

SouthUniversity
MASTER OF ARTS
CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Campus: Savannah, Georgia

Annual Report for January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

*Updates for Summer 2019 through Spring 2020

South University – Savannah, Georgia Campus

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Mission Statement

The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program is designed to provide advanced and broad training for South University graduate students regarding theories, principles, and dynamic applications in the field of clinical mental health counseling. Students develop the skills necessary to engage in effective assessment and treatment practices, achieve competence for ethical, legal, and professional issues, and understand the significance and utility of research to the field. Faculty members are dedicated to maintaining high teaching standards, developing intellectual curiosity, advancing critical thinking, and engaging in service to the University, community, and profession. The program promotes an understanding and appreciation of individual and cultural diversity, instills an awareness of the need for ongoing education beyond graduation, and prepares those pursuing a doctoral degree in the field through granting the terminal master's degree.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Objectives:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge, comprehension, synthesis, and application of the major theories comprising the foundation of counseling from a historical and contemporary perspective.
- Students will demonstrate an awareness and comprehension of the normal and abnormal mechanisms of change within individuals across the lifespan.
- Graduates will demonstrate an ability to properly identify, assess, conceptualize, diagnose, and treat mental disorders in the context of the accepted diagnostic nomenclature.
- Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the contributions of quantitative and qualitative research and the synergy among the theoretical, clinical and scientific components of the field.
- Students will explore and understand the impact of their personal view as it relates to their world view and the multidimensional nature of cultural influences as a Counselor Educator.
- Students will develop effective verbal and written communication skills necessary to interface with various constituents including clients, treatment teams, and public entities.
- Student will demonstrate an appropriate level of professional development as evidenced by the

knowledge and understanding of pertinent ethical and legal principles in the profession, in addition to current/emerging issues in the field.

- Students will achieve an appreciation and level of proficiency concerning the knowledge, skills, and competencies deemed appropriate for use in the profession as identified by the ongoing need for education and training beyond graduation.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Quality of the Program (as reflected in achieved national accreditation or national peer comparisons)
- Productivity of the Program (as reflected in enrollments and degree completions)
- Course-level Student Success (as reflected in quality control, withdrawal/failure rates, student ratings)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(*Updates Summer 2019 through Spring 2020)

1. Number of Graduates During Time Period	13
2. Completion Rate During Time Period	71%
3. Licensure Exam Rate (NCMHCE)	66%
4. Job Placement Rate	77%

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Year January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

1. Number of students in the CMHC program	43
2. Number of Graduates during 2019	13
3. Number of Admissions during 2019	29
4. Program’s Completion Rate for 2019	42.1%
5. Number of Graduates employed in Mental Health Field 2019	11
6. Placement Rate for 2019	*82.5%
7. Graduates Pass Rate on State Exam 2019	37% (NCMHCE)
8. Number of students in practicum/internship placements 2019	13
9. Number of placements available to students	20
10. Number of students passed their Case Conceptualization part of comps:	12

*Placement rate post-graduation:

- Winter 2019 – 80%
- Spring 2019 – 50%
- Summer 2019 – 100%
- Fall 2019 – 100%

11. Number of students who passed their Comprehensive Case Conceptualizations (CCC) portion of the exit examination:

Summer 2019 – 7 students completed / 7 students passed
 Fall 2019 - 5 students completed / 5 students passed

12. Number of students passed/failed their CPCE portion of comps test administered on:
- a. Winter 2019– 9 completed: 5 students passed
 - b. Spring 2019 – 4 completed: 0 students passed
 - c. Summer 2019– 8 completed: 3 students passed
 - d. Fall 2019- 5 completed: 2 students passed

NOTE: Students are afforded three attempts to pass the CPCE. All 26 students eventually met the pass requirements in accordance with program policy.

Content Area	National Average 100618 – 2/2019	SUSAV Average 100618 – 2/2019
	N=977 Mean = 84.1 Standard Deviation = 11.4	N= 9 Mean = 69.2 Standard Deviation = 9.5
Section	Mean	Mean
Human Growth and Development	9.8	7.6
Social and Cultural Foundations	9.7	8.9
Helping Relationships	10.9	9.2
Group Work	10.3	7.4
Career and Lifestyle Development	10.5	8.6
Appraisal	10.8	9.8
Research and Program Evaluation	10.8	9.2
Professional Orientation and Ethics	11.3	8.6
Content Area	National Average 100618 – 4/2019	SUSAV Average 100618 – 4/2019
	N=1509 Mean = 81.7 Standard Deviation = 4.8	N= 4 Mean = 64.8 Standard Deviation = 11.9
Section	Mean	Mean
Human Growth and Development	9.4	8.0
Social and Cultural Foundations	9.4	7.3
Helping Relationships	10.6	9.3

Group Work	9.9	6.0
Career and Lifestyle Development	10.4	8.5
Appraisal	10.4	9.0
Research and Program Evaluation	10.5	8.8
Professional Orientation and Ethics	11.2	8.0

Content Area	National Average 100819 – 7/2019	SUSAV Average 100819 – 7/2019
	N=62 Mean = 79.1 Standard Deviation = 16.0	N= 4 Mean = 61.8 Standard Deviation = 7.5
Section	Mean	Mean
Human Growth and Development	11.4	8.3
Social and Cultural Foundations	9.5	7.0
Helping Relationships	9.2	8.3
Group Work	10.8	8.0
Career and Lifestyle Development	9.8	7.5
Appraisal	8.9	7.0
Research and Program Evaluation	9.2	8.0
Professional Orientation and Ethics	10.3	7.8
Content Area	National Average 100819 – 8/2019	SUSAV Average 100819 – 8/2019
	N= 404 Mean = 81.4 Standard Deviation = 4.7	N=4 Mean = 68.8 Standard Deviation = 14.7
Section	Mean	Mean
Human Growth and Development	11.5	9.8
Social and Cultural Foundations	10.0	10.0
Helping Relationships	9.4	6.3
Group Work	11.3	9.3

Career and Lifestyle Development	9.9	8.3
Appraisal	9.0	8.5
Research and Program Evaluation	9.6	8.3
Professional Orientation and Ethics	10.8	8.5
Content Area	National Average 100819 – 10/2019	SUSAV Average 100819 – 10/2019
	N=1480 Mean = 82.6 Standard Deviation = 13.7	N=5 Mean = 67.6 Standard Deviation = 11.6
Section	Mean	Mean
Human Growth and Development	11.7	9.4
Social and Cultural Foundations	10.0	8.4
Helping Relationships	9.4	8.6
Group Work	11.2	8.6
Career and Lifestyle Development	10.2	9.0
Appraisal	9.1	7.8
Research and Program Evaluation	9.9	8.4
Professional Orientation and Ethics	11.0	7.4

13. CPCE - Tested areas were; Human Growth and Development (C1), Social and Cultural Foundations (C2), Helping Relationships (C3), Group Work (C4), Career and Lifestyle Development (C5), Appraisal (C6), Research and Program Evaluation (C7), and Professional Orientation and Ethics (C8). Students are afforded three attempts to pass the CPCE standardized test.

14. CCC - Comprehensive Case Conceptualizations and what is entailed: The second part of the exit examination entails students producing comprehensive clinical reports on case studies that are assessed across the following categories: evaluation and assessment, diagnosis and treatment planning, and clinical practice. Criterion reviewed includes accuracy, comprehensiveness, critical thinking, individualized conceptualization, and mechanics of the case conceptualization report. Students show evidence of improvement for critical thinking and analytical problem-solving skills while taking the second part of the exit exam, which is the case conceptualization.

In assessing each comprehensive case conceptualization component, the degree of accuracy, comprehensiveness, critical thinking, individualized conceptualization, and mechanics of writing the assessment is reviewed for the following sections:

Section 1: Evaluation & Assessment: entails identifying precipitating problems or symptoms, comprehensive psychosocial assessment, and identifying individual and relationship functioning; **Section 2: Diagnosis & Treatment Planning:** entails the integrating client assessment and observational data to formulate a conceptualization and utilizing that information to formulate a differential diagnosis on a multiaxial system before developing a treatment plan and **Section 3: Clinical Practice:** entails determining and identifying other services that could address client needs, identify and discuss applicable ethical and legal issues, and finally determining the practitioners scope of practice parameters.

The comprehensive case conceptualization evaluation tool is a rubric that measures accuracy, comprehensiveness, critical thinking, individualized conceptualization, and mechanics basis for the three areas of the case conceptualization and are assessed across five levels of competence. This comprehensive assessment (accuracy, comprehensiveness, critical thinking, individualized conceptualization, and mechanics) detailed in the rubrics assess Section 1: Evaluation and Assessment correlates directly with the successful application of the following core classes: CNS6535 Clinical Mental Health Appraisal I, CNS6161 Counseling Techniques, and CNS8100 Preliminary Clinical Evaluation. The comprehensive assessment of Section 2: Diagnosis and Treatment Planning correlates with the successful application of CNS6051 Diagnostics of Psychopathology and Treatment and CNS 6161 Counseling Techniques. The comprehensive assessment of Section 3: Clinical Practice is reflective of the effective application of CNS6313 Professional Orientation and Ethics and CNS6425 Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Program Changes

New Full-Time Faculty Member: New full-time faculty hire, Thomas I Watson, EdD, LPC, NCC, CPCS was hired by South University's Columbia campus as an Adjunct Instructor to assist in a partial teach out of Argosy University-Atlanta professional practice students in March of 2019. Dr. Watson was then hired as Associate Professor / Program Director of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at the South University Savannah campus in June of 2019. Dr. Watson earned a terminal degree in a CACREP-accredited Counselor Education & Supervision doctoral program, is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the states of Georgia and Alabama, is a National Certified Counselor, and is a Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor in the state of Georgia. Among several awards received during his academic, professional, and education careers, most recently Dr. Watson was the recipient of the ACA 2019 National Counselor Educator Advocacy Award and served as President of the Military & Government

Counseling Association (MGCA) division of ACA through June 30, 2019. Beginning July 1, 2019, Dr. Watson served on the Board of MGCA as Immediate Past President.

NOTE: Once established at South University's Savannah campus, Dr. Watson began the process of interviewing qualified candidates for an additional full-time faculty member at the South University Savannah campus. This has resulted in the hire of Dr. Clayton Martin, PhD (CES-CACREP), LPC, NCC.

Licensed Professional Counselors Association (LPCA) of Georgia – Student Affiliate Organization (SAO)

The LPCA-SAO affords students the opportunity to further their professional development while matriculating through their CMHC degree program. Leadership opportunities include president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer roles.

Student members of the LPCA-SAO were involved in numerous activities during the year. Of most importance:

- LPCA-SAO student members assisted in the coordination of the South University-Savannah hosted annual Safety Net mini-conference. The event is coordinated and supervised by CMHC full-time faculty member and Clinical Director Dr. Allen Delaney.
- LPCA-SAO student members were responsible for the attendance of U.S. Congressperson, Buddy Carter (District 1, Georgia) to discuss mental health issues on both state and national levels to include attendee advocacy for Medicare reimbursement by LPC's, LMHC's and LPMHC's (VA designation). A forum was moderated by Dr. Watson and included Safety Net attendees from various locations in Georgia.
- An LPCA-SAO student member and military veteran presented an educational presentation on the development of terror organizations within the United States and abroad, tying in social media concerns (indoctrination) and responses to threats to national security (Safety Net 2019). The student had previous employment expertise regarding the topic. NOTE: The same student became actively involved in an ACA national division and was elected to division office in 2019 to begin service July 1, 2020.
- LPCA-SAO student members were also involved in serving as discussion moderators for CMHC professional development seminars with guest speakers representing different populations of interest to the CMHC students determined from previous seminar evaluation surveys (e.g., transgender guest, counseling incarcerated clients, etc.)

Chi Sigma Iota

Paperwork started in 2019 to form a Savannah campus chapter of CSI is near completion with the hiring of new full-time faculty CSI member Dr. Clayton Martin.

Activities of CMHC Program and Counseling Students 2019

CMHC program students attended several campus career fairs during the year.

CMHC program students attended counseling-specific career opportunity presentations by local employers.

CMHC students participated in the American Red Cross Blood Drives at South University's Savannah campus in February and July of 2019.

CMHC program submitted its Mid-Cycle Report in February 2019.

CMHC program submitted its annual report and CACREP Vital Statistics September 2019.

Several CMHC graduates took the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam (NCMHCE).

Student State Licensure

NCMHCE

Aggregate Reports

Spring 2019 Program Pass Rate: 33%
 National Pass Rate: 52%

Fall 2019 Program Pass Rate: 40%
 National Pass Rate: 50%

NOTE: Currently, the Georgia Composite Board for Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists recognizes both the National Counselor Exam (NCE) and the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam (NCMHCE) for licensure. The NCE is a standardized multiple choice exam. The NCMHCE standardized exam places more focus on application through case simulations.

Workshops and Seminars

- Seminars – Winter 2019
 - January 26, 2019 - Emotional Intelligence – Columbia, SC campus - Virtual
 - February 9, 2019 - Cyber Counseling - Richmond, VA campus - Virtual
 - March 9, 2019 – Benefits of Joining LPCA of GA – Savannah, GA campus
- Seminars – Spring 2019
 - April 27, 2019 – Hypnotherapy Counseling - Columbia, SC campus - Virtual
 - May 18, 2019 - Human Trafficking - Lite House, Columbia, SC - Virtual
 - June 1, 2019 – Savannah CMHC Student Town Hall Meeting – Savannah, GA campus
- Seminars – Summer 2019
 - July 13, 2019 – DFCS and Counseling – Renee Sylvester, MA, LPC (Guest)
 - August 10, 2019 – Trauma & Resilience -WPB – Dr. Sherrie Raz - Virtual

- August 24, 2019 – Campus Discussion – Professional Development
- Seminars – Fall 2019
 - October 26, 2019 – Treating Complex PTSD – R. Fain, LPC (Guest)
 - November 2, 2019 – The Transgender Experience – Ms. Pollard (Guest)
 - November 23, 2019 – Counseling in the Prison Environment – V. Cleveland, LPC (Guest)

Safety Net 2019 – Saturday, August 3, 2019

Coordinated by full-time CMHC faculty member Dr. Allen Delaney, the Safety Net Conference has become an annual event for the past six years. Hosted by the South University Savannah campus, the free of charge conference affords attendees the opportunity to earn six continuing education units for licensure, licensure renewal, and two supervision certification or renewal CEs. Clinical training site supervisors are invited to attend the conference for the purpose of enhancing knowledge, skills, and application of counseling supervision practice. The following educational sessions were presented by field professionals (LPC, LMHC, LCSW, LAPC):

1. *The Process of Assessing Law Enforcement Officers with a Mental Health History* – David Thomas, PhD, LMHC
2. *Educational Advocacy in the Clinical Setting* – Anthony Cramer, APC
3. *Effective Clinical Supervision* – Rebecca Smith, LPC, CPCS
4. *Developmental Counseling and Therapy* – Karla Sapp, EdD, NCC, CCMHC, LPC, CPCS
5. *Treating Complex PTSD* – Rebecca Fain, LPC & Cathy Traynor, LPC
6. *Harm Reduction* – Josua Rine, LPC
7. *Mindfulness Dancing* – Heidi Hill, LCSW, LCDE III, MAC
8. *Use of Nontherapeutic Movement to Heal College Students from Past Trauma* – Amanda Salisbury, MA, LAPC
9. *Navigating Communications Barriers Between Client and Therapist* – Felicia Smith, APC, NCC, CMHC
10. *Racial Battle Fatigue* – Dana Taylor, EdD, LPC, NCC, BC-TMH
11. *The Business Side of Counseling* – James Hester, MBA, MA
12. *Integrative Mental Health* – Denise Coffee, MA, LPC-A, NCC, CCMHC
13. *Nature Based Counseling* – Christine Lucas, LAPC, NCC
14. *Reality Therapy* – Creighton Roberts, LAPC and Tanja Supon, LAPC
15. *To Promote the Understanding and Treatment of Sexual Problems from a Systems Perspective* – Rachel Richardson, EdS, LPC, NCC, CPCS
16. *Psychology of Extremism* – Wes Powers, BA