



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 2020-2021 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 2020, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021. 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: 156
- Graduates in 2020-2021: 24
- Program Completion/Retention Rate: 96% 187
- Employment Rate: 75% (N = 9)
- Credentialing Exam Pass Rate: 97% (41)

Sources of Data

- Student performance on final internship ratings from instructors and site supervisors.
- Admissions, enrollment, and graduation data from 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 academic year. The following are highlights of faculty engagement and accomplishments:

- The program hired an additional faculty member in the Spring 2021 semester, Dr. Lynn Jennings, PhD, LPC-S, LSOTP

- 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 2020-2021 academic year, the MSMH faculty engaged in the following scholarly activities
 - Delivered 42 scholarly presentations on local, regional, state and national platforms
 - Collaborated on 5 publications
 - Submitted 3 grant proposals, 2 of which have been funded
 - Provided 470+ clinical service hours
 - Served on 30+ school and university, local, state, and national committees
- The MSMH faculty are participating in various research projects that have collaborations across the School of Health Professions, TTUHSC, and external university collaborations.
- The MSMH program was approved to participate in early application for the National Certified Counselor Credential allowing students to apply for board certification through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)
- The MSMH program transitioned to new telecounseling training allowing graduates to sit for board certification exam through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) to seek the Board Certified-TeleMental Health Provider (BC-TMH) credential.

Planned Improvements

The MSMH program has begun 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 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 fair hosted by the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs (OASA).

The MSMH program plans to develop stronger 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 Development Exam. The Professional Development exam is within the HPMC 5333 capstone course designed to assess students' theoretical and skills competence prior to graduation. Exam topics cover work the student has completed throughout the entirety of the MSMH program. The exam contains approximately 200 items and is designed to evaluate the specialty area of clinical mental health counseling practice.
 - a. Achievement Target: It is expected that 60% or more of students will receive an 80% or higher on the exam.
 - b. Finding: 60% of students (n= 50 students) who took the exam passed with 80% or better. The average for the exam was 80%.
 - i. While target was met, this percentage is decreasing compared to previous academic years. Programmatic adjustments will be made for the upcoming academic year to enhance exam preparedness.
2. 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 2020-2021 academic year, 100% of students (n= 168) received a rating of 3 or higher across all 9 domains on the PDE.
3. 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 5314 - 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 2020-2021 academic year, 37 students completed practical training. Of the 37 students, 100% had a mean score of 3 or higher out of 5 on the Supervisor Evaluation of Student Survey.
- 4. 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 5314 - 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: The program received a mean score of 4.42 out of 5 on the Supervisor Program Evaluation Survey for the 2020-2021 academic year.
- 5. 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: In the 2020-2021 academic year, 41 students completed their comprehensive exam. Of the 41 students, 97% scored a 70% or higher on the 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 Development Exam. The Professional Development exam is within the HPMC 5333 capstone course designed to assess students' theoretical and skills competence prior to graduation. Exam topics cover work the student has completed throughout the entirety of the MSMH program. The exam contains approximately 200 items and is designed to evaluate the specialty area of clinical mental health counseling practice.
 - a. Achievement Target: It is expected that 60% or more of students will receive an 80% or higher on the exam.
 - b. Finding: 60% of students (n= 50 students) who took the exam passed with 80% or better. The average for the exam was 80%.
 - i. While target was met, this percentage is decreasing compared to previous academic years. Programmatic adjustments will be made for the upcoming academic year to enhance exam preparedness.

2. 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 2020-2021 academic year, 100% of students (n= 168) received a rating of 3 or higher across all 9 domains on the PDE.
3. 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 5314 - 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 2020-2021 academic year, 37 students completed practical training. Of the 37 students, 100% had a mean score of 3 or higher out of 5 on the Supervisor Evaluation of Student Survey.
4. 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 5314 - 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: The program received a mean score of 4.42 out of 5 on the Supervisor Program Evaluation Survey for the 2020-2021 academic year.
5. 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: In the 2020-2021 academic year, 41 students completed their comprehensive exam. Of the 41 students, 97% scored a 70% or higher on the comprehensive exam on their first attempt.

Student Learning Outcome #3

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

1. Measure: Professional Development Exam. The Professional Development exam is within the HPMC 5333 capstone course designed to assess students' theoretical and skills competence prior to graduation. Exam topics cover work the student has completed throughout the entirety of the MSMH program. The exam contains approximately 200 items and is designed to evaluate the specialty area of clinical mental health counseling practice.
 - a. Achievement Target: It is expected that 60% or more of students will receive an 80% or higher on the exam.
 - b. Finding: 60% of students (n= 50 students) who took the exam passed with 80% or better. The average for the exam was 80%.
 - i. While target was met, this percentage is decreasing compared to previous academic years. Programmatic adjustments will be made for the upcoming academic year to enhance exam preparedness.

2. 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 2020-2021 academic year, 100% of students (n= 168) received a rating of 3 or higher across all 9 domains on the PDE.

3. 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 5314 - 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 2020-2021 academic year, 37 students completed practical training. Of the 37 students, 100% had a mean score of 3 or higher out of 5 on the Supervisor Evaluation of Student Survey.
4. 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 5314 - 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: The program received a mean score of 4.42 out of 5 on the Supervisor Program Evaluation Survey for the 2020-2021 academic year.
5. 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: In the 2020-2021 academic year, 41 students completed their comprehensive exam. Of the 41 students, 97% scored a 70% or higher on the comprehensive exam on their first attempt.

Summary:

Overall, the MSMH program was successful during the 2020-2021 academic cycle. This cycle was the fourth full year for the MSMH program.

A significant accomplishment for the MSMH program during this reporting cycle regards receiving full, 8-year accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). To better serve students and meet the needs of CACREP Accreditation student to faculty ratio, the program opened 2 faculty positions and expect these new faculty positions to be filled by the Spring 2022 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 accelerated our telehealth training for students, seeking out a new training vendor to offer specialized training

in tele-mental health counseling. This new 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. Additionally, 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 you 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.

The MSMH program contributed to the overall mission of TTUHSC in several ways. First, we continue to assist the Office of Interprofessional Education to provide meaningful experiences to all students through MSMH faculty and MSMH student volunteerism in virtual IPE events. Second, starting the Spring 22 admissions cycle, the program raised the admissions GPA minimum from a 2.7 to a 3.0 to continue to improve the caliber of students admitted into the program to ensure alignment with the University's mission. Increasing the caliber of students admitted into the program allows the program to provide high-impact innovative educational experiences to all students.