

## ABSTRACT

Title of the Research: **STUDENTS' NEEDS AND THE STATUS OF THE GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM AT MINDORO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY : BASIS FOR AN ENHANCED GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM**

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This descriptive study was conducted to find out and assess the needs and functionality of the guidance and counseling services at Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology in Alcate, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro. This study sought to determine if the existing guidance services meet the needs of the MinSCAT students and other members of the school community. The results of this study can help improve intervention program in the institution to formulate an enhanced guidance and counseling program.

The study involved 279 respondents, and was based from the perception of college students, faculty, administrators and parents using the simple random sampling, particularly the table of random numbers. Data were gathered using self-made survey questionnaires. Findings reveal that the students perceived the strong needs for education and career, followed by personal development, social development and family relationship. Based on the analysis and

interpretation of data, students need to identify positive attitudes and behaviors which lead to successful learning and to develop learning habits and preparation for careers. Meanwhile, for building self-confidence, finding meaning and purpose in life and developing self-control are indeed considered the needs of many adolescent in this stage. On the other hand, students also expressed the needs on how to learn and develop skills in time management. The results further reveal the need to have a happy home life and to meet their parents' expectations. Meanwhile, the guidance services were generally rated by all groups of respondents as "effective". Based from the findings, information service ranked first among the six (6) guidance services, followed by counseling and individual inventory services. Thus, testing, follow-up and placement services received the least mean ratings from all the respondents. These results imply that the guidance service of the college requires further improvement. Likewise, human resources obtained high means which are interpreted as "evident". It was found out that the guidance facilities equipment and budget are not adequately provided by the college; hence, this dimension requires to be addressed by the administrators.

The study, thereby, recommends to prioritize the identified students' needs in the implementation of guidance services, as well as to address the needs in human resources and the allocation of enough budget for personnel professional development related to guidance functions. The college also needs to provide budget for the guidance facilities and equipment. In meeting the students' needs on the different areas of development, the study concludes that

a unified effort of the counselor, faculty, administrators and parents could address the specific needs, using the enhanced guidance and counseling program proposed by the researcher. The support of the administrators in the implementation of the proposed guidance program based on the needs assessment tools is also recommended.

