

Hayley Dodd Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to a novice?

Counseling consists of connecting with others and facilitating their personal growth through that connection.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

Getting to spend my future professional life working in genuine relationship with others, and in a field that is endlessly complex and multi-faceted. Every individual's life is so unique, as is the way they relate to their experiences. Therefore, I am looking forward to having the privilege of continuously discovering, witnessing, and facilitating the process of healing and growth.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

Of course. There is no growth without collaboration. Also, as I mentioned before, connecting with others is so foundational to counseling – this is where you learn most about other people and yourself.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

Running, and/or dancing alone in my apartment. The former leaves me happily exhausted and uplifted and focused, and the latter makes me feel able and content in my solitude.

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

The last book I finished was a very unconventional collection of advice columns, called "Tiny Beautiful Things" by Cheryl Strayed, which I read over the course of spring semester. Everyone should read this book – made my life feel lighter, more manageable, and so full of tiny beautiful things.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

Every relationship I have experienced with the professors in the counseling department so far has been meaningful to me. They are certainly a significant reason I persevere through graduate school. More specifically, last semester I completed my first practicum experience working under the supervision of Doctor Sharon Jones. I felt we were able to establish a meaningful and natural rapport, which certainly encouraged my growth at such a significant time as working with my very first clients.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

This may be largely due to the nature of becoming a counselor, but I have been most surprised at how much I have discovered about myself – discoveries that I know will continue to transform and serve me as my life progresses.

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

Probably not. I would love to ride in a spaceship and visit outer space, but not as a scientist. But if they let me tag along anyway, I would be the mission-scribe, and document the experience.

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

Popcorn. It is so easy and delicious and you can eat so much of it before you are full. Though sadly it has become one of my main food groups over the past year, which I am blaming graduate school for.

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I would probably be a waitress/novelist – who was also most likely applying to graduate school again. I don't think I could settle on pursuing a profession different from counseling, because this field is so personally substantial for me.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

Summer of 2014.