

# **School Performance Fact Sheet for the Western Institute for Social Research (WISR), revised and updated, August 19, 2013**

## **Introduction**

This fact sheet is filed with the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Regardless of any information you may have relating to completion rates, placement rates, starting salaries, or license exam passage rates, this fact sheet contains the information as calculated pursuant to state law.

Any questions a student may have regarding this fact sheet that have not been satisfactorily answered by the institution may be directed to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education at 2535 Capitol Oaks Dr. Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 94583. [www.bppe.ca.gov](http://www.bppe.ca.gov)  
Phone: (916) 431-6959 Fax: (916) 263-1897.

## **Information about the Claims of WISR's Degree Programs**

**WISR offers only one program that is specifically designed to lead to a particular career or job, and that is the MA Program in Psychology that meets the State academic requirements for the Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) license and the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) license.**

**However, students in WISR's individualized, interdisciplinary programs do use their learning, knowledge and skill development, either to enter new careers or to further develop themselves in the careers in which they are already engaged. The following list describes some of the employment positions, most often related to the fields for which WISR students are educated. Furthermore, the employment positions listed are among those job areas in which WISR are alumni are most often found to be employed, or in a few cases, by their own choice, volunteering:**

- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (future possibility—new license/option)
- Worker, Director, or Program Leader for Non-Profit Community Agencies in such areas as youth work, elder service, community health, health education, job training, homeless services, community development, and other areas relating to human services and community development
- Adult or Community Educator
- College Professor in Social Sciences, Education, Psychology or related fields
- Community Leader—in a non-profit agency, activist group, small business, private consulting practice.

- Life Coach
- Program Evaluator, Research Consultant, Facilitator of Participatory Action-Research
- Self-employed Consultant, Independent Scholar, Workshop Leader, Published Writer on topics of professional and/or broad social concern
- Employee in a Public Agency or a position involving public policy making.

Note: the current employment positions of many of our alumni can be found on the WISR website at:

<http://www.wisr.edu/about-2/people/alumni/> and at:  
<http://www.wisr.edu/about-2/people/alumni/wisr-scholar-activists/>

Below, we provide statistics regarding the pass rates of our alumni on recent MFT licensing exams. Since the LPCC is a new license option, we will most likely not have any alumni taking LPCC licensing exams for a while.

*Also, WISR makes no claims about the salary that an alumnus is likely to get upon completing the MA program leading to the MFT and/or the LPCC license, or in any of our other degree programs for that matter.* However, the State requires that we disclose the **recent wage information for MFTs that are provided by the State’s Employment Development Department.** From their website

(<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/databrowsing/occExplorerQSDetails.asp?searchCriteria=Clerk&careerID=&menuChoice=occExplorer&geogArea=0601000000&socode=211013&search=Explore+Occupation>): In the first quarter of 2012, the hourly mean wage for MFTs in California was \$23.26. The hourly wage for MFTs at the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile was \$17.34 and at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile \$28.47. The State EDD does not yet show information on wages for the new (in California) field of “Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor.”

WISR does not have a list of all employment possibilities in the field, but we do know many of them (see above), based on their experiences of our alumni over the years and based on the knowledge and professional experience of WISR faculty. There are on our website ([www.wisr.edu](http://www.wisr.edu)) and in our catalogue (on our website and available upon request as a pdf file by contacting [mail@wisr.edu](mailto:mail@wisr.edu)) profiles of MFT alumni that provide some information about examples of jobs in this field.

All prospective MFT and LPCC students are encouraged also to contact the professional association, the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists for their recommendations for sources of this kind of information. ([www.camft.org](http://www.camft.org)) 7901 Raytheon Road, San Diego, CA 92111-1606 Phone: 858-292-2638.

## **Information Provided in the School Performance Fact Sheet**

This document provides information on the completion rates for students in each of WISR's degree programs for the years 2011 and 2012. Then, we go on to give information about the passage rate of our alumni on MFT licensing exams during the past two years, along with placement information for those students. We also provide placement rates for our MFT students over the past two years.

The information in this Fact Sheet is taken from annual interviews that we conduct, by phone and by mail, with recent graduates, supplemented in a few cases by statistics from the Board of Behavioral Sciences, which licenses MFTs. Because of our small size, we are able to contact and obtain candid information from almost all alumni. We keep a written record of their responses on file at WISR. We did ask all of our alumni about their salaries when we interviewed them as part of the process of gathering data for this fact sheet. However, understandably, two did not feel comfortable in answering that question. We also interviewed MFT alumni about their successes and failures in passing the two MFT licensing exams.

The reader will note that because we are a very small school, the numbers reported here are therefore very small. A critically minded and inquiring approach is important to successful learning, and it is also very important in making a decision to pursue a particular career or to enroll in a particular school or college.

### **Program Completion Rates**

Note: It is very difficult to estimate "program length" for WISR's various programs, all of which are a "go at your own pace" programs. Because the programs require considerable depth of study and rigor, none of them can be completed as "quick and easy" degree. Most students at WISR work full-time or at least part-time. Some are better able than others to integrate their WISR academic studies with their work life and community involvements. The "program length" estimates for each program (below) provide a baseline that assumes that students are making regular progress but at a rate less than a pace characteristic of conventional full-time students and less than the pace of intensely engaged working students who can easily integrate their studies with their work lives. This is done in order to compute the percentage of those WISR students who are within a year of a specified baseline program length who then actually graduate in the next year. Also, included are those who actually graduate during that year but do so in considerably less than the baseline program length.

**PhD in Higher Education and Social Change (Baseline Program Length 6 years)\***

<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students Who</u> <u>Began Program</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Students</u> <u>Available for</u> <u>Graduation</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Graduates</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>Completion</u> <u>Rate</u> <sup>4</sup>
<u>2011</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>25%</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>22%</u>

**\*As of May 1, 2013, for the time being, all new doctoral students in Higher Education and Social Change, will be required to pursue an EdD, not a PhD, in Higher Education and Social Change. There has been no substantive change in the curriculum (neither the content, methods nor requirements) for the EdD program. This change was made so that WISR can explore possible national accreditation with an agency that is authorized to accredit professional doctoral degrees, but not the PhD. The change has been made, and BPPE has been informed of and has approved of this change. Thus far, no new students have enrolled in the doctoral program since May 1, 2013. Previously enrolled doctoral students have been given permission to continue to pursue the PhD as per the initial agreement with them when they enrolled. So, the statistics on our doctoral program, for now, indicate that all currently and previously enrolled doctoral students are/were pursuing the PhD.**

**MA in Psychology (MFT) (Baseline Program Length 6 years)**

<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students Who</u> <u>Began Program</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Students</u> <u>Available for</u> <u>Graduation</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Graduates</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>Completion</u> <u>Rate</u> <sup>4</sup>
<u>2011</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>50%</u>

<sup>1</sup> "Number of Students Who Began Program" is the number of students who began the program who are scheduled to complete the program within the reporting calendar year. [note: since WISR is a "go at your own pace school this number includes any students who are within one year of the baseline program length, for example, enrolled for 5 years or more of the 6 year

baseline for the PhD program, as well as any students who graduate during that year in a lesser length of time]

<sup>2</sup> "Students available for graduation" is the number of students who began program minus the number of "Students unavailable for graduation," which means those students who have died, been incarcerated, or called to active military duty.

<sup>3</sup> "Graduates" is the number of students who completed the program within 100% of the published program length.

<sup>4</sup> "Completion Rate" is the number of Graduates divided by the Number of Students Available for Graduation.

**MA in Psychology (not MFT) (Baseline Program Length 4 years)**

<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students Who</u> <u>Began Program</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Students</u> <u>Available for</u> <u>Graduation</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Graduates</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>Completion</u> <u>Rate</u> <sup>4</sup>
<u>2011</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>n/a</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>n/a</u>

**MA in Social Sciences (Baseline Program Length 4 years)**

<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students Who</u> <u>Began Program</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Students</u> <u>Available for</u> <u>Graduation</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Graduates</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>Completion</u> <u>Rate</u> <sup>4</sup>
<u>2011</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>n/a</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>100%</u>

**MA in Human Services and Community Development (Baseline Program Length 4 years)**

<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students Who</u> <u>Began Program</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Students</u> <u>Available for</u> <u>Graduation</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Graduates</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>Completion</u> <u>Rate</u> <sup>4</sup>
<u>2011</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>

**MA in Education (Baseline Program Length 4 years)**

<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students Who</u> <u>Began Program</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Students</u> <u>Available for</u> <u>Graduation</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Graduates</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>Completion</u> <u>Rate</u> <sup>4</sup>
<u>2011</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>n/a</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>n/a</u>

**BA in Psychology (Baseline Program Length 6 years)**

<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students Who</u> <u>Began Program</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Students</u> <u>Available for</u> <u>Graduation</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Graduates</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>Completion</u> <u>Rate</u> <sup>4</sup>
<u>2011</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>n/a</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>n/a</u>

**BA in Human Services and Community Development (Baseline Program Length 6 years)**

<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students Who</u> <u>Began Program</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Students</u> <u>Available for</u> <u>Graduation</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Graduates</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>Completion</u> <u>Rate</u> <sup>4</sup>
<u>2011</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>

**BA in Social Sciences (Baseline Program Length 6 years)**

<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students Who</u> <u>Began Program</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Students</u> <u>Available for</u> <u>Graduation</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Graduates</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>Completion</u> <u>Rate</u> <sup>4</sup>
<u>2010</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>n/a</u>
<u>2011</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>n/a</u>

<sup>1</sup> "Number of Students Who Began Program" is the number of students who began the program who are scheduled to complete the program within the reporting calendar year. [note: since WISR is a "go at your own pace school this number includes any students who are within one year of the baseline program length, for example, enrolled for 5 years or more of the 6 year baseline for the PhD program, as well as any students who graduate during that year in a lesser length of time]

<sup>2</sup> "Students available for graduation" is the number of students who began program minus the number of "Students unavailable for graduation," which means those students who have died, been incarcerated, or called to active military duty.

<sup>3</sup> "Graduates" is the number of students who completed the program within 100% of the published program length.

<sup>4</sup> "Completion Rate" is the number of Graduates divided by the Number of Students Available for Graduation.

## **Performance of WISR MFT Alumni on Licensing Exams and in Career Advancement**

### **Data Gathering Methods**

Because WISR is small, we are able to stay in touch with the majority of our alumni, and we interview MFT alumni, in particular, on a regular basis, to see how they are doing. Therefore, we have gathered and retained more information on the performance of our MFT alumni over the past twelve years than is required, or permitted, by State guidelines to be included in this Fact Sheet. Those who are interested in gaining more information from WISR about data we have gathered can contact us and request that information. Here is what that larger body of data is based on:

In late 2011, we interviewed 14 of our 19 alumni who have completed the program since 2000. And again, in Spring 2013 we surveyed students enrolled in the past two years, and we received responses from about half of those students, including all students who graduated in 2012. In addition, in recent years, we have received updates on the professional progress of most all of our other MFT graduates dating back to 1990. We have also cross-referenced what they told us with data obtained from the licensing agency, the State's Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) on both the initial Standard Exam and the second exam or Clinical Vignette exam for the period January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010, as well as data obtained from the BBS for the last six months of 2010. **Despite an e-mail request to the BBS, we were not able to obtain BBS data for the period July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, nor for the period January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011. However, interviews with all alumni who would have taken exams during this period suggest that none of them did so.** In addition, we have from alumni reports on exams that they took during 2011 (consistent with BBS data) and we have reports from the only alumnus who could have taken an exam during 2012. We also obtained, from a reliable study reported online, BBS data on the Standard Exam for the period going back to January 1, 2001.

### **Performance on Licensure Exams During 2011 and 2012-13**

State regulations require that we report only on passage rates on the licensing exam for the past two years. We do so in both narrative and tabular form, below.

For the year 2011, one first-time test taker passed the standard exam ( $1/1 = 100\%$  pass rate); two individuals passed the second test and one failed ( $2/3 = 67\%$  pass rate on clinical vignette exam #2), of these first-time test taker performance was:  $1/2 = 50\%$  pass rate. These data are taken from the BBS for the second half of 2011. We could not access data for the first half of 2011 but we do not believe any alumni took tests in the first half of 2011, based on interviews.

Only one WISR MFT alumna took an exam in 2012 or 2013, and we received a report from her on the results—specifically, in 2012 she took the first exam two times and passed on the second try. In 2013, she failed the 2nd exam on her first try, and will soon take the exam again. This student was working as a Behavioral Health Specialist for the Center for Elders Independence in Oakland and has just now been hired as an Adult Protection Services Worker for Alameda County—with a salary of \$32/hour and 40 hours per week.

**MFT Program (6 years baseline) : Standard Exam (First Exam) Administered by BBS after completion of Internship Hours**

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Number of Students Taking the Exam<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Number Who Passed First Exam Taken<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Number Who Failed First Exam Taken</u>	<u>Passage Rate<sup>3</sup></u>
<u>2011</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100%</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0%</u>

<sup>1</sup>Number of Students Taking the Exam is the number of students who completed the program within 150% of the published program length and who took the exam in the reported calendar year for the first time.

<sup>2</sup>Number Who Passed the First Exam Taken is the number of students who took and passed the licensing exam in the reported calendar year on the first attempt.

<sup>3</sup>Passage Rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates who pass the exam the first time that they take it by the number of graduates who took the licensing exam for the first time after the completion of the program.

**MFT Program (6 years baseline) : Clinical Vignette Exam (Second Exam) Taken After Passing the Standard Exam**

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Number of Students Taking the Exam<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Number Who Passed First Exam Taken<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Number Who Failed First Exam Taken</u>	<u>Passage Rate<sup>3</sup></u>
<u>2011</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>50%</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>n/a</u>

**Program Job Placement Rates and Salary and Wage Data**

**PhD Program in Higher Education and Social Change (Baseline Program Length: 6 years)**

Calendar Year	Number of Graduates <sup>1</sup>	Number of Graduates Available for Employment <sup>2</sup>	Graduates Employed in the Field <sup>3</sup>	Percent Employed in the Field <sup>4</sup>	Graduates Employed in the Field an Average of Less Than 32 hours/week	Graduates Employed in the Field at least 32 hours/week	Annual Salary as reported by the student, not all students report salary.
2010	1	1	1	100%	0	1	Not reported
2011	2	2	2	100%	0	2	\$52,000; not reported
2012	2	2	2	100%	0	2	\$43,200* \$15,000*

\*These students are working in Bangladesh and China (see below under job titles)

Job Titles from above:

2010 Graduate: Professor of Law at accredited university (salary not reported)

2011 Graduates: 1)Project Manager, for a community development project (\$52,000/year)  
2)Author, Speaker, Consultant to Non-Profit Agencies, and forming his own company (salary not reported, some work volunteer)

2012 Graduates:1) Chair of Academic Department in a University in Bangladesh (\$43,200)  
2)Adjunct Professor at a University in China (75,000 yen—about \$15,000)

1 "Number of Graduates" is the number of students who have completed the program within 100% of the published program length.

2 "Graduates available for employment" means the number of graduates minus the number of graduates unavailable for employment. "Graduates unavailable for employment" means graduates who, after graduation, die, become incarcerated, are called to active military duty, are

international students that leave the United States or do not have a visa allowing employment in the United States, or are continuing their education in an accredited or bureau-approved postsecondary institution.

3 "Graduates employed in the field" means graduates who report that they are gainfully employed within six months of graduation in a position for which the skills obtained through the education and training provided by the institution are required or provided a significant advantage to the graduate in obtaining the position.

4 Placement Rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates gainfully employed in the field by the number of graduates available for employment.

**MA Program in Psychology (MFT Option) (Baseline Program Length: 6 years)**

Calendar Year	Number of Graduates <sup>1</sup>	Number of Graduates Available for Employment <sup>2</sup>	Graduates Employed in the Field <sup>3</sup>	Percent Employed in the Field <sup>4</sup>	Graduates Employed in the Field an Average of Less Than 32 hours/week	Graduates Employed in the Field at least 32 hours/week	Annual Salary as reported by the student, not all students report salary.
2010	1	1	1	100%	1	0	\$58,000
2011	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2012	1	1	1	100%	1	0	\$52,000

**Job Titles:**

2010 Graduate: Learning Support Director at a school (salary: \$58,000/year)

2012 Graduate: work with Foster Youth and Youth on probation for the Oakland Unified School District's transitional students and families unit. (\$52,000/year)

**MA Program in Social Sciences (Baseline Program Length: 4 years)**

Calendar Year	Number of Graduates <sup>1</sup>	Number of Graduates Available for Employment <sup>2</sup>	Graduates Employed in the Field <sup>3</sup>	Percent Employed in the Field <sup>4</sup>	Graduates Employed in the Field an Average of Less Than 32 hours/week	Graduates Employed in the Field at least 32 hours/week	Annual Salary as reported by the student, not all students report salary.
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2012	1	1	1	100%	0	1	\$46,000

**Job Title:**

2012 Graduate: Home Visitor (focus on early intervention and youth counseling) at a non-profit counseling center (Alum Rock Counseling Center’s First Five program in San Jose) (salary: \$46,000/year). This student will enroll in a doctoral program in Clinical Psychology in San Diego in September 2013.

**Important**

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Phone: (916) 431-6959 Fax: (916) 263-1897.