The North Texas Behavioral Health Careers Opportunity Program

HCOP

ANNUAL REPORT

Year 3



Overview of Aims

The North Texas Behavioral Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) focuses on addressing unmet community, workforce, and student training needs within the "North Texas" region, defined as the 16 counties of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) metroplex. As the largest area in Health and Human Services, the metroplex serves as a primary healthcare system for many residents in nearby rural counties.

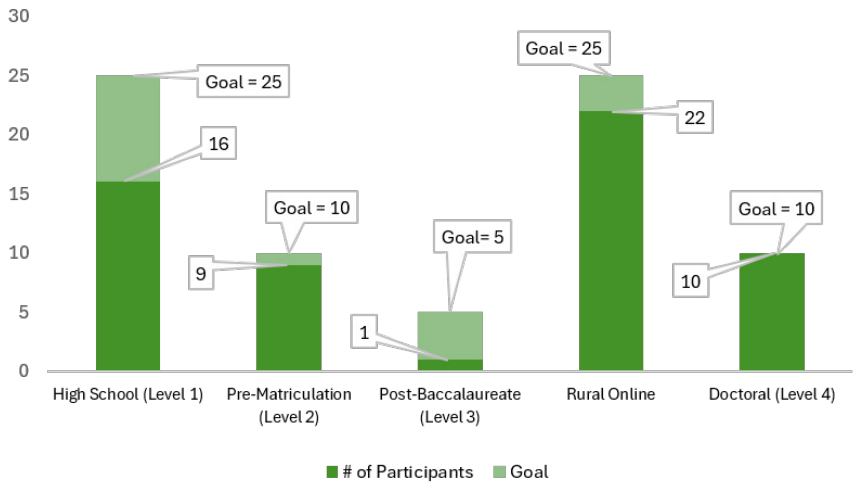
The Region faces significant behavioral health challenges:

1. Health and behavioral health disparities driven by poverty and limited educational opportunities.
2. A shortage of behavioral health providers from various backgrounds (economic and educational).
3. Inadequate support for disadvantaged students transitioning through the high school, pre-matriculation, post-baccalaureate, and behavioral health profession stages.

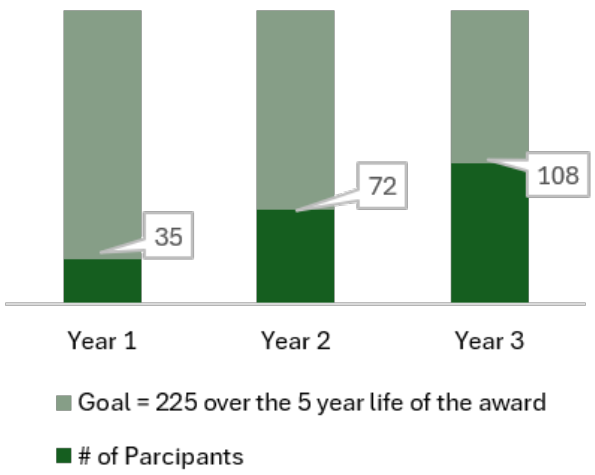
Project Outcomes

Reporting Period: 9/1/2025 - 8/31/2026 (Year 3)

This Year Participants (2026)



Cumulative Ambassadors Reached vs. Target



Student Support

$149,057.70
Student Stipends Awarded

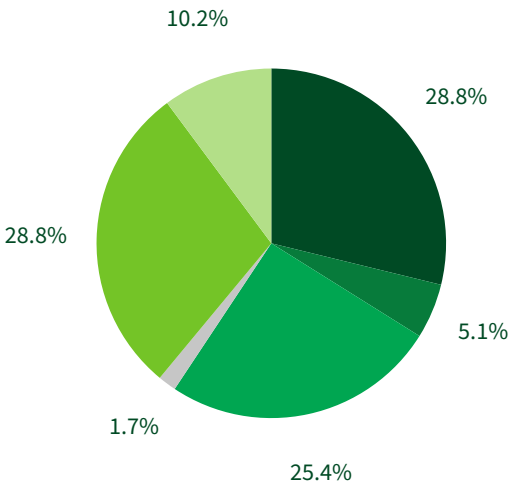
2026

$35,500
Research/Professional Development Funded

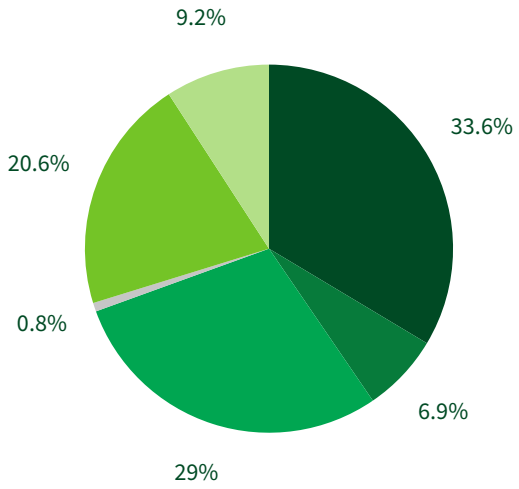
$32,000
Scholarship Awarded

Demographics

This Year (2026)



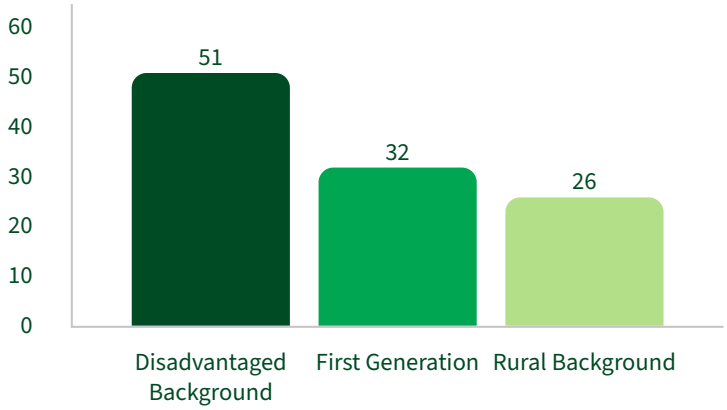
2024-2026



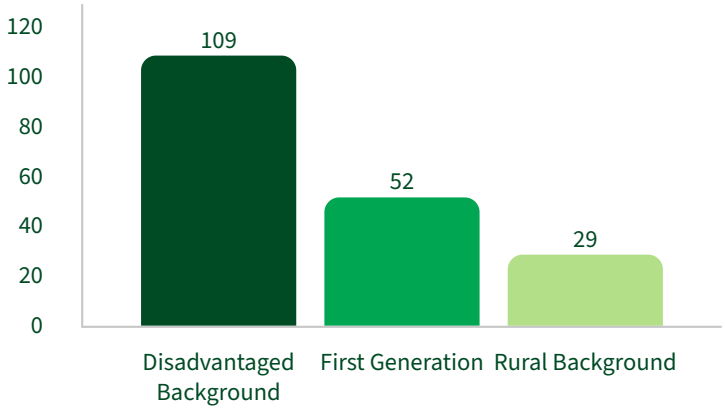
- Hispanic
- Asian
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- White
- 2 or more

- Hispanic
- Asian
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- White
- 2 or more

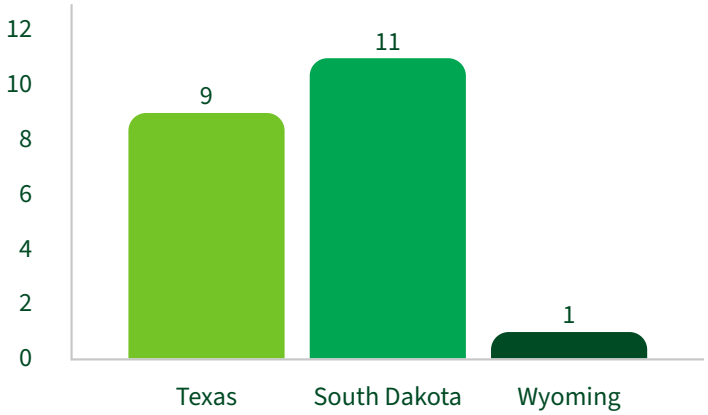
This Year (2026)



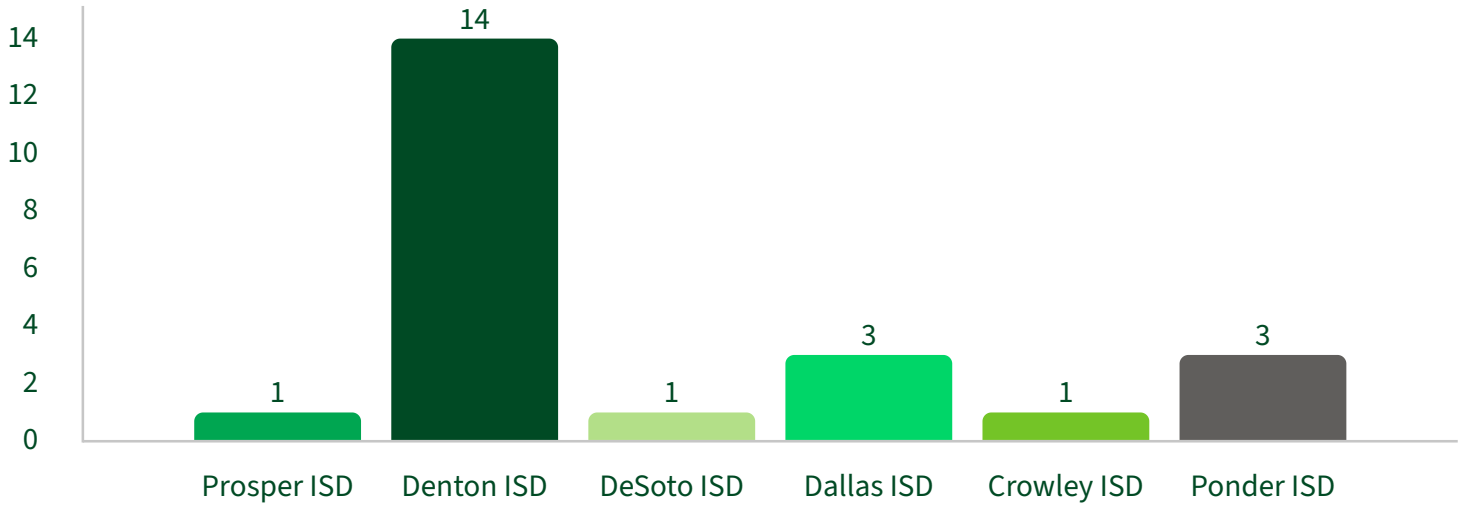
2024-2026



This Year (2026)
Rural Cohort

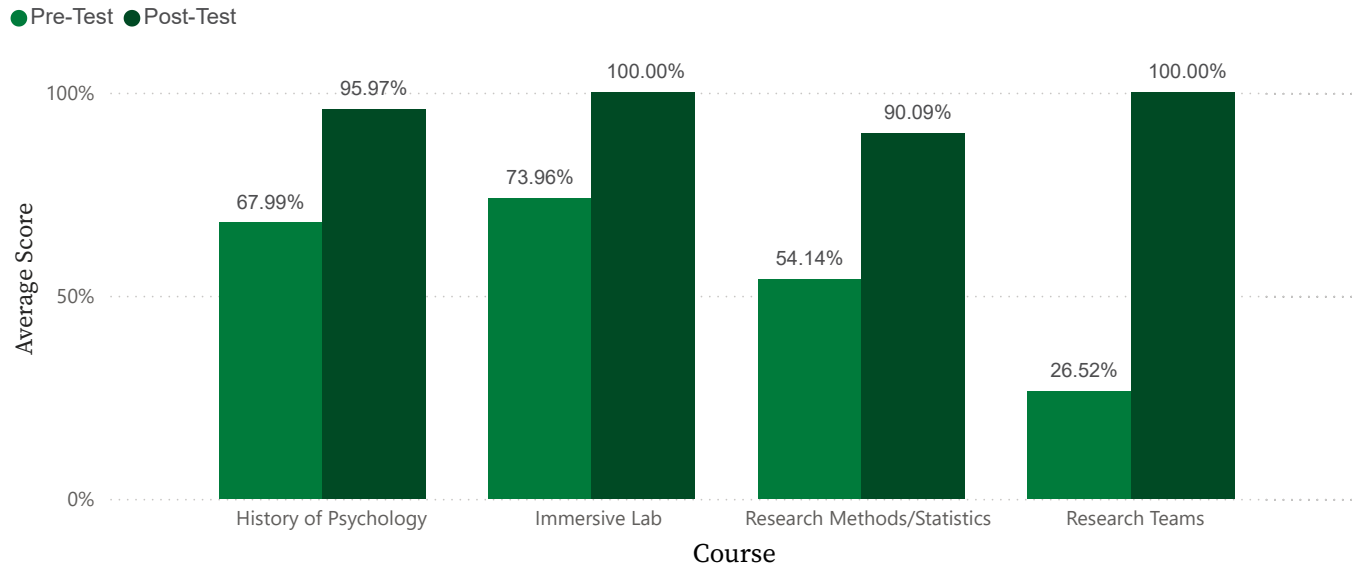


2026 Ambassador Distribution Across School Districts

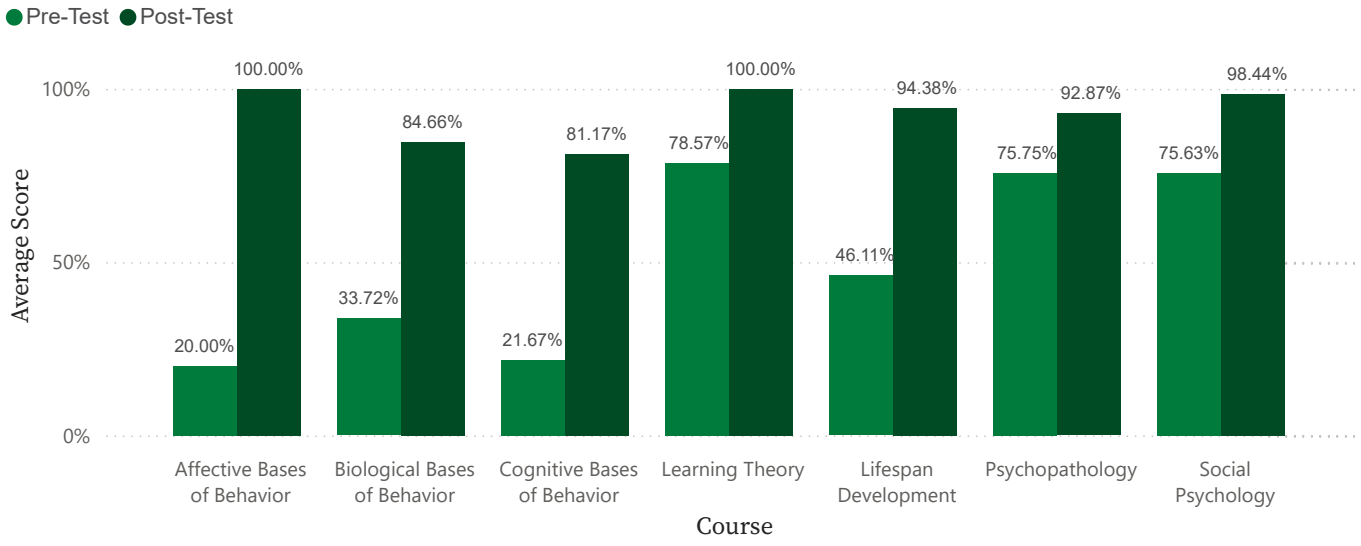


Knowledge Checks

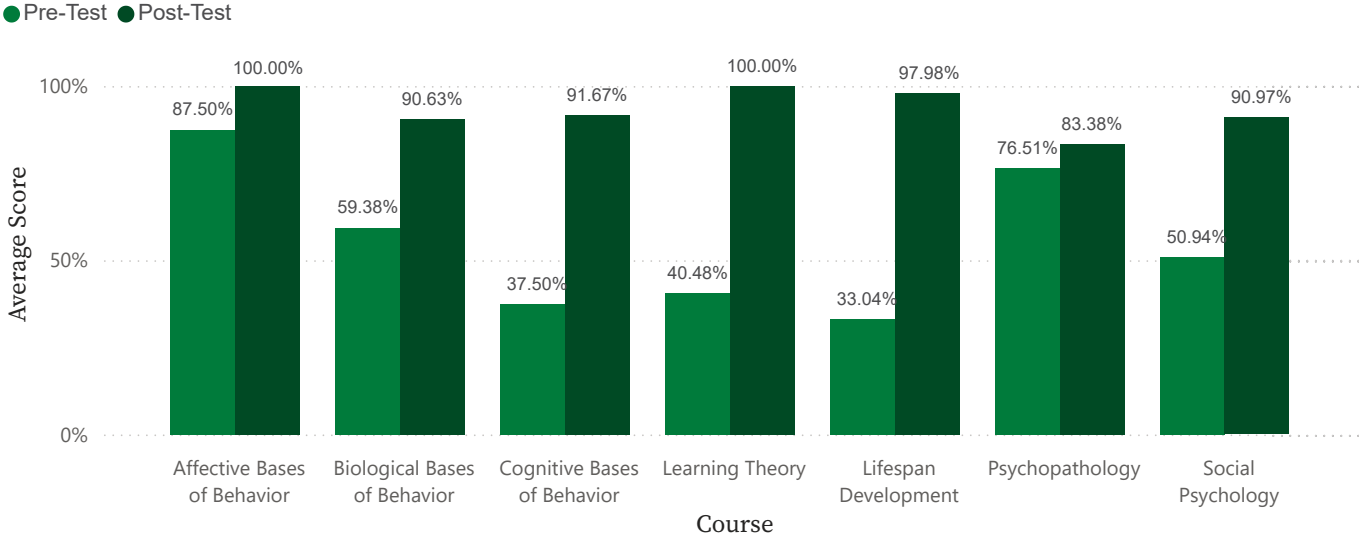
Both Levels



Level 1 - High School Students



Level 2 - Pre-matriculation to College Students

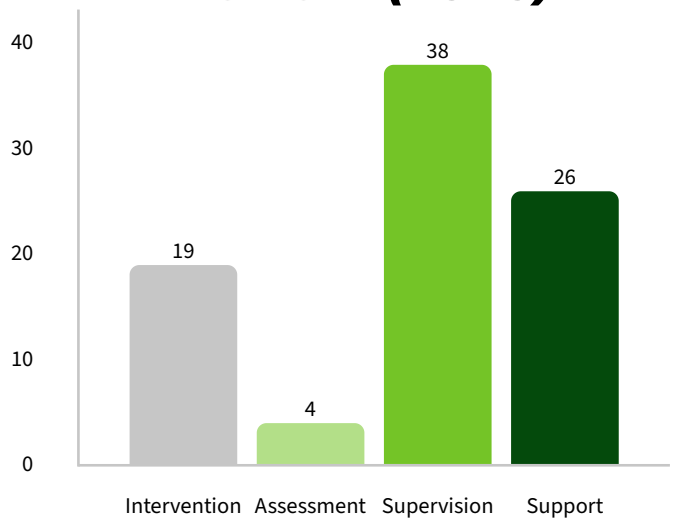


Building a Strong Behavioral Health Workforce

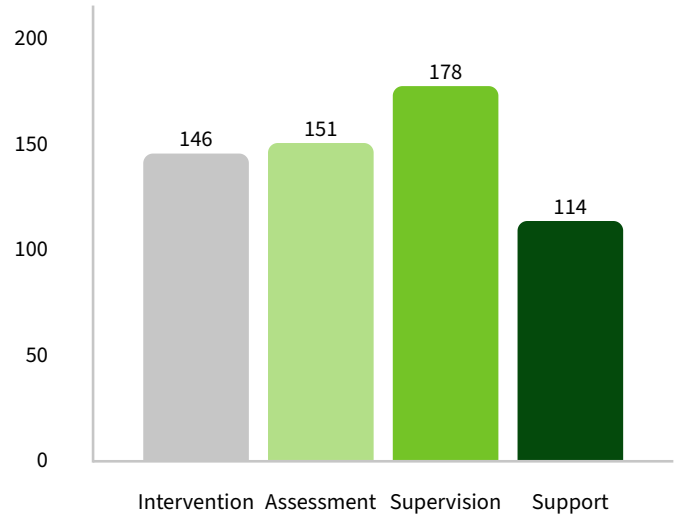
At level 4: doctoral students we are strengthening the behavioral health workforce through intensive recruitment, education, and training initiatives that span recruitment into doctoral training all the way through exam preparation to attain licensure for independent practice. Our efforts resulted in:

Training Hours

This Year (2026)



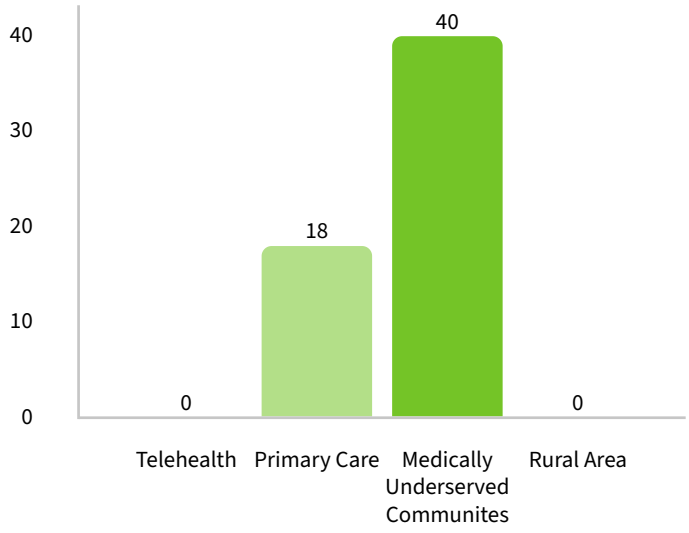
Total



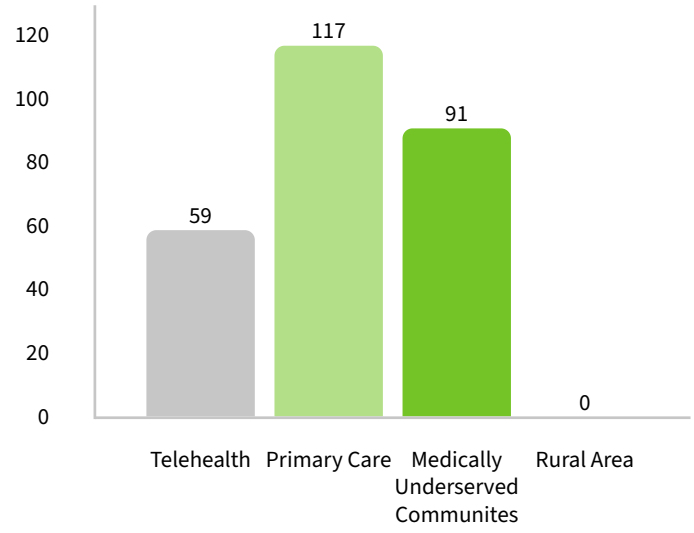
*Note: each hour counted once

Practicum Setting Hours

This Year (2026)



Total



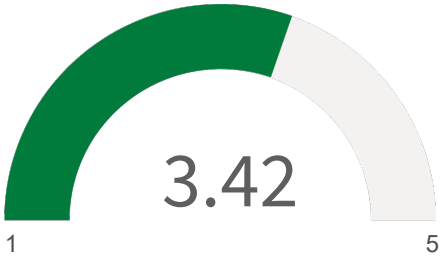
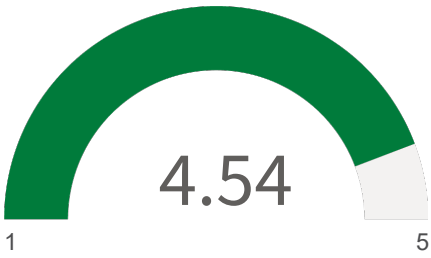
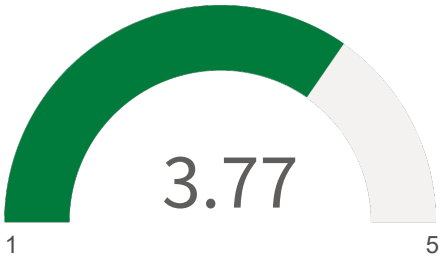
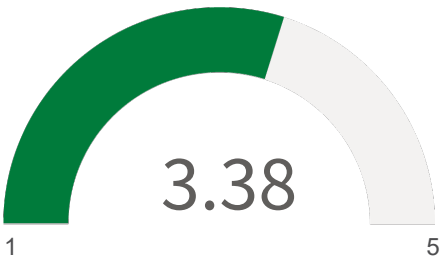
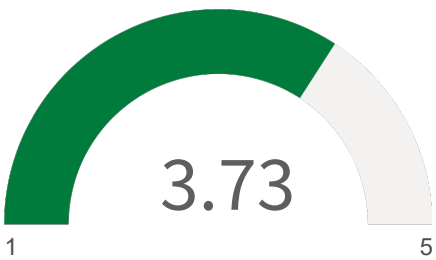
*Note: categories are non-exlusive; an hour may be counted in more than one.

End-of-Program Rating

Responses were rated on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicate lowest, 5 indicated the highest.

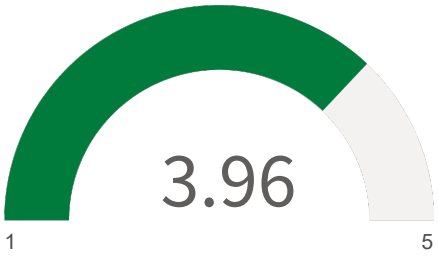
Level 1 and Level 2

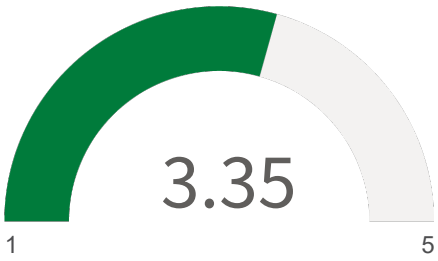
(Total participation of 25)

First Day of Program		Last Day of Program
	How aware are you of resources that support mental health wellness?	
	How comfortable do you feel supporting peers who may be experiencing mental health challenges?	
	How confident are you in discussing mental health topics?	
	How confident are you in your ability to conduct research?	



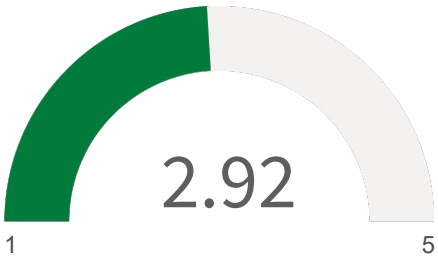
How interested are you in pursuing a career in behavioral health?





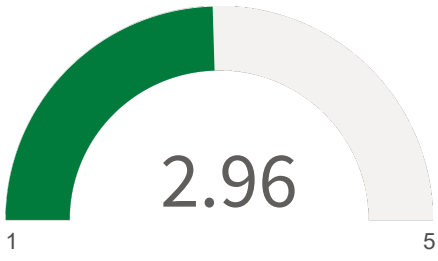
How well do you understand the different professional roles within the behavioral health field?



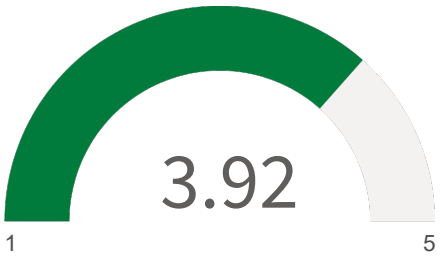


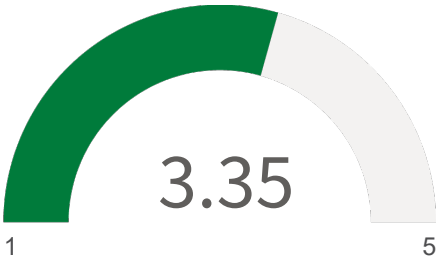
How would you rate your current awareness of key behavioral health challenges affecting communities?



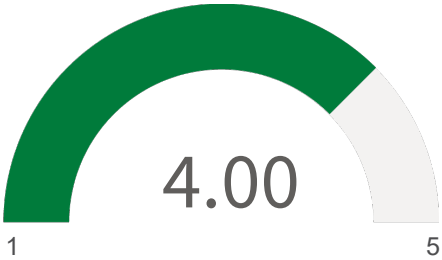


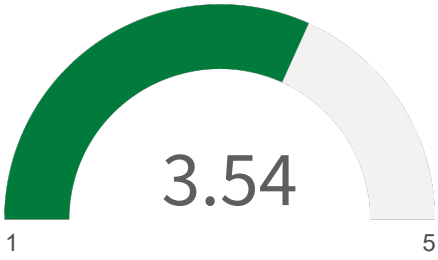
How would you rate your current understanding of behavioral health careers and the pathways required to enter them?





How would you rate your overall readiness to pursue a career in behavioral health?



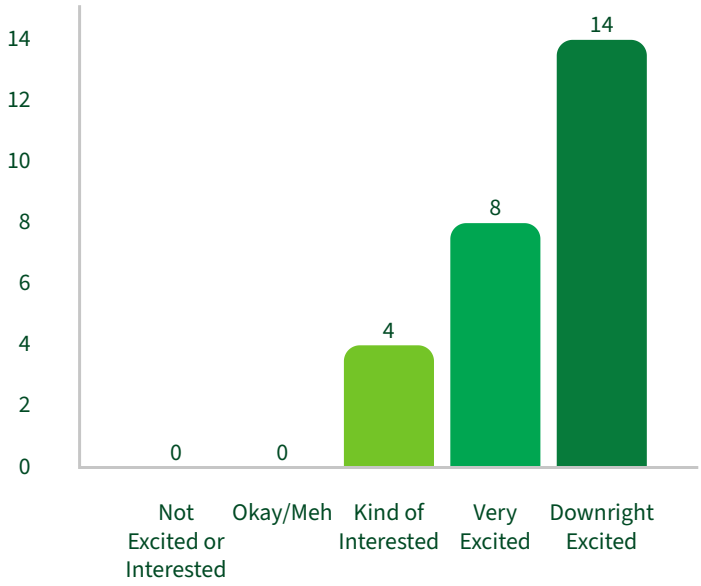


How would you rate your understanding of basic career skills (e.g., resumes, interviews, etc.)?

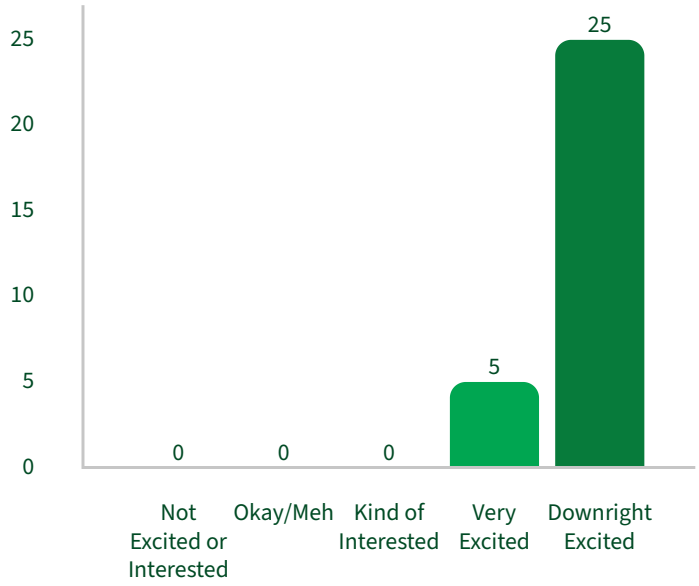


How do you feel about pursuing a career in Behavioral Health?

First Day of Program



Last Day of Program



Level 3: Post-Baccalaureate

(Total participation of 7 out of 22)

To what extent did HCOP help you connect your psychology major to a health professional career.



The technology and online platforms used by HCOP were user-friendly and reliable for my remote learning environment



How aware are you of resources that support mental health and wellness?



How helpful were the EPPP materials?



How satisfied were you with the opportunities to connect virtually with peers, faculty, and mentors?



How satisfied were you with your overall experience in the online HCOP program?



Community Partners

We proudly collaborate with independent school districts and organizations across North Texas in efforts aimed at improving the behavioral health of our region. Partnerships include recruitment of participants and interactions with the organization. Our partners are known for deep engagement in their communities.

JPS Health Network
Fort Worth, Texas

Little Elm ISD
Engage · Equip · Empower

DENTON
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Program Staff

Kimberly Kelly, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

Maame Yaa Darkwa
Senior Program Project Coordinator

Louise Tang
Data Analyst

Jennifer Callahan, Ph.D.
Asst. Director for Training & Dissemination

Camilo Ruggero, Ph.D.
Asst. Director for High School/Pre-Matriculation Training

David Cicero, Ph.D.
Asst. Director for Post-Baccalaureate/Doctoral Health Profession Training

HCOP UNT
North Texas
Behavioral Health Careers
Opportunity Program

Visit our website at: https://unthcop.org/

This program is supported by an award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services