeting minutes, serving as the formal audit trail of continuous improvement activities.

### **Stakeholder Surveys and Advisory Board Feedback**

Each year, the Advisory Board provides direct feedback to the program regarding graduate preparedness, fieldwork quality, and emerging workforce needs. This feedback is systematically reviewed, analyzed, and incorporated into program improvements.

Recent improvements based on Advisory Board and employer survey data include:

- Creation of a Children and Adolescents in School Settings course
- Development of a Telehealth Counseling elective and accompanying fieldwork policies
- Refinement of supervision practices and documentation standards
- Strengthening of clinical skill training and site readiness processes

Employer surveys demonstrate high satisfaction with the competency, professionalism, and dispositions of ISU counseling graduates.

### **Integration of KPI Trends, Disposition Data, and Academic Quality Indicators (AQIs)**

The Department systematically evaluates multi-year data across seven Academic Quality Indicators (AQI 1–7), as specified in our comprehensive evaluation plan. These indicators align directly with CACREP's expectations for academic quality and student success.

### **Key Performance Indicators (AQI 1) – Multi-Year Trend Integration**

Across all master's specialty areas, sites, and cohorts, 100% of students with completed KPIs met or exceeded the required 2.0 threshold during the 2025–2026 evaluation cycle. This surpasses the academic quality benchmark of 80%.

Major multi-year KPI trends include:

- Stable or improving performance across ethics, cultural diversity, lifespan development, assessment, research, group counseling, and applied counseling skills
- Mastery-level performance in specialty KPIs (e.g., CHMC biopsychosocial assessments, MCFC theory integration, CRC disability research, School Counseling practice model implementation)
- Variations driven by natural sequencing of practicum and internship evaluations (not competency concerns)
- Increasing averages across several specialty domains from 2025 to 2026

These findings demonstrate strong curriculum alignment, effective supervision, and continuous student competency development (CACREP E.1 & E.2).

### **Core Dispositions (AQI 2) – Ongoing Multi-Year Trend Analysis**

Disposition data reflect 100% threshold attainment across all evaluated cohorts (benchmark = 85%), with consistent upward developmental trajectories during internship experiences.

Key disposition trends include:

- Entering cohort scores typically fall between 2.3 and 2.9
- Internship averages rise to the 3.5–4.0 range
- Strongest growth is seen in Integrity, Engagement, Empathy, Cultural Humility, and Mindfulness
- No students fell below the minimum benchmark across the two-year evaluation period

These results affirm the effectiveness of faculty mentorship, clinical supervision, and structured dispositional evaluation processes.

### **National Exams & Certifications (AQIs 3, 4, 5)**

#### **CRC Credential Examination (AQI 3)**

- Two-year average pass rate: 92.7%
- Both cohorts met or exceeded the 85% benchmark
- ISU students outperformed national pass rates each year

#### **School Counseling Certification (AQI 4)**

- Cohort 2025: 100% certification attainment
- Cohort 2026: Applications on schedule for Spring 2026

#### **National Counselor Examination (AQI 5)**

- Spring 2025: 100% pass rate across CMHC, MCFC, and CRC
- ISU mean scores exceeded national averages in nearly every domain
- Cohort 2026: Still in progress

#### **Program Completion (AQI 6)**

- Cohort 2025: 92% completion rate, exceeding the 80% benchmark
- Cohort 2023: 63% completion, leading to targeted improvements
- Recommendations implemented: early intervention, advising protocols, expanded student tracking

## **Employment Rates (AQI 7)**

The Department is implementing new systems for accurately tracking graduate employment outcomes, including:

- Embedded alumni surveys at 6-month intervals
- A new mechanism to track immediate post-graduation employment
- Full implementation beginning with Cohort 2026 graduates

## **Comprehensive Student Assessment (Academic, Clinical, Dispositional)**

### **Academic Performance**

Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and earn a B or higher in key courses (e.g., Ethics, Cultural Counseling, Pre-Practicum). Continuation and appeal processes are outlined in the Graduate Catalog.

### **Clinical Performance**

Evaluation uses midterm/final supervisor ratings, Practicum and Internship Rating Scales, and faculty assessments. Students earning unsatisfactory marks are placed on a Professional Progression Plan.

### **Dispositions**

Faculty advisors and site supervisors complete annual disposition evaluations. Students with concerns receive structured remediation as outlined in the assessment plan.

### **Integrated Interpretation and Program-Level Conclusions**

Across all data sources—including KPIs, dispositions, AQIs, national exams, certification outcomes, site feedback, and employer/graduate surveys—the ISU Department of Counseling demonstrates:

- Consistent achievement of all seven Academic Quality Indicators
- Strong multi-year KPI and disposition trends with 100% threshold attainment
- High national examination performance across specialties
- Improved program completion rates and enhanced employment tracking systems
- Robust curriculum revisions implemented in 2024–2025 and actively evaluated during 2026–2027
- A fully operational and documented comprehensive evaluation plan addressing CACREP 2.D.1–8
- Clear evidence of continuous, systematic program improvement

This integrated assessment system ensures that program decisions remain data-driven, transparent, and aligned with CACREP's vision for high-quality counselor education.

## **Attainment of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)**

Student learning objectives aligned with the 2024 CACREP Standards are evaluated through the department's structured Key Performance Indicator (KPI) system and professional dispositions assessments. Each course includes designated KPI assignments that directly map to CACREP core and specialty standards. These assignments are submitted in Tevera, where faculty use department-developed KPI rubrics to evaluate student competence. The Department of Counseling is in the final stages of transitioning all KPI management into Tevera, with full implementation expected by Spring 2025. Each KPI rubric includes a dedicated section evaluating the CACREP standard(s) assessed.

## Integration of KPI Assessment Within the Master's Curriculum

The Master's-level KPI system uses a structured, multi-year sequence of evaluation points, including:

- Course-embedded KPIs (e.g., Professional Orientation and Ethics; Counseling Skills; Assessment; Practicum; Internship)
- Multiple data collection points across the curriculum (e.g., Y1-Fall, Y1-Spring, Y2-Summer/Fall/Spring) as outlined in the CORE KPI table
- Minimum performance level of 2.0 ("Meets Expectations"), equivalent to a B-level competency

For example, *Core Area 1: Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice* is assessed using KPIs that measure students' knowledge of ethical standards, professional roles, and counselor identity. Data points include:

- COUN 6621: Professional Orientation and Ethics
- COUN 6697: Practicum in Counseling
- COUN 6698: Internship in Counseling

Assignments used to measure this KPI include the Ethics Paper, Case Application Assignments, Skills Assessments, and Site Supervisor Evaluations. Students must meet the minimum threshold of 2 = Meets Expectations at every evaluation point.

In addition to KPI assessment, Master's students are evaluated annually on the department's Core Professional Dispositions, including:

1. Cultural Humility
2. Mindfulness
3. Engagement
4. Reflexivity
5. Curiosity
6. Integrity
7. Empathy

These dispositions are assessed through:

- Spring Semester Core Disposition Evaluation (faculty review)
- Internship Evaluation (Tevera ISU-1033)
- Minimum expectation: 2.0 ("Meets Expectations")

This structured KPI and disposition system ensures systematic monitoring of student progress, identification of growth areas, and early intervention when performance falls below threshold.

## Capstone Assessment for Master's Students

In addition, all Master's students complete a Capstone Poster Presentation, which serves as a culminating, program-level assessment of:

- Clinical conceptualization
- Theoretical application
- Ethical and legal reasoning
- Multicultural responsiveness
- Case documentation & treatment planning
- Assessment and diagnosis

Posters vary by specialty area (e.g., ASCA Model for School Counseling; Clinical Cases for CMHC; Family/Couple Cases for MCFC; Rehabilitation-specific cases for CRC; Student Affairs cases for CCSA).

Each student presents to an evaluation committee consisting of their chair, an additional faculty member, and a doctoral student. A Pass/No Pass decision is rendered. A "No Pass" results in a faculty-approved remediation plan.

## **Integration of Student Learning Objective Assessment Within the Doctoral Program**

Doctoral student SLOs are assessed through:

- Yearly disposition evaluations (same seven dispositions as the Master's program)
- KPI-aligned coursework evaluations
- The doctoral Comprehensive Exam, consisting of:
  - A 60-minute oral exam evaluating CACREP competency areas (teaching, supervision, research, leadership/advocacy)
  - A written examination in the format of a conceptual scholarly article

Oral and written components include structured evaluation metrics:

- Oral Exam Passing Requirement:  $\geq 75\%$  pass vote
- Conditional Pass: Majority pass but  $< 75\%$ , requiring targeted remediation written prompt
- Fail: Professional Progression Plan (PPP) initiated
- Written Exam Passing Requirement: Faculty editorial board "pass," with revisions required prior to journal submission

Failure to meet expectations on any element results in remediation through a PPP, ensuring structured, documented support and accountability.

## **Assessment of Curricular Offerings**

Curricular offerings are reviewed annually by both faculty and the Advisory Board to ensure alignment with CACREP standards, relevance to professional practice, and coverage of core learning objectives. Except the new CRC program, no substantive changes to CACREP-driven course objectives have occurred since the 2017 site visit.

### **1. CORE KPIs (All Programs Combined)**

Across all core areas, both cohorts (2025 & 2026) met or exceeded the minimum threshold (2.0) for every KPI.

Key averages extracted from summaries:

- **Professional Orientation & Ethics (3.A.10):**  
2025 Avg: **3.6–3.8**  
2026 Avg: **3.3–3.7**  
Threshold attainment: **100%**
- **Social & Cultural Diversity (3.B.10):**  
2025 Avg: **3.3–3.8**  
2026 Avg: **3.0–3.9**  
Threshold attainment: **100%**
- **Lifespan Development (3.C.11):**  
2025 Avg: **3.0–3.4**  
2026 Avg: **2.0–3.5**  
Threshold attainment: **100%**
- **Career Development (3.D.2):**  
2025 Avg: **3.0–3.8**  
2026 Avg: **2.0–3.5**  
Threshold attainment: **100%**
- **Group Counseling (3.F.8):**  
2025 Avg: **3.4–4.0**  
2026 Avg: **2.0–3.7** (some incomplete)  
Threshold attainment: **100%**
- **Counseling Theory (3.E.1):**  
2025 Avg: **2.0–3.3**

2026 Avg: **3.0–3.9**  
 Threshold attainment: **100%**

- **Applied Counseling/Helping Skills (3.E.9):**  
 2025 Avg: **3.36–3.5**  
 2026 Avg: **3.27–3.7**  
 Threshold attainment: **100%**
- **Assessment & Testing (3.G.13):**  
 2025 Avg: **3.23–3.6**  
 2026 Avg: **2.9–3.3**  
 Threshold attainment: **100%**
- **Research & Evaluation (2.F.8.b):**  
 2025 Avg: **3.0–3.64**  
 2026 data largely **in progress**; all completed scores meet threshold

**Overall Core Summary:**

All core KPIs across all campuses and cohorts meet thresholds. Average range **2.8 – 3.8** across domains.

No negative trends observed.

## **2. CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (CMHC) Specialty KPIs**

### **5.C.4 – Biopsychosocial Assessment & Oral Exam**

- 2025 Avg: **2.9–3.31**
- 2026 Avg: **3.1–3.77**
- % Meeting Threshold: **100% both years**

### **5.C.2.j – Advocacy + Assessment Integration**

- 2025 Avg: **2.9–4.0**
- 2026 Avg: **3.1–3.9**
- % Meeting Threshold: **100% both years**

**CMHC Summary:**

Strong performance across both KPIs

Averages typically **3.0–4.0**

Slight upward trend in 2026

## **3. MARRIAGE, COUPLE, & FAMILY COUNSELING (MCFC) Specialty KPIs**

### **5.F.10 – MCFC Specialty Knowledge**

- 2025 Avg: **3.0**
- 2026 Avg: **3.5**
- % Met Threshold: **100%**

### **5.F.11 – MCFC Applied Specialty Skills**

- 2025 Avg: **3.0**
- 2026 Avg: **3.75**
- % Met Threshold: **100%**

**MCFC Summary:**

All scores exceed threshold

Clear improvement in 2026

## 4. SCHOOL COUNSELING Specialty KPIs

### 5.H.6 – Practice Model & Critical Incident

- 2025 Avg: **4.0**
- 2026 Avg: **4.0**
- 100% threshold attainment

### 5.H.13 – Practice Model, Critical Incident, Oral Exam

- 2025 Avg: **4.0**
- 2026 Avg: **4.0**
- 100% threshold attainment

#### School Counseling Summary:

Specialty KPIs show **mastery-level performance (4.0)**

Consistent across both cohorts

## 5. CLINICAL REHABILITATION COUNSELING (CRC) Specialty KPIs

### 5.D.4 – Disability Research + Evaluation

- 2025 Avg: **4.0**
- 2026 Avg: **3.3**
- 100% threshold attainment

### 5.D.9 – Assessment & Case Management

- 2025 Avg: **3.0**
- 2026 Avg: **3.0**
- 100% threshold attainment

#### CRC Summary:

High performance in both KPIs

Consistency across years

### Core Disposition Summary (All Programs)

Based on visible data across programs:

- Average disposition scores range: **2.5 → 3.8** depending on cohort and training stage.
- All dispositions show **100% threshold attainment ( $\geq 2.0$ )**.
- Evidence of developmental progression:
  - Early-program averages: **2.5–2.9**
  - Mid-program: **3.0–3.4**
  - Internship/advanced: **3.6–3.8**

This aligns with the narrative statements throughout the report, which consistently confirm that all cohorts met thresholds and demonstrate growth. No contradictory data were found.)

## **SECTION VI: PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION**

Since our last annual report, program innovation includes planning and purchasing significant technological enhancements and recording capabilities across campuses. These upgrades have improved our ability to support students in in-person and remote settings, allowing for more effective supervision, training, and feedback through high-quality video and audio recording equipment. This technology facilitates timely feedback for students and enables seamless virtual collaboration with supervisors and faculty, further enriching the learning experience.

Our primary focus as a department is preparing to seek accreditation for the new Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (CRC) program and expanding our affiliated internship sites to better serve this specialized area. Additionally, we are completing our re-accreditation self-study for our other accredited programs, ensuring that our offerings meet the highest standards of quality and rigor.