



ASHLAND
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2016 Annual Report—Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

Graduation

Thirty-five CMHC students graduated in May, 2016. Twelve graduated *cum laude* (3.7-3.9 GPA) and 10 *magna cum laude* (3.9 GPA).

Columbus Campus Relocation and CACREP

In spring semester of 2016, Ashland Theological Seminary moved all of its programs and classes from the Polaris Parkway location to Ashland University's Columbus Campus. Since the CMHC program was originally approved by CACREP while at AU's campus, the move back required only a letter from Dr. Mann noting the change of location.

Alpha Tau Sigma Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) Inducts New Members

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is chartered as the Alpha Tau Sigma Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) with Dr. Sadler-Gerhardt and Dr. Imhoff serving as the Chapter Faculty Advisors (CFAs).

Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) is an international honor society that values academic and professional excellence in counseling. It promotes a strong professional identity through members (professional counselors, counselor educators, and students) who contribute to the realization of a healthy society by fostering wellness and human dignity. CSI's mission is to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership, advocacy, and excellence in counseling, and to recognize high attainment in the pursuit of academic and clinical excellence in the profession of counseling.

Student eligibility for membership is based upon having completed at least one semester of coursework and maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Students must also be deemed promising for endorsement as a professional counselor and exhibit exemplary ethical judgment and behavior to be eligible for membership. At the Induction Ceremony held on April 8th, twenty-seven students were sworn into membership. Dr. Victoria Kress was the guest speaker.

Student Advisory Council

Students from both cohorts (Ashland and Columbus) were selected to serve on the Student Advisory Council (SAC) and met with Dr. Mann once per semester to discuss concerns from the students' perspective. Members of the Columbus Cohort SAC included Adam Hall, Amanda Hullinger, Tramise Hines, Justin Kuhn, Terrance Tilford, and Anna Wannemacher. Members of the Ashland Cohort SAC included Jasmine Calloway, Kimberly Clipper, Inez James, Michael Moorehead, Jeanne Scott, Heather Strnad, Miranda Walker, and Jared Whipple.

Comprehensive Examination

All counseling students are required to demonstrate knowledge of counseling information viewed as important by counselor preparation programs. As of 2012, the comprehensive examination used within the CMHC Program is the **Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE)**.

The CPCE is a knowledge-based examination that reflects the eight core curriculum areas approved by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The CPCE consists of 160 questions and students are allowed four (4) hours to complete the exam. All counseling students must pass the exam to be eligible for graduation. The Comprehensive Examination is offered twice per year (July and January) and students are eligible to sit for the exam following the completion of the second year of the cohort.

Of the 7 students taking the CPCE for the first time in January 2016, all passed on their first attempt (100%). Six of these students scored above the national mean score with one scoring 1 standard deviation (SD) above the national mean. In July 2016, of the 45 students taking the CPCE for the first time, all passed on their first attempt (100%). Thirty-eight of these students scored above the national mean score with 20 scoring 1 SD above the national mean and 2 scoring 2 SD above the national mean.

State Report Card

In Ohio, the National Counselor Exam (NCE) is used for Ohio licensure as a Professional Counselor (PC) and the NCMHCE is used for licensure as a Professional Clinical Counselor. Each year the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board provides programs with their "report card" of results for examinees identifying themselves as graduates. The report card provided by the State for 2015 was inaccurate as it showed only 10 of our graduates having taken the license exam. In consultation with the Board's Executive Director, it was discovered that some testers did not identify their university and therefore were excluded from the reports that universities received. The testing company will now require all testers to identify the school where they earned their counseling degree which will give an accurate portrayal in future report cards. Although data from the State on the NCE and NCMHCE were unavailable, a license look-up was done on all of our class of 2015 graduates and 100% were licensed (i.e., passed the NCE).

New Faculty Member and Transition of Directorship of Smetzer Counseling Center

Dr. Brad Imhoff, who had served as the Director of the Smetzer Counseling Center and as an adjunct faculty member in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, accepted the invitation of Dr. John Shultz to join our Counseling Faculty as Assistant Professor of Counseling. Dr. Michael Reuschling has added the part-time directorship of SCC to his faculty responsibilities.

CMHC Program Policy Changes

The Counseling Department discussed several items of concern that resulted in policy changes within the CMHC program that will take effect with the incoming cohort and are included in the revised CMHC Student Handbook.

- Pre-Requisite Classes for Practicum—With the change in conspectus that occurred in the Q2S transition, it was believed that students did not have the courses necessary to be equipped properly for seeing clients. By decision of the Department, all students must have taken the following courses to be eligible: CLC 6692 Assessment, CLC 7729 Differential Diagnosis, CLC 7787 Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders, and CLC 7795 Treatment Planning Principles & Practice.
- Student Evaluation & Retention—The Christian Counselor Effectiveness Characteristics (CCEC) form has been used as one means of assessing students. The form was revised to become more specific and applicable to Group Dynamics, Practicum, and Internship experiences. Dr. Wetherbee will be developing a training video to accompany the revised CCEC. Both the video and revised CCEC will be posted online for use beginning in Fall Semester 2016. Further streamlining of student tracking for remediation (and possible dismissal should remediation fail) involved **3 policy changes**. First, all incoming students will be required to sign a form indicating that they have read and understand the CMHC Student Handbook. This will occur at the new student orientation and will serve as a step in the direction of student responsibility for knowing the evaluation, retention, and dismissal policies. Second, it was decided by the Department and approved by the Academic Council that the academic advisor of any CMHC students failing a class (i.e., grade of F) will be notified by the Registrar so as to meet with the student. Students earning more than one failing grade will be required to meet with the Associate Dean for Counseling Programs and may be dismissed from the program. Finally, students will be required to take the comprehensive exam (CPCE) in July following the completion of their cohort classes. Students failing the exam once will be required to meet with the Associate Dean for Counseling Programs. It was decided by the Department and approved by the Academic Council that students failing the exam on their second attempt will be dismissed from the program. In addition, no letters to the State for students wishing to take the NCE before graduation will be sent by the Associate Dean for Counseling Programs until students have passed the comprehensive examination.

Submitted by David P. Mann, Ph.D., LPCC-S
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