



ASHLAND
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2017 Annual Report—Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

Graduation

Fifty-seven CMHC students graduated in May, 2017. Twenty-one of these graduated *cum laude* (3.7-3.9 GPA), 11 graduated *magna cum laude* (3.9 GPA), and one graduated *summa cum laude* (4.0 GPA).

ATS Annual Assessment Report Findings (CMHC)

The CMHC program’s “Comprehensive Assessment Plan” examines student performance on nineteen degree learning outcomes using **thirty-one assessment “artifacts”** to do so. Examples of “artifacts” include examinations, papers, site supervisor evaluations, and diagnostic vignettes. Of the 31 artifacts assessed in the MACMHC degree for the most recent reporting period (2015-2016 academic year), **students met or exceeded expectations in all 31 areas.**

An especially important assessment artifact is the program’s use of a comprehensive examination wherein 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 Ashland 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 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. Ten out of 11 students taking the January 2017 CPCE exam passed (**90.9% pass rate**) while 37 out of 37 students taking the July 2017 exam passed (**100.0% pass rate**). Together, these 2017 results reveal 46 out of 47 students who took the CPCE passed, yielding an overall pass rate of **97.9%**. Moreover, on both examinations, the mean score of ATS students exceeded the national mean score.

One final important assessment artifact is the **annual “report card” issued by the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board** regarding Ashland graduates’ performance on the state licensure examinations. 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 Board provides programs with their “report card” of results for examinees identifying themselves as graduates.

The report card provided by the Ohio Board for 2016 revealed that 11 out of 15 students (73.3%) taking these two exams passed. *However, it is suspected that these results are an underestimate of the actual number of Ashland graduates sitting for the NCE and NCMHCE exams and report card results are therefore of questionable validity.* Support for this statement consists of the finding that 25 of the 35 Summer 2016 CMHC graduates were licensed during 2016. Since passing the NCE is a prerequisite for licensure, it is expected that most of these graduates took the NCE in 2016. This number by itself exceeds the 15 graduates reported to have taken the licensure examinations in the 2016 report card. To this number of Summer graduates would need to be added those Ashland CMHC students who graduated at the end of the Fall 2016 or Summer 2016 semesters as many of these would have taken the NCE during 2016. Finally, the number of Ashland students taking the second, independent licensure exam (the NCMHCE) during 2016 would need to be included as well (since NCE and NCMHCE examinations are combined in the latest Board report card). For all of these reasons, the number of Ashland students reported to have taken and passed these exams is suspect.

(Note: It was previously reported in the “2016 Annual Report—Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program” that the 2015 report card findings were also inaccurate. These showed only ten Ashland graduates taking the license exam but a license review of 2015 Ashland graduates revealed that the number far exceeded the ten reported. At that time, in consultation with the Board’s Executive Director, it was discovered that some students taking the exam did not identify their university and therefore were excluded from the report card. The testing company agreed to begin requiring all students taking the exam to identify the school where they earned their counseling degree. The 2016 report card results indicate that such reporting has yet to occur.)

CMHC Program Reports

Enhancing Student Readiness for Practicum: In order to better prepare CMHC students for their initial field experience (the Practicum), four classes were identified and approved as prerequisites. (These prerequisite classes were selected based in part upon feedback from students, faculty, and site supervisors.) Beginning with the Fall 2016 Columbus cohort, CMHC students will be required to complete the following courses in order to be eligible for practicum: CLC 6692 Assessment, CLC 7729 Differential Diagnosis, CLC 7787 Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders and CLC 7795 Treatment Planning Principles & Practice.

Change in Department and CMHC Program Leadership: In September 2016, the new Seminary President, Dr. Mark Hardin, announced an institutional reorganization which included elimination of all three of the Seminary’s Associate Dean positions, including the

Associate Dean of Counseling Programs. As a result, Dr. Mann resumed his position and responsibilities as a Professor of Counseling and Dr. Mike Reuschling was appointed by Dr. Harden to serve as Interim Chair of the Counseling department (with oversight of the CMHC program).

Student Life Activities: In December 2016, CMHC students on both the Columbus and Ashland campuses attended a luncheon hosted by the Seminary's Student Life office to promote fellowship and community. In March 2017, chili cook-offs were held at Columbus and Ashland locations and CMHC students enjoyed some delicious chili. Both community building activities were well attended and well enjoyed.

Enhanced "Academic evaluation, remediation and dismissal": A revised "Academic evaluation, remediation and dismissal" policy and procedure was unanimously approved by the Counseling department in February 2017 (it was also reviewed by the Seminary's Academic Council and full faculty). This enhanced policy is expected to strengthen the program and program graduates, clarify academic expectations for students, and ultimately better serve the counseling profession and future clients.

Approval of Two New Advanced Clinical Courses: Two new advanced clinical courses were proposed to and approved by the Counseling department in 2016. These are "Integrative Healthcare for the Professional Counselor" and "Psychopharmacology for Counselors." Together these courses are intended to better prepare CMHC students for the rapidly evolving healthcare context they will face as professional counselors.

Part-time CMHC Student Participation: Ashland has been educating counselors for over forty years. During that entire time, the cohort model has been employed and full-time student participation has been required. Given numerous changes over the years, including in program applicants, the decision was made to pilot part-time participation for CMHC students beginning in the Fall of 2017. It is hoped and expected that this will be an attractive option for some students and will provide both students and the program with greater flexibility toward achieving successful student learning outcomes. The part-time option will be closely monitored during the initial academic year and modifications made as needed.

Departure of Dr. Claudia Sadler-Gerhardt: Near the end of the Spring 2017 semester, Dr. Claudia Sadler-Gerhardt announced her departure from the seminary. The department formally expressed its appreciation for Claudia's "bold spirit" and for service "above and beyond the call of duty." She will be greatly missed by colleagues and students.

Smetzer Counseling Center

In the Summer of 2016, Smetzer Counseling Center clients were invited to participate in a "Client Satisfaction Survey." Thirty-five clients responded and results indicated that Center clients were well satisfied with the services they received and Counselor Trainees at the Smetzer appeared well equipped and skillful in employing sound helping skills with clients. Of special note was the finding that 100% of clients indicated that they would recommend the Smetzer Counseling Center to others (see Appendix A for survey results).

Alpha Tau Sigma Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI)

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is chartered as the Alpha Tau Sigma Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) and Dr. Sadler-Gerhardt and Dr. Imhoff served as the Chapter Faculty Advisors (CFAs) during the 2016-2017 academic year. (Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) is an international honor society that values academic and professional excellence in counseling.) At the Induction Ceremony held on February 24th, 32 students were sworn into membership. In addition, the Chapter also hosted the following;

- Mentorship and member luncheon at the All-Ohio Counselors Conference
- Practicum orientation for CMHC program students
- Licensure preparation training for CMHC students nearing graduation
- A workshop on gerontological counseling for students and licensed professionals

Student Advisory Councils

Students from the Ashland and Columbus cohorts were selected to serve on Student Advisory Councils (SAC) at each site. SAC members met with Dr. Reuschling once each semester to discuss concerns from the students' perspectives. Members of the Columbus SAC included Sydney Dear, Brian Fisher, Shelly Fisher, Drew Hysell, Mel Marrah, Lauren McCurdy, Chelsea Meyer, Sabrina Ropp, Ben Sarap, Kelly Smith, and Nancy Zikri. Members of the Ashland SAC included Jasmine Calloway, Kimberly Clipper, Colleen Hord, Inez James, Michael Moorehead, Jeanne Scott, Heather Sniezek, Miranda Walker, and Jared Whipple. SAC feedback was a valuable source of information on the students' questions, concerns, and suggestions and the participation of all SAC members was (and is) greatly appreciated.

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Submission date: 8/14/17

Appendix A
Smetzer Counseling Center “Client Satisfaction Survey” results

SMETZER COUNSELING CENTER
Client Satisfaction Survey (n=35)
July, 2016

Survey question <i>Note: Responses from “Strongly disagree” (1) to “Strongly agree” (5)</i>	Item Averages
Counseling focuses on what is important to me.*	4.83
My counselor and I agree on how to deal with my problem(s).*	4.57
My counselor cares about me.*	4.77
My counselor understands me.	4.56
My counselor listens well.	4.86
The amount of time my counselor spends talking in session is helpful.	4.77
My counselor and I work well together.	4.74
My counseling includes as much of a spiritual focus as I would like.	4.47
Overall, my counseling has been helpful to me.	4.74
Average across all items	4.70
Is there anything you wish was different in your counseling?	33 of 35 said “No”
Would you recommend the Smetzer Counseling Center to others?	35 of 35 said “Yes”
Was the client’s name included (this was optional)?	23 of 35 included it.