

The North Texas Behavioral Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)



YEAR 2

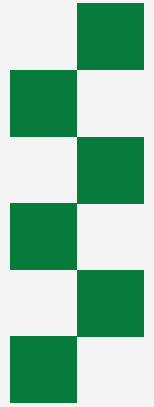


Progress Report

Reporting Period: 9/1/2024 - 8/31/2025



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. Insufficient diversity in the student-to-workforce pipeline.
4. Inadequate support for disadvantaged students transitioning through the high school, pre-matriculation, post-baccalaureate, and behavioral health profession stages.

The North Texas Behavioral HCOP aims to address these issues directly (#2 – #4) and indirectly (#1).

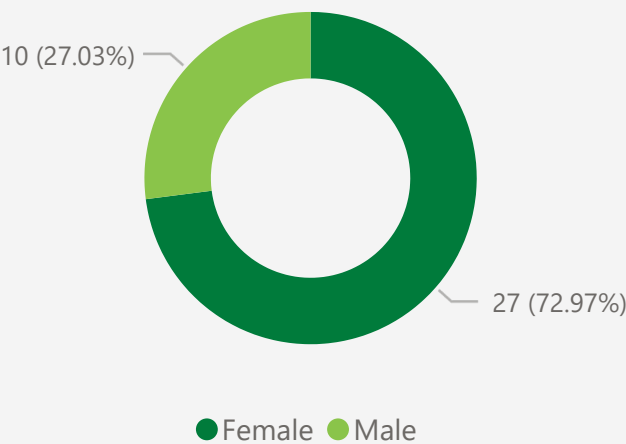
PROJECT OUTCOMES

Reporting Period: 9/1/2024 – 8/31/2025 (Year 2)

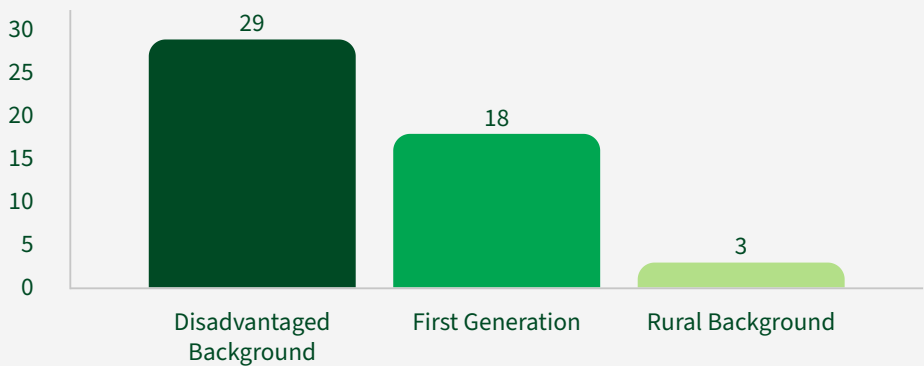
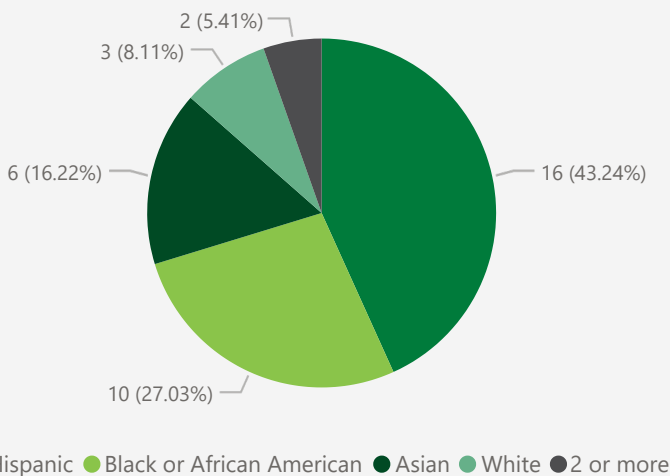
- Total Participants (Cohort 2): 37 ambassadors
 - 25 high school ambassadors (Level 1)
 - 5 pre-matriculation ambassadors (Level 2)
 - 4 post-baccalaureate ambassadors (Level 3)
 - 3 doctoral ambassadors (Level 4)
- All ambassadors completed John Holland's Self-Directed Search, a career assessment based on Holland's RIASEC research
- All ambassadors received mental health first aid training
- 12 ambassadors are certified in adult mental health first aid (MHFA)
- 19 SAT self-paced test prep provided
- 1 ACT self-paced test prep provided
- \$84,145.50 in stipends have been awarded to students from economically and/or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds to support their training.
- \$3,000 in scholarships for doctoral participants to support their educational
- \$10,500 awards for research focused on advancing the science of training in clinical psychology at the doctoral level

Demographics

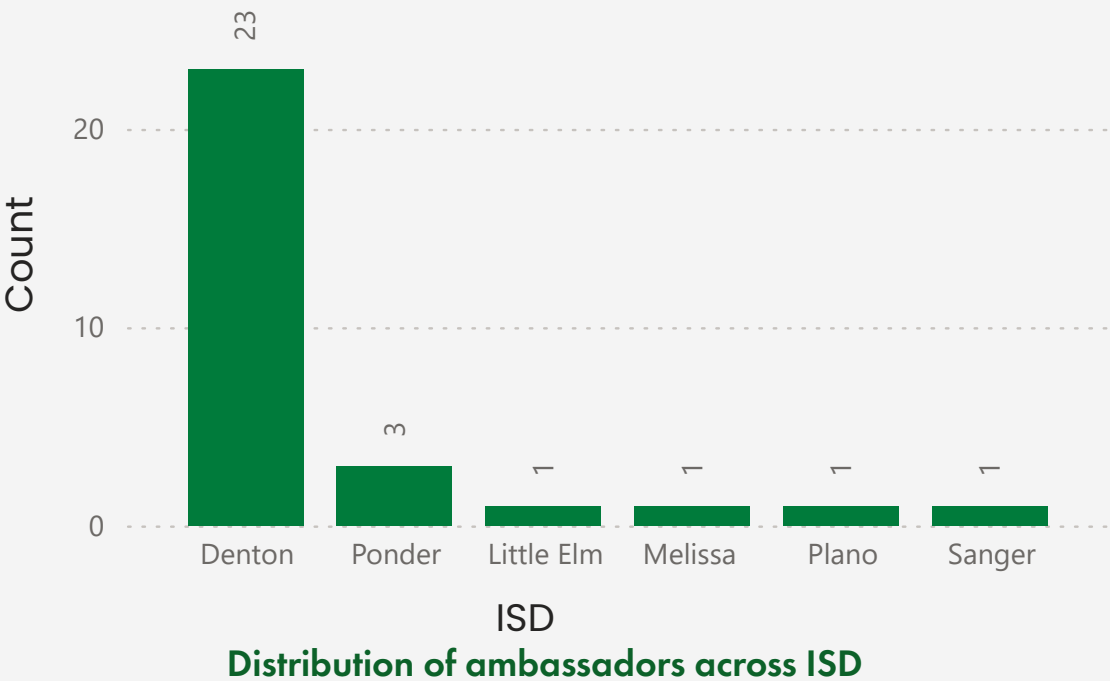
Gender



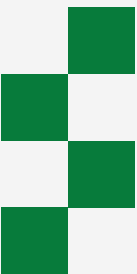
Race/Ethnicity



High School Independent School District

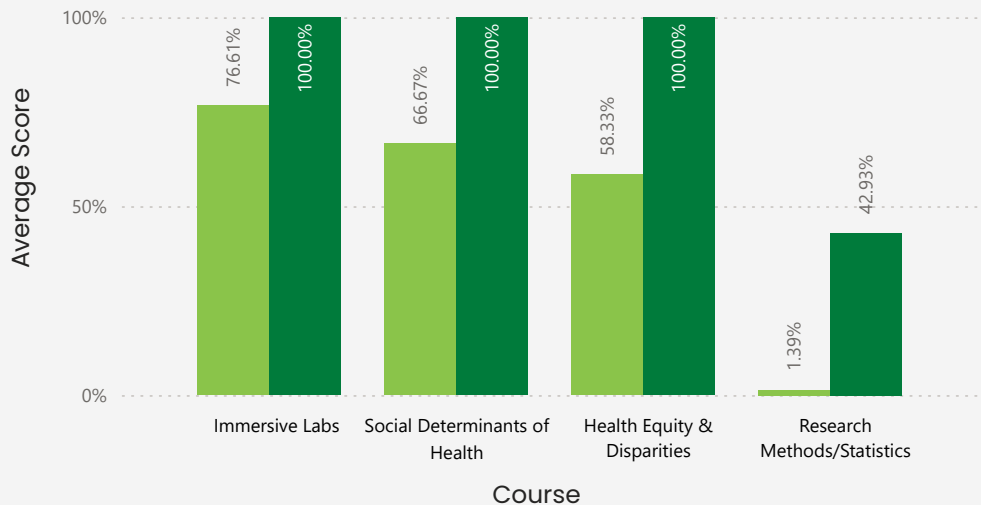


Knowledge Check



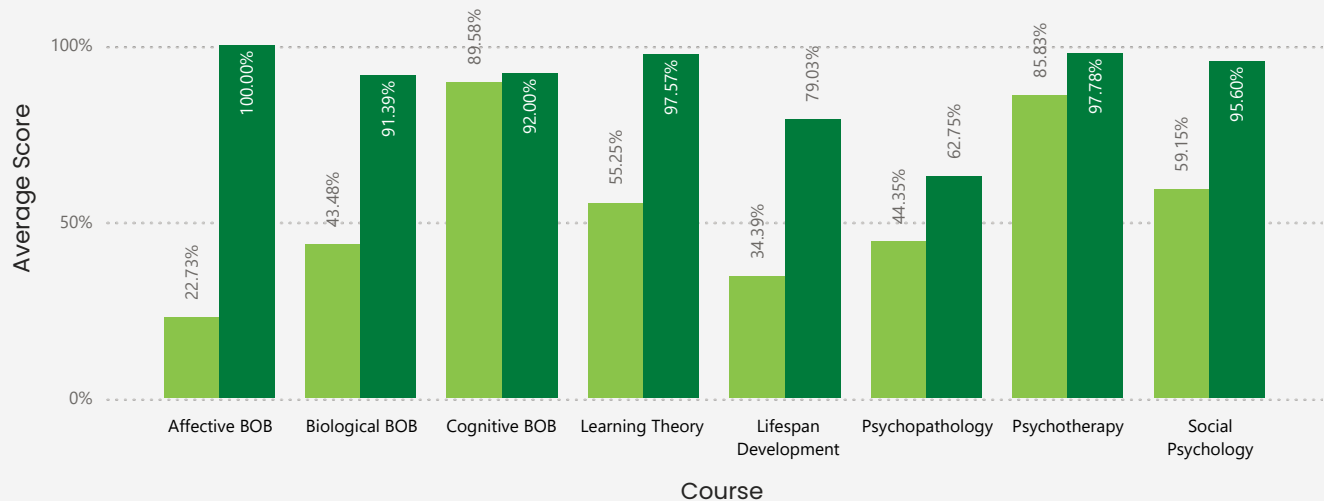
Both Levels

● Pre Test Score ● Post Test Score



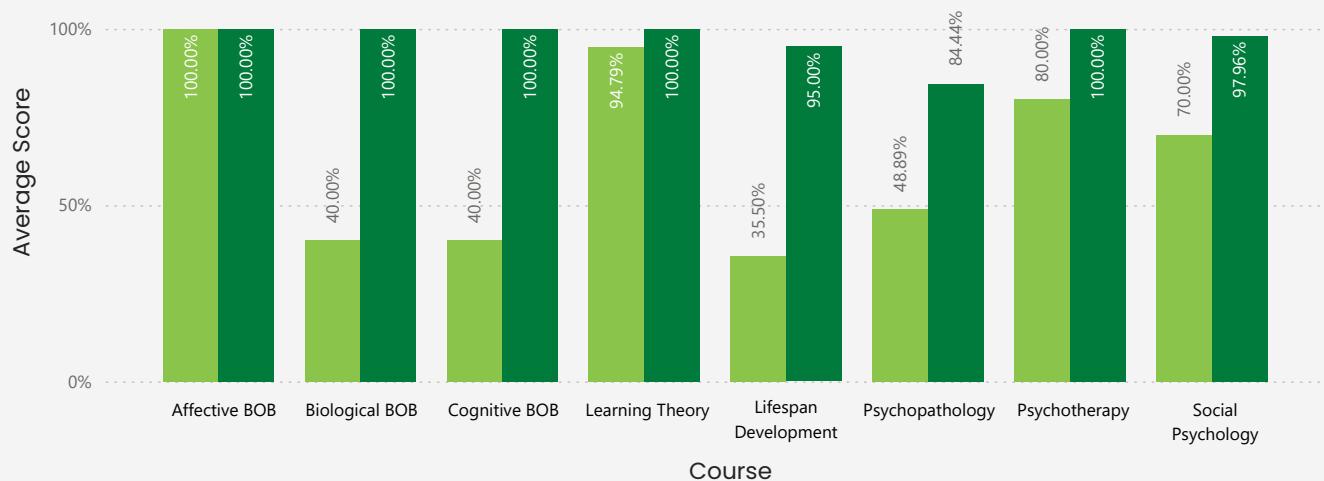
Level 1

● Pre Test Score ● Post Test Score



Level 2

● Pre Test Score ● Post Test Score



End-of-Program Rating

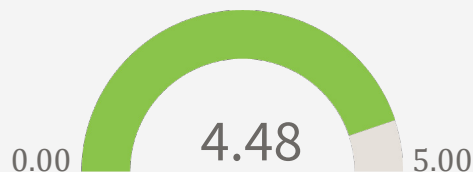
Responses were rated on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates strong disagreement and 5 indicates strong agreement (Total response of 30)

Average Ratings

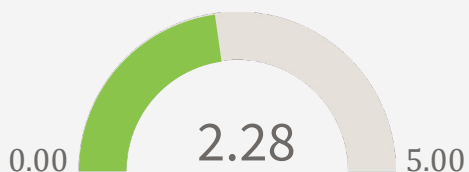
Overall I enjoyed the program



I learned a lot over these 6 weeks



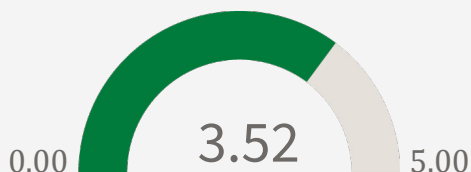
Classes were hard to understand & challenging



Instructors were understanding and helpful



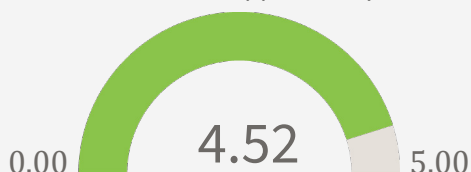
HCOP helped me on deciding my career path



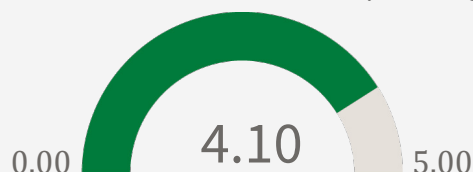
HCOP helped understand the steps to reach my career goals



I felt included and supported by the staff



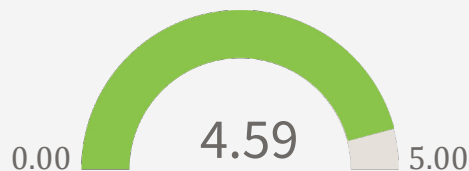
Classroom environment was friendly and engaging



Breakfast was well balanced and had enough variety



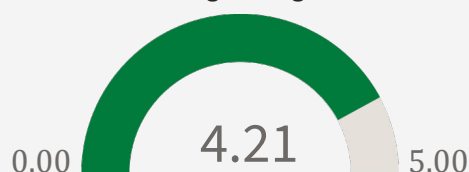
Likely to recommend the program to others



Food was good overall

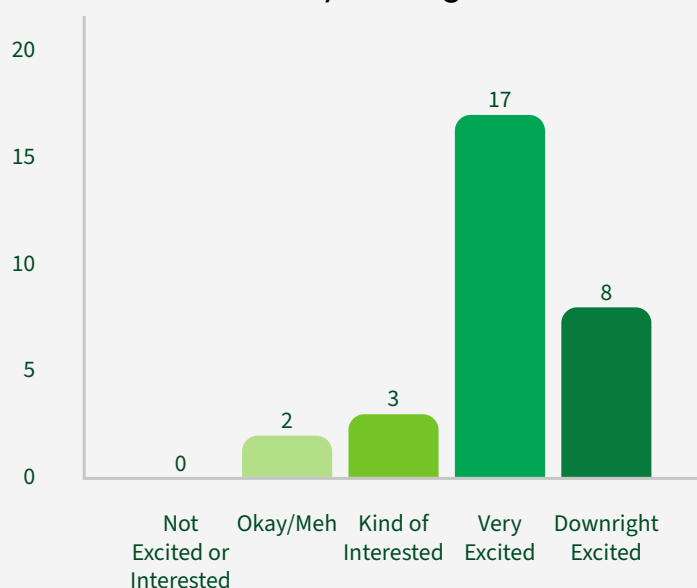


Made long lasting friends

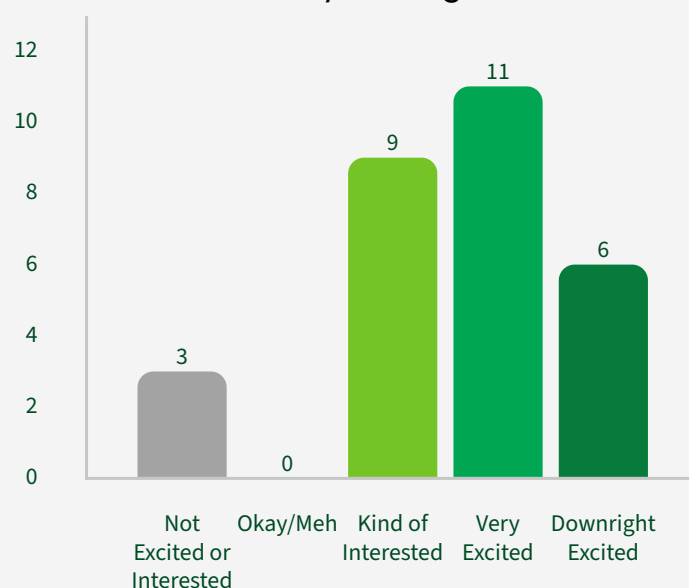


How do you feel about pursuing a career in Behavioral Health?

First Day of Program



Last Day of Program



Program Staff

Kimberly Kelly, Ph.D.
Project Director

Maame Yaa Darkwa
Senior Program Project Coordinator

Roxanne Rodriguez
Student & Program 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 
North Texas
Behavioral Health Careers
Opportunity Program

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