

Given your experiences with Utah State University School Counselor Education program graduates, what are the major strengths of our graduate(s)?

Kindness

This is the first counselor I have worked with from USU. I don't think her performance is due to her program at USU, but that her strengths would be put to better use at a secondary level. My counselor is excellent when counseling students individually.

They have a good attitude.

Compassion, desire to help better our students and staff. Planning and instruction. Use of tools to support students.

Knowledge of state counseling program

Great dispositions, flexible, willing to take on any assignment, student-centered.

They come out of your program ready to hit the ground running. They have useful knowledge and have worked with students before. They are confident in their abilities and work well as part of a team.

Prepared to work

Knowledge, preparation to deal with mental health issues

Solid understanding of the role of the counselor. She is a collaborator and gathers people to be on Team Student, rather than pitting teachers against counselors.

I do not know enough.

Extensive knowledge of CCR process.

Advocating for students

Comprehensive approach to counseling. I appreciate how she had exposure to all aspects of the responsibilities of a counselor. Outstanding program.

The emotional well-being of students is a priority.

She implemented a wellness room called Camp Calm where students with anxiety, depression, or other mental struggles can go for 10 minutes to do some mindfulness activities.

They come ready to work!

excellent rapport with tough kids

Jumped right in and got her feet wet with implementation of curriculum and individual and small group counseling sessions.

Professional, great knowledge of the comprehensive guidance program.

Dedication to students.

Ready to go

Competency and ability to hit the ground running.

Ability to understand their role in supporting students and being a part of a school team.

Informed and dedicated to their profession.

Since I don't know which graduate you're referring to, I'm just going to say that they are doing well in all areas.

Understands job requirements, programs, has experience from Internship experience to draw on.

My USU Counseling Graduate is a kind, caring professional who works well with a dynamic team.

She is very proactive and hand on in working with the students. She checks on many students daily to ensure they basic needs are being met such as clean appropriate clothing and food. She has set up a school / family resource center. Students are able to select clothing, shoes, coats, hygiene and food as needed.

Advocacy

Excellent overall preparation.

Know about resources for students/families

Outstanding candidates, professional and willing to help!

open mindedness, listens well, knows how to guide students with kindness

Kayse Amevor is hard-working and solutions driven. She is informed by her life experience as a parent. I'm not sure what her university requirements or training has contributed, but she is awesome.

Data gathering and use of data to inform practice.

Crisis management and intervention strategies.

Data-driven decision makers. Holistic approach to prevention and treatment.

What would strengthen the preparation of Utah State University's School Counselor Education program graduates?

Elementary counselors need to be able to teach in a classroom setting comfortably. They would also benefit from coming into a school with a strong PBIS background.

unsure....

More robust data analysis (statistics) skills for data project design and analysis.

It's a solid program.

Increase the scope of what a counselor can do to help the school's mission, vision, values, and goals.

More information on crisis intervention and the role the school counselor can play in academic achievement. More information on how scheduling affects student performance.

Technical skills (spreadsheets for example)

Greater training and support with CTE areas.

They come very prepared. I don't have any suggestions.

A taste of elementary and secondary settings.

Crisis preparation.

It's a hard question to answer because our team is so supportive that they have created safety nets and training to help all of our newer counselors be successful.

As much understanding, learning, and trainings that they can receive about the social emotional learning (SEL) of students and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). Help the counselors how to build coping skills and self regulations in students. Then helping the counselors be aware of community outreach programs for families and students.

Collaboration

Help with small group lessons for social skills groups

Have them put on a parent resource night for their schools.

**In closing, is there any other information that might be useful to us as we work towards maintaining a high-quality program?**

Practice teaching in a classroom and knowledge of how to build a PBIS program.

I hired two USU interns last year, and retained them both as full-time employees this year. They're both excellent.

If you are ever interested in having us do a presentation on what it looks like to be a counselor at an online school, we would be happy to put something together. We have been online since 2009 when we opened and have a specific function for counselors that is a little different from a brick and mortar counselor's role.

You are doing so well. Keep sending us your best!

We've had a couple of different counselors that came from the USU program and each one was completely qualified and ready for the challenge.

Continue with what you are doing.

Our counselor is amazing. I appreciate the schooling she has received to work with our students in a Title I setting.

Thank you very, very much!

Perhaps have a few required progress-monitoring meetings directly with the principal.

Thank you for your efforts to prepare school counselors.