

11/21/16 Meeting of the PSYC and MSW faculty on proposed M.A. in Counseling program

Present: C. Kaus, M. Sherrier, J. White, S. Martino, C. Ferri, C. Gayda-Chelder, D. Falk, K. Siracusa, J. Lewis

Discussed were similarities and differences between a Master of Arts in Counseling (MAC) program and the Master's in Social Work (MSW) program. While all agreed that there is some educational overlap given that both programs address mental/emotional health, there are also significant differences:

1. Counseling educates students mainly for clinical positions that entail psychotherapy, career counseling, the administration of assessments, and school guidance counseling. Social Work has macro-level components and educates students in mental health within the context of the social and cultural environment; Stockton's MSW program focuses on cultural competency serving "diverse individuals, families and communities."
2. CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) is the accrediting body for the MAC which readies students for the LPC (licensed professional counselor) license. CSWE (Council on Social Work Education) is the accrediting body for the MSW which readies students for the LSW (licensed social worker) and clinical LCSW (licensed clinical social worker) licenses.
3. The M.A. in Counseling requires a direct clinical internship in a therapy-based setting. These internships are often with private practitioners, but can also be in agencies. The supervisor must be a licensed Ph.D. clinical psychologist or supervisor-certified LPC. They may also be supervised by an MSW in some settings. MSW field placements are in any number of human service agencies, schools, and hospitals. Student must be supervised by an MSW.

While the graduates of both programs, with appropriate licensure, can provide therapeutic services to clients, the philosophy and focus of training of the programs differ. And, while there may be some overlap in mental health careers, each program offers alternate career paths not available in the other. Both groups of faculty recognize the lack of mental health services in the area and believe the need is such that both graduate programs can not only co-exist, but would serve both students and the community in a comprehensive way. Both programs concede the possibility, though not necessarily the probability, that there may be some competition for placement opportunities, but not for students; for example, students majoring in Psychology want to continue graduate work in Psychology and students majoring in Social Work want to continue graduate in Social Work. Many New Jersey colleges and universities have both programs.

Attached are the program curricula which may provide additional information on the distinctive properties of each program.