



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS

2008 Student Affairs Assessment Project

CAS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Psychological Counseling Services

Scope of Review

The scope of this review was to assess the department of Psychological Counseling Services (PCS).

Mission

The mission of Counseling Services is to maintain and enhance students' psychological, emotional, and relational well-being. Counseling Services facilitates a successful experience in academic and social realms for students at CSU Stanislaus.

Assessment Summary

I. The Psychological Counseling Services program was evaluated by using the criteria established by the Council for The Advancement of Standards (CAS) in Higher Education. The Internal Review Team identified the types of documentary evidence that would need to be compiled, and reviewed the criteria and evidence collectively, and then assigned a numerical value after consensus was reached for each item. Next, the External Review Team completed an independent review of the CAS instrument and the documentary evidence, and then provided a written review of their findings.

II. *Identified strengths and weaknesses.*

Strengths:

- Mission and function of PCS is consistent with the mission of the university.
- Prioritization of goals and use of resources are effective and consistent.
- Service delivery is effective, including crisis management, counseling, group workshop, outreach, and consultation services.
- Effective leadership.
- Ongoing self-assessment.
- Assessment of students' responses to counseling.
- Good connections with other departments, including cross-referral with Student Health Center.
- Implementation of electronic record-keeping, data management and scheduling system.
- Counseling rooms have added soundproofing.
- Morale is positive and communication remains collegial and supportive.

Weaknesses:

- Limitations regarding services to students at the Stockton campus and surrounding areas.
- Diminished opportunities for continuing education and professional development.
- Currently no availability of group counseling and psychiatry.
- The lack of an internship training program.

Priorities for the Program

1. Develop alternative group counseling models.
2. Research and implement alternatives for providing counseling services at Stockton campus.
3. Support continuing professional education and development for counselors.
4. Explore creation of a training program and inclusion of graduate interns at PCS.