



Strategies for Managing a Large Graduate Advisee Load

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Development Day January 2019

M.S. in Counseling

- o 92 advisees (Spring 2019)
- o Two separate licensure programs
 - o Mental Health Counseling through the Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
 - o School Counseling through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

M.S. in Counseling

- o 60 credits
- o No electives
- o Multiple field placements
 - o Clinical mental health: 2 practicums, plus year-long internship
 - o School counseling: 4 pre-practicums, plus year-long practicum

Blurred Boundaries

- o Course scheduling
- o Program chair
- o Student monitoring
 - o Student appropriateness for the field

Grad Advising: Advantages

- No pin needed!
- Fewer credits, focused on major. No electives in counseling
- Students more advanced, more focused (at least for counseling)

Grad Advising: Challenges

- o No pin needed!
- o Less face-to-face contact
- o Fewer course options
- o Less time to recover from issues (course cancellations, poor grades, incorrect courses)

Strategies

- Advising period? What advising period?
- Group advising sessions early in the semester
- Encouragement for online advising versus in-person appointments

Course Planning Part 2

PSY 7005	PSY 8015	PSY 8030	PSY 8130	PSY 8190	PSY 8215	PSY 8300	8700	PSY 8710
3.3	3.5	4		3.5				
W		3.5			3.3			
3.7	4	3.5						
3.5	4			4		4		
3.5	3.3	4	3.3	4		3		
F18	4			4				
F18	3.5	4						
		3.7	3.3					
	3.5	4		4		F18		
F18				3.7				
F18	3.7					F18		
F18								
F18								
F18	4	4						
F18	3.7	3.7	3.5	4	3.5	F18		F18
4	4	3.5	3.7					
F18	2.7	4	3.3	3.7				

Using Curriculum

- o Stage I: After two specific courses (COUN 7010 and 7030)
- o Stage II: During COUN 8900/8901, the Spring before internship/practicum
- o Stage III: At end of internship/practicum

Program Requirements

- 3.0 in each course
- 3.25 overall GPA
- Positive reports on disposition assessments
- 0 in course results in automatic dismissal

Graduate Committee

- o Key role in student monitoring
 - o Students discussed at every meeting (once per month)
 - o All students in stage reviews reviewed including a review of their grades and dispositions
 - o Any issues involving students discussed

Program Expectations/Culture

- GCE orientation
- Strong faculty teaching introductory courses in the program
- Advisor check-ins with adjunct faculty teaching in the program about student issues
- Student manual

Student Manual

o https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/uploads/files/GCE_Grad/Counseling_Forms/Counseling%20Manual%202018.pdf

The screenshot shows a web browser window with several tabs open. The active tab is titled 'Counseling Handbook and Policy Acknowledgment Form'. The page content includes a paragraph of acknowledgment text, a list of five responsibilities, and three lines for signature and date. At the bottom, there is a warning about the form's submission deadline.

Counseling Handbook and Policy Acknowledgment Form

I acknowledge that I have carefully read the counseling program handbook and its policies and regulations. I am responsible for understanding and adhering to the Counseling policies stipulated by this handbook, the Fitchburg State Graduate School policies, and the licensure requirements of the respective boards. I also acknowledge that licensure regulations and school policies can change at any time. Although my advisor and the program will do their best to notify the students of any changes, it is my responsibility to stay informed and to adhere to any policies set down by Fitchburg State, the licensure board, and/or the Department of Education.

In particular (and this is not a comprehensive list of the requirements of the program), I agree that it is my responsibility to:

- 1) Monitor my Fitchburg State email account as this is the official mechanism of communication at the University. I am responsible for any information sent to this account.
- 2) Maintain a 3.25 GPA overall as well as earn a 3.0 minimum grade in each course
- 3) Adhere to the most current form of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics and for school counselors, the American School Counselor Association Ethical Standards.
- 4) Petition for a Stage 2 review the semester before going on internship/practicum
- 5) Maintain the originals of my practicum and internship forms that are necessary to apply for licensure (for LMHC licensure only).

(Printed name) _____

(Signed name) _____

(Date) _____

This form must be signed by you and submitted to your advisor before you are presented for your Stage I review. Failure to do so will result in postponement and/or denial of your Stage I review.

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Student ratings of advising

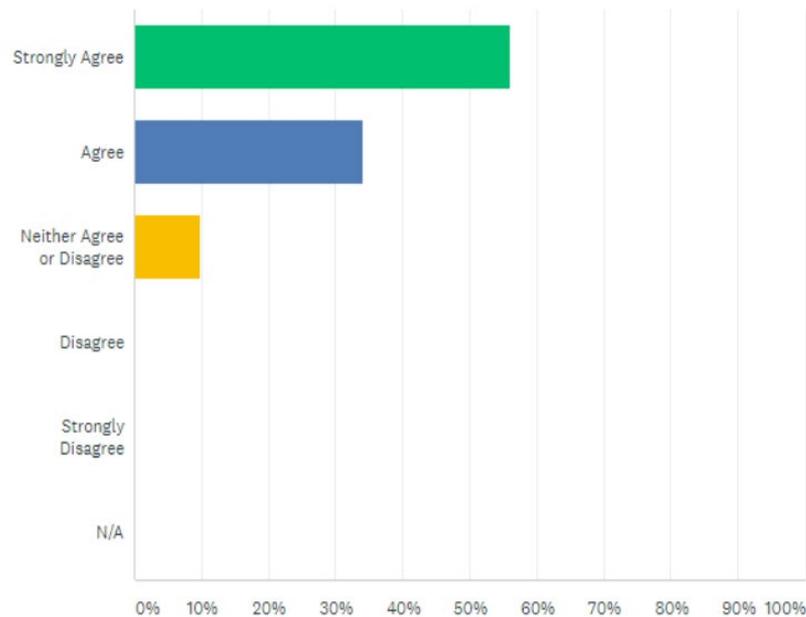
Q1

Customize

Save As ▾

My advisor is available to meet with me as needed

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1



Student ratings of advising

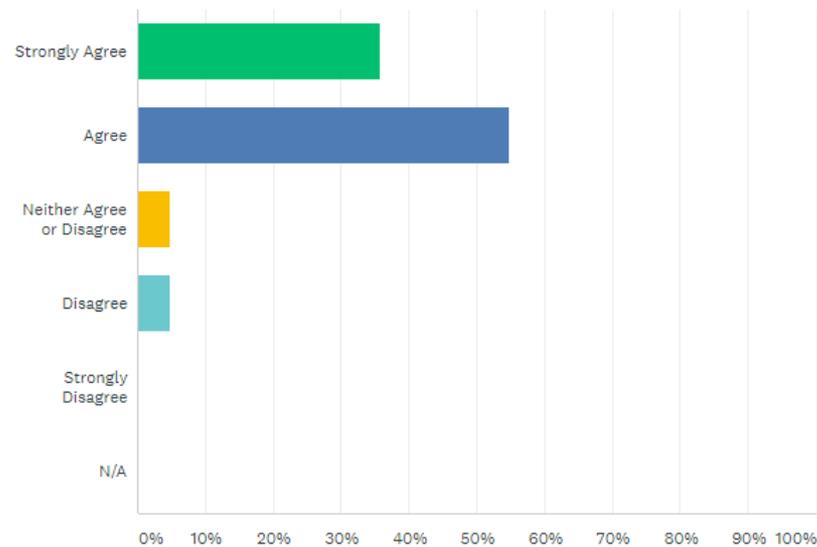
Q2

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I have been able to spend as much time with my advisor as I needed

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



Student ratings of advising

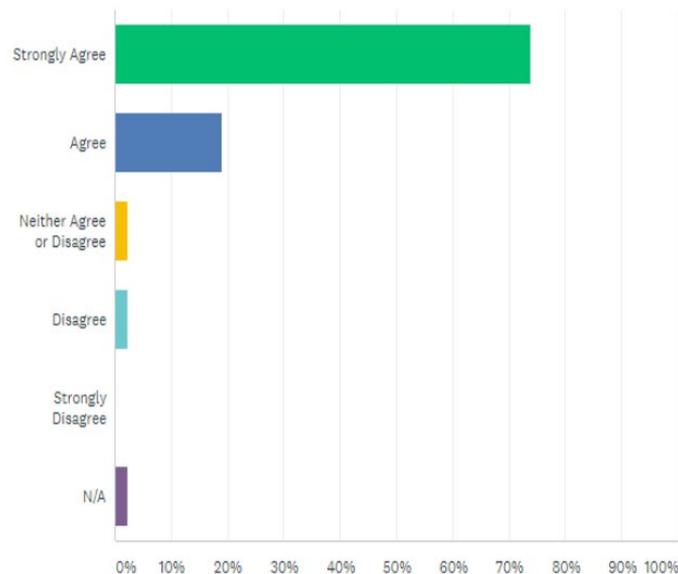
Q3

Customize

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My advisor responds by email with answers to my advising questions

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



Student ratings of advising

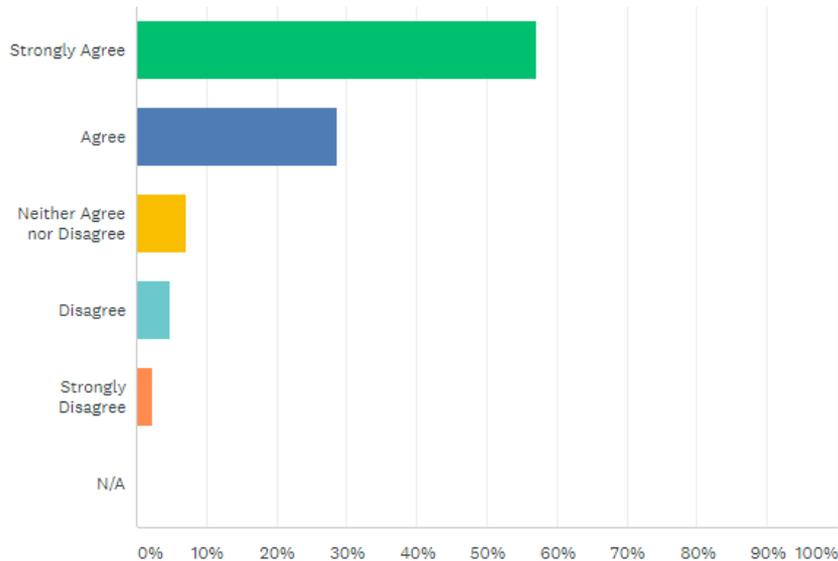
Q4

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I feel comfortable reaching out to my advisor with questions

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



Student ratings of advising

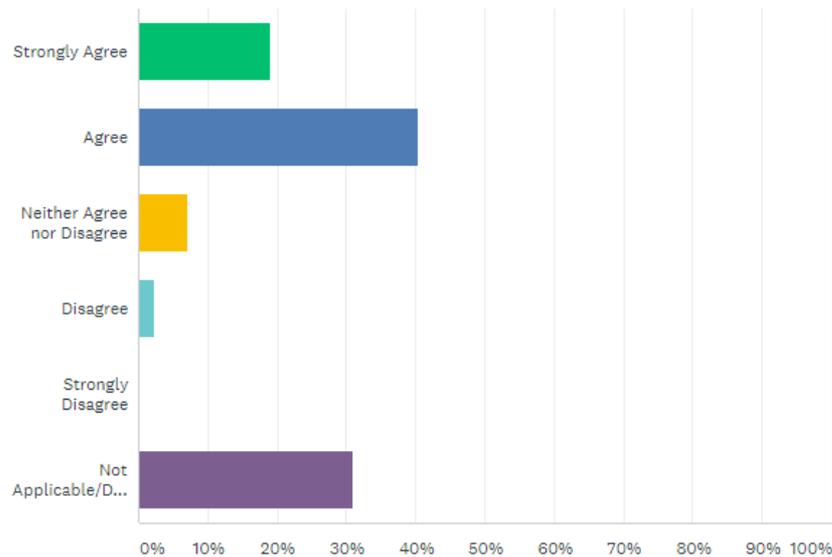
Q5

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The orientation session provided by GCE was helpful

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



Student ratings of advising

Q6

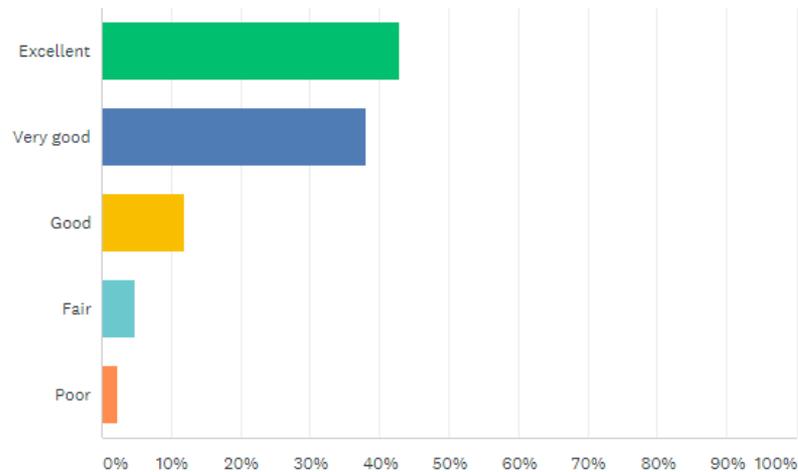
Show Benchmark

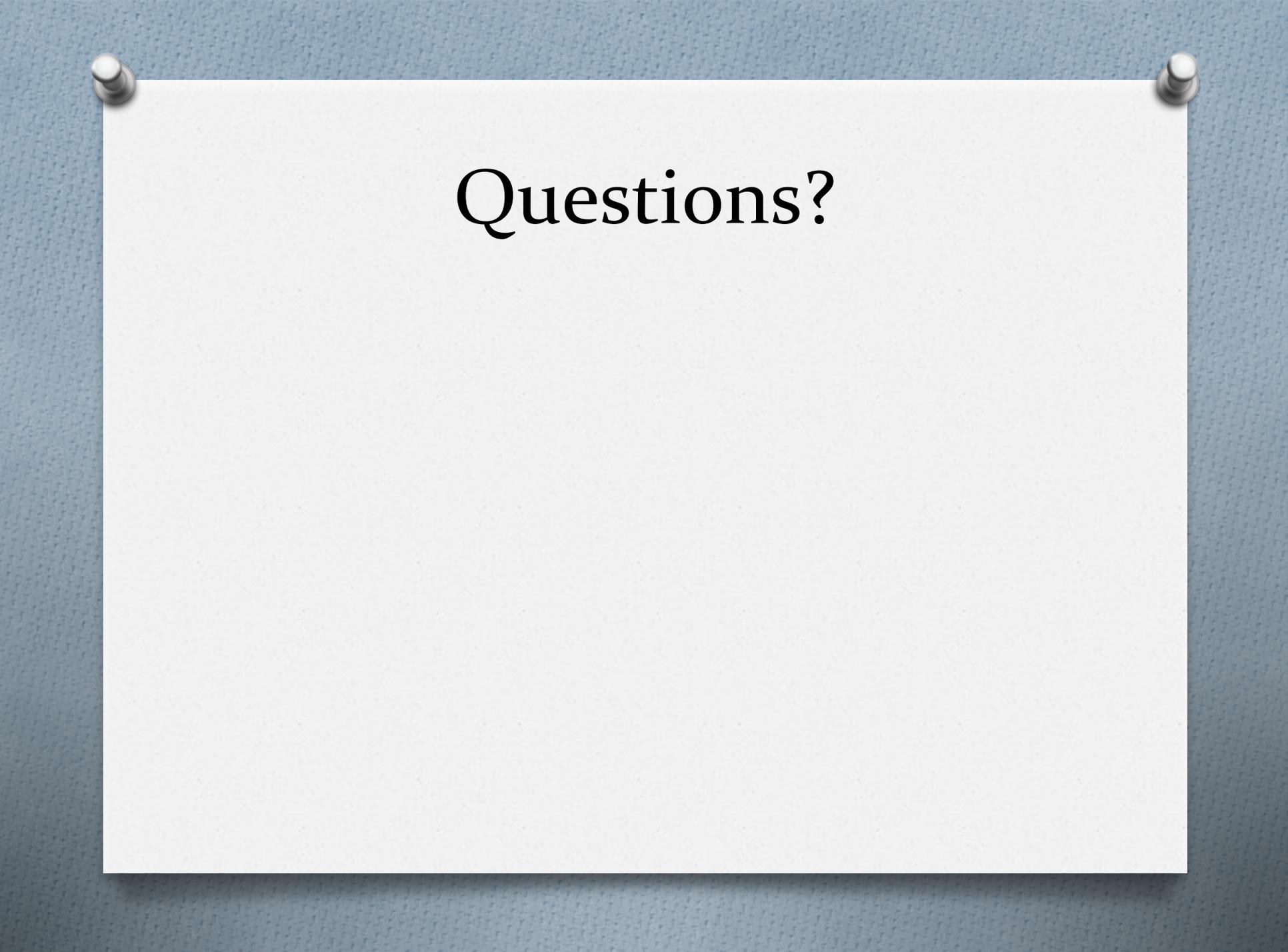
Customize

Save As

Overall, how would you rate the overall quality of the advising you have received?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0





Questions?