The Common Core and Please Don’t Confuse Me with the Facts
Camille J. Odell, Director

States around the country, including Utah, have seen increased interest and discussion regarding the Common Core educational standards, which were adopted by the Utah and 46 other states in 2010. You may be confused and concerned about the Common Core Standards. I would like to share some resources with you which I find to be enlightening and helpful. The first is a fascinating article titled "How Facts Backfire." Here are the facts. PLEASE give yourself a treat and give it a read.

I am also providing you with some excellent resources about the Common Core standards and their implementation in our State. Utah’s educational standards, including the Common Core standards, can be found at corestandards.org and schools.utah.gov/core. To read about who developed the Common Core standards, and other answers to frequently asked questions, open the following FAQs.

Lastly, please read a recent statement by Utah Attorney Sean Reyes, after his office investigated the Common Core and concluded that the standards were legally adopted, and are not a threat to Utah’s educational system nor to our students. Here is Attorney General Reyes’ report.

My view on the Common Core is that we are fortunate that the Utah State Board of Education adopted the standards. Not adopting them would put our students behind their peers nationally and globally in an ever-increasingly competitive job market. I hope you will open the links above and read the information. As a school counselor you need to be informed on the critical topics of the Common Core standards AND the phenomenon associated with how people may respond to facts presented to them.
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
—Nelson Mandela

Announcements & Spring 2015 Courses

2012 Kaysville Cohort

Make sure that your supervisor is aware of both mid-semester review formats. Your supervisor may choose to do a review form or conference call with you, your supervisor, and Alex Spendlove.

Read the graduation procedures below, even if you are graduating in May, so you are well-informed.

Graduation Procedures

Congratulations to those students who will be completing their internship this semester! There are a few items of business you will need to take care of to ensure you graduate, including completing and submitting the following documents in Canvas:

- Mid-semester review form
- Hour log and cover sheet
- Supervisor evaluation form

You must also take the Praxis test to be eligible for licensure. When you take the exam, be sure to indicate that you want a copy of the test report sent to USU College of Education and Human Services and to yourself. When you get the report, email a copy to Camille Odell. She will need this information to approve you for licensure. Camille’s contact information is listed below:

camille.odell@usu.edu

2013 Statewide Cohort

Spring 2015 Courses

PSY 6290—Diversity Issues in Treatment & Assessment
Instructor: Jenna Glover

PSY 6370—Practicum in School Counseling
Instructor: Sandra Ameal

Complete your background checks by November 24th as discussed in Camille’s Power-Point presentation.

2014 Kaysville Cohort

Spring 2015 Courses

PSY 6460—Ethical, Legal, & Professional Issues in School Counseling
Instructor: Kathryn Bitner

PSY 6240—Comprehensive School Counseling Programs
Instructor: Kris Hart

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2013 Statewide Cohort

Spring 2015 Courses

2014 Kaysville Cohort

Spring 2015 Courses

What is your favorite thing about teaching in the SC program? There are many things that I have enjoyed about teaching in the SC program. The thing that stands out the most to me is the opportunity I have had to get to know the driven and motivated students in the program.

What advice would you give to students just starting the program? How about those about to graduate? My advice to students whether just starting or nearly ready to graduate is to look at the bigger picture rather than focusing on the small details. Each component of the program from quizzes up to the internship are all geared to make you prepared to work as a school counselor. Look at them as stepping stones rather than as a huge obstacle to get through on the path to being a school counselor. The classes and years go by so quickly and before you know it you will be a practicing counselor with a lot of tools you gained in this program.

If you could have lunch with anyone from history who would it be? I don’t have one specific person that stands out to me, but I LOVE learning about strong influential women who have made a positive impact in their world.
Ashley Beveridge, 2012 Kaysville Cohort

**Introduction:** Hello! My name is Ashley. I live in North Salt Lake with my husband, Zac, and dog, Legend. No kids yet— I’ve only been married a year and a half. Since getting married, I have become very creative at cooking because my husband has a crazy high metabolism (he eats a lot)! In addition to cooking, I enjoy hiking, camping, playing the violin, and shopping at Target. Seriously, I could buy the whole store.

**Why did you decide to do the SC program?** I knew I wanted to work in the schools, but I didn’t necessarily want to be a teacher. I was so happy to find USU’s school counseling program! I knew school counseling was a good fit for me because it would fulfill my lifelong goal to help other people achieve their full potentials.

**What are your post-graduation plans?** I am so excited to earn my degree and get my school counseling license. I plan on continuing my part-time work at Wasatch Peak Academy as a school counselor, and looking for a full-time counseling job come fall.

**What advice would you give to incoming students?** My advice is to NOT panic at the beginning of every semester. When you get a syllabus for a new class, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed as you look forward to everything you have to do. Keep in mind that hundreds of students have successfully made it through the program, and you can too!

Angela Wood, 2013 Statewide Cohort

**Introduction:** I am from Heber City but currently live in Logan. I am the oldest of four siblings and love spending as much time with them as I can. I love traveling, camping, hiking, cooking, baking, quilting, and doing humanitarian work. I had the amazing opportunity of participating in a humanitarian trip to Cambodia two summers ago and it changed my life forever! I am currently an AmeriCorps VISTA member working on a Title VII, Native American/ Alaskan Native, program for the Cache County and Logan School Districts.

**What are you post-graduation plans?** I would absolutely love to work in an elementary school when I graduate. I feel like that age group is so impressionable and is a critical time in the child’s life. They are making new discoveries and laying a foundation that will follow them for the rest of their lives.

**What advice would you give to incoming students?** This program can be very overwhelming at times with school, work, and other time commitments. I found the best way for me to stay organized and on top of things am to use a planner. I also make sure I schedule time for myself. Life can get crazy but it is so important to have some time for yourself to do something you love. Just believe in yourself and know that you can do this!

Mark Jamison, 2014 Kaysville Cohort

**Introduction:** I was born in Idaho and raised in California in a family of 6 sons. I graduated from High School in 2002 and then served a mission for the LDS Church from 2003-2005 in the Florida Tallahassee Mission. Upon my return, I moved to St. George and attended Dixie State College where I graduated with my Bachelor’s of Communication with an Emphasis in Digital Film in 2009. I then enjoyed working at Dixie High School in St. George until 2013. Just last Summer I moved up to Utah County and have since been working with visually impaired students at various schools throughout the Alpine School District. The most important fact about me is that right after I moved to Utah County I met the most amazing woman, Jenny Cooper. We will be married on October 15 and are very excited!

**Why did you decide to do the SC program?** Helping others is also something that I love and have a talent at. It took me a while to finally realize what I wanted to do with my life, but ultimately I decided to become a school counselor. I am anxious to help students discover the things that they enjoy, are naturally good at, and can translate into a workable career. I want to help the rising generation become more educated, productive members of society and to enjoy, appreciate, and not regret the path they have chosen.

**What advice would you give?** The best advice I can give to anyone is to smile.
I met Steve almost two years ago. Then 17, he’d come to live in our town shortly after his father, whom he had never met, was killed in a violent accident. Estranged from a mother in another state, Steve was bravely trying to make a go of it with his father’s side of the family, though they often seemed to resent his emergence at this tragic time in their lives. Steve resisted all formalized attempts at counseling, both by me and by our once-a-week mental health.

Getting high was his method of coping. “I tried counseling. It didn’t work,” he’d respond to my suggestions that he resume therapy. Still, Steve would appear regularly and plop himself down in the chair by my desk for brief conversations on his own terms.

In time, a bond did develop, and those unpredictable plop-in-the-chair moments gave me a window to the recovery happening in Steve’s heart, protected as it was by an armor of heavy metal T-shirts and artillery that sometimes included accusations and profanity. This year, when I asked for volunteer teens to speak to elementary children about why they’re drug free, Steve challenged me privately. “You should let me talk to those kids,” he said. “I wish I’d never started smoking. I know what it does to you.” A few days later, I found myself in a fifth-grade classroom listening to Steve share, with remarkable honesty, the story of how he started smoking at age 10. I have no doubt that his talk touched the at-risk kids in the room more than did the pep talks given by the rosy-cheeked, Honor Roll athletes.

Since then, I have seen Steve work out differences with a teacher he used to accuse of “copping an attitude” with him. I’ve seen him quit using drugs, and I’ve heard him tell others he wished they could be “high on life” like he is. Now a senior, Steve is about to graduate, an accomplishment that, two years ago, many in our school openly said would never happen. I look forward to congratulating him, and I hope to tell him what a privilege it has been to witness they way this boy became a man.

Peggy Haslar, K-12 School Counselor

Becoming a Man