

Summary and Integrative Evaluation

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As many doctoral students I came into the program hoping that no one would notice that I didn't belong, that I wasn't good enough. Fortunately, I didn't go unnoticed. I was welcomed by the faculty and reassured of my certain success on this academic endeavor. Even still my self-confidence and self-efficacy wavered until I began to follow the advice of Teilhard de Chardin, "It is our duty as human beings to proceed as though the limits of our capabilities do not exist." This philosophy allows for continued progress towards self-actualization without disconnect from areas where further growth is needed.

Scholarship

In the area of scholarship I learned much and still have much to learn. I am grateful for the research assistantship position I completed in my first year of study because it offered a great preface to the research course sequence in year two of the program. As I watched Dr. Tran direct the research team I realized both the challenges and rewards that applied research can bring. In this position I served as an Outreach Coordinator, Protocol Therapist, and Supervisor of the undergraduate students. In these roles I learned of the high degree of organization and dedication required to run a research project. I also learned that I did not want to be in a faculty position that demanded high dollar grant obtainment. I don't believe that I could be as focused on teaching and dedicated to serving students if my attention was divided between running a research lab, teaching, and serving as a counselor. In the research assistant position I was able

to improve upon my scholarly writing, organizational, clinical, and supervisory skills.

The research course sequence granted me the opportunity focus my research interest and develop a great working relationship with Dr. Yager. The teaching in this sequence emphasized my failings as a research scientist. I learned far more about teaching during my time with Dr. Wang than I did about how to conduct research. Nonetheless, with the guidance and support of Dr. Yager I learned how to best present and answer my research questions. I still lack confidence in my statistical prowess but I am certain that with continued efforts I will improve in this area. My strength in the area of scholarship is in asking important questions and identifying a plan to answer those questions.

Teaching

I have done my best work in the area of teaching. From the start of the program I served as a supervisor. This was a great introduction to teaching because it allowed for peer and expert consultation. In this role I learned about the importance of matching teaching methods to student learning styles. I enjoy the critical thinking involved in designing and employing different methodologies to teach different people. The supervisory process also taught me about the importance of the student teacher/supervisor relationship to the success of the lesson plan. My supervisory practice will be improved by further experience as a clinician and teacher.

Over the past year I have been an Adjunct Professor at Cincinnati State Community and Technical College. I started out teaching a Human Relations course and after two quarters I was asked to teach a more advanced course. Since this time I have been teaching two courses each quarter. Recently, I was recruited to teach as an Adjunct Professor for the psychology department here at U.C. . In each of my classes I engage in evaluative conversations with my students to improve upon my teaching methodology. I find that my students are excellent teachers and an authority on how my courses can be improved. My student reviews are reflective of my passion for teaching and the areas I will continue to work on (hands on activities, syllabus, and media examples). An area for improvement that you won't find in these evaluations is my need for approval. I feel that at times I am too lenient with grading and classroom management problems because of my strong need for approval. I am working on this and other areas of personal growth with a counselor.

Clinical

My coursework in the area of clinical skills has been focused on better serving children and families. In these courses I learned more about how to employ family centered techniques and apply Ecological Theory. I see this as a strength and at the same time an area that I need to continue to improve upon. This work needs to come in the form of clinical experience.

In my position as a protocol therapist I had the privilege of practicing therapeutic techniques and receiving immediate feedback on my skills. Viewing

my sessions on film was uncomfortable but it allowed me to realize patterns and potential problems with some of my therapeutic responses. Consultation with my peers and supervisor helped me to generate more comprehensive case conceptualizations and creative alternative therapeutic responses. Much of the feedback in this position was designed to improve my skills as a group counselor and my application of motivational interviewing techniques. These are areas that I would like to continue to improve upon.

Professional Involvement

My participation in the area of professional involvement and service has been more lax than I intended. In my time at U. C. I became more involved in Chi Sigma Iota but I failed to get more involved at a national level. My efforts to participate at the national conference were thwarted by my pregnancy. I fear that professional involvement may be a continued struggle for me because much of the time I am a single parent, working part time and finishing my education. I do intend to present my dissertation findings at a conference next year. In addition, I hope to participate more actively in the Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association.

Advocacy

I am pleased with my progress in the avenue of advocacy. The training of the doctoral program has prepared me to promote clinical and social policy reform. I took a step towards this goal when I conducted training on integrating Ecological Theory with current multicultural competency practices to improve

multicultural competency and better serve children. I look at the women's event and professional advocacy presentation as successful because important issues were publicized. The experience I had in organizing each of the advocacy projects gave me a sense of empowerment. As my career advances I hope to prepare students to act as counselors and advocates in their community, and continue working with children and families who are underserved. Operating from an ecological perspective in these positions will allow me to integrate best practices for teaching and counseling from a broad range of theories. I hope to become more involved in professional advocacy at a regional level after my degree completion.