



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

School of Health Professions

*Department of Clinical Counseling and Mental Health*

## Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling 2023-2024 Annual Report

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) requires that programs make certain information publicly available each year.

This report was generated using data and information from Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024. MSMH is an abbreviation for “Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling”; NR = Not Reported.

Program completion rate is computed based on the retention of students during the specified academic year: (Current students + Graduates) / Total Students.

Employment rate indicates the proportion of students who secured employment within six months of graduation. The credentialing exam pass rate indicates the proportion of graduates who took and passed a counseling licensure or certification exam during the prior preceding academic year.

### Past Year Student Data

- Currently enrolled in MSMH: 140
- Graduates in 2023-2024: 38
- Program Completion/Retention Rate: 98%
- Employment Rate: 60%
- Credentialing Exam Pass Rate: 99%

### Sources of Data

- Student performance on final internship ratings from instructors and site supervisors.
- Enrollment and graduation data from 2023-2024 academic year.
- Systematic follow-up surveys of graduates regarding employment.
- Professional Disposition Evaluations (PDE) implemented annually, as well as within clinical courses.

### Program Objectives & Major Program Activities

The program faculty engaged in a number of relevant activities during the 2023-2024 academic year. The following are highlights of faculty engagement and accomplishments:

Dr. S. Lynn Jennings, PhD, LPC-S, LSOTP-S was appointed Assistant Program Director of the Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program.

Dr. Sherry Rosenblad, PhD, LPC-S was appointed Clinic Director of the Your Life Behavioral Health and Wellness Clinic.

Dr. Logan Winkelman, PhD, LPC-S was appointed Assistant Dean of Faculty Academic Success.

The program opened an additional Assistant Professor position which was filled in Spring 2024. On January 1, 2024, the program hired Dr. Nicole Noble, PhD, LPC-S for this role.

The MSMH faculty continues to engage in quality scholarship including seeking funding opportunities and other activities to increase research and enhance TTUHSC's visibility and reputation.

Over the 2023-2024 academic year, the MSMH faculty engaged in the following scholarly activities.

The MSMH faculty delivered over 41 scholarly presentations through local, regional, state and national platforms.

The MSMH faculty collaborated on 28 publications and submitted 4 interprofessional grant proposals.

The MSMH faculty provided 1568 clinical service hours and served on 74 school and university, local, state, and national committees.

The MSMH faculty are participating in various research projects across the School of Health Professions, TTUHSC, and external university collaborations.

Additionally, of the 11 students who have taken their counseling licensing exam (i.e., National Counselor Exam - NCE) as part of the early NCC application process, 10 students passed the NCE on their first attempt.

#### Planned Improvements:

The MSMH program continues collaborative efforts with the Office of Interprofessional Education by sitting on IPE event planning committees to ensure programming is relevant to MSMH and CCMH students. Further, MSMH students are being encouraged by the program faculty to participate as facilitators for IPE events allowing MSMH students to gain relevant interprofessional experience, but also group facilitation and leadership experience.

The MSMH program plans to continue to integrate a stronger emphasis on career development throughout the program to assist students with employment. This will be achieved through implementing career development-focused advising meetings, better advertisement of career development-related resources and workshops offered through OASA, and increased promotion of the virtual career fairs. Students were encouraged to attend NBCC's annual virtual Career Fair, Counseling Foundations: Your Path to Career Success, on April 4, 2024.

The MSMH program plans to continue to foster communication channels with university and school-related administration and offices to improve students' overall experience. This will be

achieved through regular meetings with relevant school and university administration to streamline communication.

It is the goal of the MSMH program to continue to make programmatic improvements to enhance students' experience. This will be achieved on many different levels including adhering to CACREP standards, improving communication channels with school and university-related administration and offices, developing stronger career development programming and opportunities for students, hiring of additional faculty, streamlining and increasing the rigor of the application process, and increasing the frequency of programmatic and departmental meetings to address student or program concerns more efficiently.

## **MSMH Program Evaluation Findings**

### **Student Learning Outcome #1**

Educational Experiences: Students will develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to practice as qualified clinical mental health counselors with a diverse population in a wide variety of contexts.

1. Measure: Professional Disposition Evaluation. Professional Disposition Evaluations assess fundamental characteristics necessary for competent professional counseling practice. Professional dispositions are: the commitments, characteristics, values, beliefs, interpersonal functioning, and behaviors that influence the counselor's professional growth and interactions with clients and colleagues. Professional Disposition Evaluation (PDE) assessment occurs annually and within specific clinical courses (Group Counseling, Micro Counseling, Practicum, and Internship) across the curriculum. The term describes fundamental characteristics necessary for competent professional counseling practice. The PDE is completed by instructors teaching clinical courses the semester the student is enrolled, and by all full-time faculty in the department annually.
  - a. Achievement Target: It is expected that 90% of students will receive a 3 or higher across all 9 categories on the Professional Disposition Evaluation (PDE) prior to graduating from the program. Scoring a 3 indicates that the student is developing toward competency, and is meeting the expectations of a mental health counseling student.
  - b. Finding: During the 2023-2024 AY, 100% of students (n=140) received a rating of 3 or higher across all 9 domains on the PDE.
2. Measure: Clinical Site Supervisor Evaluation. The MSMH program requires summary assessment of clinical skills at a mental health counseling focused site during enrollment in HPMC 5360 - Practicum and HPMC 6001 - Internship. This assessment is conducted by the site supervisor. This evaluation tool was developed to meet accrediting standards and to acquire summative feedback on MSMH students' clinical skills.
  - a. Achievement Target: 75% of MSMH students will receive a mean score of 3 out of 5 on the Supervisor Evaluation of Student Survey.
  - b. Finding: In the 2023-2024 AY, of the students who completed practical training, 174 students received evaluations from their clinical supervisor. Of those 174 students, 95% had a mean score of 3 or higher out of 5.

3. Measure: Site Supervisor Program Evaluation Survey. The MSMH program requests clinical site supervisors to evaluate the program. This survey seeks responses around student readiness for clinical work, professional interactions with faculty supervisors, and responsiveness of programmatic personnel to the needs of individual clinical sites. These evaluations are conducted each semester and used in the overall program evaluation process. Data collection occurs during the HPMC 5360 - Practicum and HPMC 6001 – Internship classes.
  - a. Achievement Target: The program will receive a mean score of 3 out of 5 on the Supervisor Program Evaluation Survey.
  - b. Finding: In the 2023-2024 AY, of the site supervisors supervising practical training, 86 supervisors submitted evaluations of the program. Of those 86 evaluations, 95% scored the program a 3 or higher out of 5 with a mean score of 4.41.
  
4. Measure: Comprehensive Exam. The Department of Clinical Counseling and Mental Health administers a comprehensive examination near the end of the student's program of study. The exam is a summary achievement exam of counseling curriculum content mastery. The exam contains approximately 200 items and is designed to mimic the National Counselor Exam for Licensure and Certification (NCE).
  - a. Achievement Target: It is expected that 60% or more of students will score 70% or higher on the comprehensive exam on their first attempt. NOTE: The program faculty modified the pass rate from AY18-19 of 80% to 70% to reflect more accurately national exam pass rates.
  - b. Finding: During the 2023-2024 AY, 43 students completed their comprehensive exam. Of the 43 students, 88% scored a 70% or higher on their comprehensive exam on their first attempt.

## **Student Learning Outcome #2**

Learning Opportunities: Students will develop the ability to implement culturally responsive and ethically sound counseling practices throughout their careers.

1. Measure: Professional Disposition Evaluation. Professional Disposition Evaluations assess fundamental characteristics necessary for competent professional counseling practice. Professional dispositions are: the commitments, characteristics, values, beliefs, interpersonal functioning, and behaviors that influence the counselor's professional growth and interactions with clients and colleagues. Professional Disposition Evaluation (PDE) assessment occurs annually and within specific clinical courses (Group Counseling, Micro Counseling, Practicum, and Internship) across the curriculum. The term describes fundamental characteristics necessary for competent professional counseling practice. The PDE is completed by instructors teaching clinical courses the semester the student is enrolled, and by all full-time faculty in the department annually.
  - a. Achievement Target: It is expected that 90% of students will receive a 3 or higher across all 9 categories on the Professional Disposition Evaluation (PDE) prior to graduating from the program. Scoring a 3 indicates that the student is

developing toward competency, and is meeting the expectations of a mental health counseling student.

- b. Finding: During the 2023-2024 AY, 100% of students (n=140) received a rating of 3 or higher across all 9 domains on the PDE.
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### **Student Learning Outcome #3**

Students will demonstrate evidence-based clinical mental health counseling practices in clinical training settings.

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  - a. Achievement Target: It is expected that 90% of students will receive a 3 or higher across all 9 categories on the Professional Disposition Evaluation (PDE) prior to graduating from the program. Scoring a 3 indicates that the student is developing toward competency, and is meeting the expectations of a mental health counseling student.
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  - a. Achievement Target: The program will receive a mean score of 3 out of 5 on the Supervisor Program Evaluation Survey.
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### **Summary:**

Overall, the MSMH program was successful during the 2023-2024 academic cycle. This cycle was the seventh full year for the MSMH program.

The MSMH program met and exceeded all achievement targets for the 2023-2024 academic year. To better serve students and meet the needs of CACREP Accreditation student to faculty ratio, the program opened and filled 1 faculty position during the Spring 2024 semester.

The MSMH program continued to align with the mission of the university of transforming health care through innovation and collaboration in many ways. First, we continued our enhanced telehealth training for students, continuing our partnership with our training vendor to offer specialized training in tele-mental health counseling. This training was implemented in the Spring of 2021. Now, all MSMH graduates are eligible to receive the Board Certified-Telemental Health Provider (BC-THM) Credential through the National Board of Certified Counselors.

Secondly, the MSMH program was granted approval through the NBCC for eligible students to submit applications for early National Counselor Certification (NCC). The National Certified Counselor (NCC) is a voluntary credential that identifies to members of the public and prospective employers that counselors have met national certification standards based on research conducted in the field. The NCC is not a clinical license, so students cannot practice with an NCC credential. Students must hold licensure as an LPC or as an LPC-Associate (or appropriate state credential), under the supervision of an LPC-Supervisor, to practice counseling within the U.S. In the 2023-2024 academic year, 11 students participated in the early NCC application process.

Finally, the MSMH faculty contributed significantly to the opening of the Your Life Behavioral Health and Wellness Clinic within the CCMH Department. The participation of the MSMH faculty in the YLBHW Clinic has been instrumental in enhancing their counseling skills and enabling them to deliver clinical mental health counseling services to the surrounding community. As such, the faculty members have been actively engaged in providing counseling services through the YLBHW Clinic, since its inception in March of 2023.