Program: Counselling and Spirituality

Degrees: Doctorate in Philosophy, Counselling and Spirituality
         Master of Arts, Counselling and Spirituality
         Graduate Diploma in Couple Counselling and Spirituality

Fields: Individual Counselling (MA)
        Couple Counselling (MA)
        Spiritual Care (MA)
        Special Population (PhD)
        Existential and Spiritual Issues in Counselling (PhD)
        Counselling in Multi-faith and Cross-cultural Settings (PhD)

Final Evaluation Good quality

Strengths of the Program
These are good quality programs that attract good students and prepare their graduates for certification by various Canadian and American counselling and psychotherapy organizations, including the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association, and the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care. Students receive training at both the University’s Counselling Centre and in a variety of external placements. The clinical dimension is an area of special strength in all three graduate programs and the interdisciplinary integration of spirituality with counselling sets this program apart from others of its kind in Canada and is one of the major features that attract students to this program.

Areas for Improvement
We recommend that the program proceed with the planned renovation of additional spaces so that the new clinical rooms are separated from the administrative sector. This is required in order to preserve the anonymity of clinic clients, and the new space is specifically designed to meet the needs of the clinic. Overall program documentation and communication need to improve; specific areas that were cited include dissemination of program objectives, accreditation requirements, and service delivery to clients. Additional program support is recommended; specifically, we recommend the creation of graduate-level courses on methodology and that students become familiar with professional and counselling ethics before practicum training begins. The Faculty is in the process of changing the overall evaluation process for courses and clinical training to include an evaluation process that is better tailored to clinical supervision. This will improve student and case supervisor assessment methods. We recommend that the program expand the couple counselling component to include families as part of clinical training; this expansion would be considered as part of future program development.

Recommendations
1. Given the current growth, and anticipated increase, in enrolment, it is important that the clinic be relocated to a more secure and private space and that renovations proceed as planned;
2. Explicitly state the procedures and policies (legal and ethical) for services delivered by students; the program objectives, including the integration of the spiritual component in training; client contact information gathered; and a guide that provides information about the requirements of various professional associations;
3. Develop improved assessment procedures for students and case supervisors that are specifically related to clinical training;
4. Ensure that students have the resources on hand to acquire qualitative and quantitative research skills;
5. Consider expanding the couple counselling component to include families in order to increase the students’ breadth of training;
6. Continued attention must be paid to completion rates and times-to-completion.
Calendar and Deadlines

Recommendations one through six should be addressed during the next cyclical evaluation, which must be completed no later than July 1, 2019.

Authorities

The Director of counselling and spirituality programs and the Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences at Saint-Paul University should follow up on these recommendations.