The UGA School Counseling Program provides a summarized report to all program stakeholders in the fall. Data collected and reported is from the former school year. The report includes a review of data from exit interviews, alumni surveys, and employer surveys. The counselor education program at UGA completed a successful search with the hire of Dr. Amanda Giordano. Additionally, the new cohort of the dual degree program (M.Ed./Ed.S.) will begin in Summer 2018. An additional search has been approved for the 2018 academic year with the start date of August 2019. Dr. McMahon assumed the role as unit leader for the entry level (M.Ed./Ed.S.) and doctoral programs. Additionally, Dr. Daigle was promoted to Professor.

Review of Program of Study
Based on exit survey data, program faculty discussed feedback regarding the course sequence of the 66-hour dual degree, two-year program. The first year of the program mirrors the same course sequence with the only changes being the introduction to Ethics in the first semester and moving Developmental Counseling to the first Spring. Students will take an additional 3 and 6 hours during the final two semesters. Additionally, two doctoral students will assigned to the Internship class to assist students in developing their data-driven interventions.

Exit Surveys of Graduates (May 2017)
Fifteen students completed exit surveys one month prior to graduation in April 2017. In the survey, students were asked to comment on the core coursework. Students overwhelmingly were satisfied with the following classes and commented on the quality of instruction and relevance to the program objectives: Foundations of School Counseling, Cross Cultural Counseling, Counseling Children and Adolescents, Group Work, and Career. Students suggested more support for the intervention project in the Internship class and the addition of an ethics course and family counseling course. Students questioned the need for the Developmental Counseling class and the second service-learning course. Feedback from this survey also discussed the importance of the mentor/mentee program, mock interviewing that occurs during internship, and the internship site selection. The cohort model of instruction was also highlighted and students generally felt supported by cohort members and program faculty with some desiring individual advising.

Alumni Surveys
Out of 21 graduates from the previous year, twelve returned alumni surveys. Students were asked to evaluate their preparation related to required coursework, school counseling areas, and program climate. Alumni scored most of the required classes as a “4” or “5.” A few individuals scored the career, appraisal, and research classes lower. Regarding the school counseling focus areas, most were satisfied with scoring those areas with a “4” or “5.” Some areas that need additional attention include: crisis intervention and suicide assessment, substance abuse, and more attention to ethics and expressive arts. Alums felt generally supported while enrolled in the program with those areas receiving all “3’s”, “4’s”, and “5’s”. When asked to rate the school counseling program in terms of preparation for full-time work, the program received two “3’s”, eight “5’s”, and the rest a “4.” Some comments included “Both doctoral supervision and site supervision was helpful”, “All courses prepared me to work as a school counselor”, “I felt very
supported and thoroughly prepared after graduating from the program” and “I felt very, very prepared compared to new counselors in my county from other schools”, and “The program exceeded in helping me understand different cultures, SES, gender identities, etc. to more effectively counselor those populations”

Employer Surveys
Out of twenty-one graduates from the previous year, ten employers (principals) returned surveys. These alumni were employed as elementary, middle, and high school counselors. When asked “How well did UGA’s School Counseling program prepare the counselor at your school?”, all principals rated the alumni as either meets or exceeds. When asked “Would you hire our graduate again?”, eight principals stated “yes” and two principals stated “most likely.” Some comments from the principals included: “She is an absolute joy to have at our school. Truly as value-added member of our team”, “Your graduate is extremely well-prepared for the shared commitments of our counseling program”, “I could not ask for a better counseling candidate. X has been excellent in her role as counselor”, “X is a model graduate coming into her profession with outstanding skills and relationships with students, parents, and our community. We are lucky to have her.”, “X is an exceptional school counselor. It is hard to imagine that she is just starting her second year and I have very high expectations.”, and “X has been a great addition to our staff and community. Our students and staff are very lucky to have such a great counselor. She is a shooting star. Thank you.”

Please do not hesitate to contact the program faculty with any questions or follow up of this report.