Advanced Program Follow-up and Employer Reports

The collection of follow-up data has always been a challenge within our Assessment System. The return rate is often low for both former students, as well as their current supervisors. However, with College of Education’s recent CACREP accreditation effort, we were forced to increase our efforts in the area of collecting follow-up and employer survey data. Instead of focusing solely on the School Counseling program’s attempt to collect this data, the effort was extended to all advanced programs.

Traditionally, an exit survey was given to all advanced program candidates. In some cases, the survey was consistent with knowledge and skills acquired through the program. In others, a simple exit survey with general questions was administered. In either case, the same instrument has been implemented as a follow-up survey. The goal has been to determine how much change there is in the perception of the candidate from the time of graduation to their current role as an administrator, counselor, curriculum coordinator….etc.

In contrast to the initial certification program where candidates move directly into the profession, many graduate candidates are not immediately employed in their desired field. Therefore, the practice has been for data collected for a particular semester or academic year to represent anyone who has graduated within a 5 year period. We feel this allows for a larger *n value* while still providing us with accurate reflective data from former students.

Regarding the employer survey data. Feedback remains low, but we have made positive strides in our efforts of contacting supervisors of our former students and gaining feedback concerning their progress in the field.