

School of Counseling
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program
Fall 2022-2023 Annual Report

Program Objectives & Major Program Activities

- CACREP Site Visit completed April of 2023
- CACREP Accreditation approved August 7, 2023 for the MS in Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program through October 31, 2031.
- Enrollment steady with up to 42 accepted every admissions cycle
 - *Students Accepted:*
 - Summer 2023 - 30 Students
 - Fall 2023 - 40 Students
 - Spring 2024 - Anticipated 42 students
- QEP training
 - The goal of the Quality Enhancement Plan is to improve the mission-specific student learning outcomes related to their ability to apply integration of a Catholic Christian vision of the person flourishing with their specific program student learning outcomes. The current integration student learning outcomes will be measured by expanding them into four competencies that will be consistent across programs:
 1. Respecting religious diversity;
 2. Using integrated ethical reasoning;
 3. Developing an expanded plan; and
 4. Applying a flourishing perspective

Program Changes, Improvements, and Response

- Enrollment now open in states where CACREP Accreditation was required
- Improved ongoing evaluation of students with the Professional Performance & Behaviour Standard rubric with training for faculty and the retention team
- Reviewed the gatekeeping functions of the COUN 580 Residency and evaluation with faculty and clinical evaluators, based on feedback from the retention team.
- Support of the implementation of a new SIS software, Populi
- Review of the length and sequence of the COUN 690 course to implement a revised semester length course to begin Fall 2024
- Hiring of a full time position of Residency Coordinator and Program Assistant that began Summer 2023

General Program Data

- The program continues to grow with almost 280 students and 40 new students this fall (2023). Support for these students include 10 full time core faculty that teach, advise, and supervise students, three faculty teaching our philosophy and theology courses, 9 adjunct faculty and facilitators assisting in courses, small groups, and residencies, and an administrative team of four.
- From September 2022 - August 2023, we have had 47 graduates.

- As of October 2023, 152 students have applied for licensure and 143 have documented at least provisional licensure status for a total of 94% of applicants with no rejections from approved states. The status of 25 graduates is unknown.
- Our students who are in clinical placement consistently receive feedback from their supervisors that they are performing well at their clinical sites. At the end of the final internship, students were rated by their Site Supervisor on their Counseling Dispositions & Behaviors. 100% of the students achieved meets expectations / demonstrates competencies for all items.
- Please see the University Student Achievement Outcomes page <https://divinemercury.edu/academics/student-achievement-outcomes/> for information on Retention Rate, Graduation Rate, Persistence Rate, and Time to Completing (Average, In Years) for each cohort.

Race /Ethnicity for students enrolled Fall 2022- Summer 2023

Gender	Hispanic / Latino	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Asian	White	Other Pacific Islander	Two or more Races
Men	14	2	5	7	77	0	9
Women	31	2	8	11	155	1	22
TOTAL	45	4	13	18	232	1	31

CPCE Pass rate chart

CPCE Scores: September 2022 - August 2023	
National Mean of Total Score	83.3
DMU Mean of Total Score	87.9

Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice	72% of these students scored at or above the national average on this section
Social and Cultural Diversity	65% of these students scored at or above the national average.
Human Growth and Development	72% of these students scored at or above the national average.
Career Development	77.8% of these students scored at or above the national average.
Counseling and Helping Relationships	78% of these students scored at or above the national average.

Group Counseling and Group Work	93% of these students scored at or above the national average.
Assessment and Testing	83% of these students scored at or above the national average.
Research and Program Evaluation	of these students scored at or above the national average.

NCE Spring 2023

Of the 14 measured areas in the National Counselor Exam, DMU counseling students scored above the national mean in every single area.

One of the most significant discrepancies in university mean and national mean was in Professional Practice and Ethics with a University mean of 18.2 and a national mean of 15.1 and in Assessment and Testing with a University mean of 19.7 and a national mean of 16.6.

These results point to the success of the authentic learning model instituted in the CMHC program.

With the lower score for the Career Development area, the faculty and digital learning team reviewed and revised the COUN 540 Career Development course to address some of the possible reasons for the lower score. In doing so, a slight increase in scores was noted with a University mean of 10 and a national mean of 9.7.

Clinical Placements:

88 students were involved in clinical health mental counseling at clinical placements from August 2022 - September 2023.

Faculty Highlights of 2022-2023

Publications and Presentations by Faculty:

Dy-Liacco, G. (2023, September 29-30). Accompanying Today's Young Religious Brothers. Presented to members of the Association of Religious Brothers. General House of the Christian Brothers of the Schools, Rome, Italy.

Dy-Liacco, G. (2023, July 19-21). Basic Orientation to Safeguarding. Given to the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Face of Jesus (entire congregation). Laguna, Philippines.

Dy-Liacco, G. (2023, Oct.10). Addressing Safeguarding Concerns. To be given to members of the safeguarding offices of the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur and the Archdiocese of Kuching (both Malaysia). Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dy-Liacco, G. (2023, Oct.10). Safeguarding, Power Structures and Governance. To be given

to NGO partners of Porticus International (a Catholic funding agency). Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Erwin, K.T. (9/28-29/23). Designing Group Work for Older Adults. NordMag Gerontology Institute. University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Erwin, K.T. (9/13/23) Helping Families Cope with Alzheimer's Disease. Pre-Conference, American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference, Nashville, TN

Erwin, K.T. (9/15/23) Christian Approach to Superhero Therapy, American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference, Nashville, TN

Erwin, K.T. (6/16/23) Workplace Trauma. Green Cross Virtual Conference.

Erwin, K.T. (6/9/23) Workplace Trauma. West Palm Beach Christian Counselors Assn.

Erwin, K.T., Compton, L. & Dyliacono, G. (3/8/23). Compassion fatigue and stress. Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Rome, Italy

Erwin, K.T. & Erwin, K.D. (2/4/23). Kintsugi to Super Heroes: Creative therapies for trauma counseling. Florida Mental Health Counselors Conference, Sanford, FL

Gerig, M.S. (2023). The role of intellectual virtues in the practice of professional counseling. Christian Association for Psychological Studies Annual Conference, Louisville, KY, United States.

Gerig, M.S. (2023). Counseling Clients in Poverty: Adopting a Social Justice Framework for Conceptualization. Pennsylvania Counseling Association.

Gitonga, S.K. & Weaver, L. (2023). Artificial intelligence: Mental health benefits and concerns. Presentation at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association conference in fall 2023.

Gitonga, S.K. & Weaver, L. (2022). Balancing act: Figurative language vs clarity in clinical supervision. Presented at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association conference in fall 2022.

Keyes, B. (April 26, 2023). VOAD Annual Meeting. Richmond, VA.

Weaver, L. & Gitonga, S.K. (2022). Career Counseling with Unique Populations. Presented at the North Atlantic Region Association for Counselor Education and Supervision conference in fall 2022.

Gitonga, S.K., Weaver, L., & Peretik, J.M. (2022). Refugees: How do we prepare students to address their unique needs? Presented at the North Atlantic Region Association for Counselor Education and Supervision conference in fall 2022.

Hogan, J. (2023). Applying an Understanding of the Feminine Genius to Help Transform Pregnancy, Birth, and Early Motherhood Mental Health. Catholic Psychotherapy Association Conference.

McWhorter, M. R. (2023). Hwang's Philosophy for Developing an Indigenous Cultural Psychology. *Culture & Psychology*, 29(2), 206-228. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354067X231169284>

Titus, C. S. (2023). Resilience, Virtue Ethics, and Mental Health Care. *Ethik und Militaer / Ethics in Armed Forces: Controversies in Military Ethics and Security Policy*. 2023(1), 12-21.

Titus, C. S. (2023). Strengthening the clinician's self-care and resilience based on the Catholic Christian Meta-Model of the Person. *Integratus: The Journal of the Catholic Psychotherapy Association*, 1(3), 197–227. <https://doi.org/10.1521/intg.2023.3.197>

Titus, C. S. (2023). Sex differences in the virtues and vices related to temperance: Chastity, modesty, and pornography Use (pp. 173-195). In Echavarria, M. & de los Bueis, F. *Virtud, psicología y salud mental: El aporte de la concepción cristiana de las virtudes a la psicología*. Dykinson, Madrid.

Vitz, P. C., & Titus, C. S. (2022). Psychology and the soul: A new perspective on an old interpretation. *Journal of Psychology & Christianity*, 41(2), 130-139.

Titus, C. S. (2023). Habits and holiness: Ethics, Theology, and Biopsychology, by Ezra Sullivan (review article). *The Thomist: A Speculative Quarterly Review*, 86.

Conference. Keyes, B. (February 1-4, 2023). The heart model: Healing emotional affective responses to trauma. Florida Mental Health Counseling Association, Lake Mary, FL.

Conference. Keyes, B. (February 23, 2023). The heart model: Healing emotional affective responses to trauma. Florida Mental Health Counseling Association [virtual].

Conference. Keyes, B. (September 13-16, 2023). The heart model: Healing emotional affective responses to trauma. American Association of Christian Counselors, Nashville, TN

Conference. Titus, C. S. (January 24, 2023). Strengthening the clinician's self-care and resilience based on the Catholic Christian Meta-Model of the Person. Divine Mercy University, Sterling, VA.

Conference. Titus, C. S. (January 27, 2022). Empathy, love, and friendship from a Catholic Christian Perspective. Divine Mercy University, School of Counseling, Sterling, VA.

Workshop. Keyes, B. (March, 4, 2023). Compassion Fatigue [virtual].

Additional Faculty Highlights:

- Fredericka Vyvlecka participated on two podcasts for DMU discussing Eating Disorders and Substance Use Disorders.
- Full time professor Dr. Mark Gerig is Current President of the Association of Counselors, Counselor Educators, Supervisors, and Students (ACCESS): A Division of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies, Member of the Credentialing Committee of the American Mental Health Counseling Association, Reviewer for the Journal of Human Trafficking
- Adjunct professor Dr. Stephen Gitonga was the recipient of the 2023 Pennsylvania Counseling Association Outstanding Supervisor Award.
- Dr. Benjamin Keyes led a team of students and alumni from the CTRS to support and provide counseling for a conference in St. Louis, MO as a part of FOCUS.
- Twenty-seven students, faculty, and alumni (and one child) traveled to Rome for spring break educational opportunities with the CTRS and sight-seeing with Fr. Charles Sikorsky.
- Dr. Benjamin Keyes received an award from 2.0 Education for Excellence in Education and Leadership for Immersive Education related to trauma.
- July Summer Immersion Trip with seventeen students, alumni, and community professionals to Cihei, Romania. They were immersed into Romanian culture working alongside clinicians with SMILES Foundation Inc. and provided multiple presentations and workshops at Oradea University and agencies throughout the area. Subjects of education were regarding trauma recovery, gypsies, refugees, and survivors of complex trauma. This was followed by three days in Brussels, Belgium for rest and enjoyment prior to returning to the US.

Sources of Data

The following sources of data were utilized in developing this report:

- Student performance on the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE), NBCC test data
- Alumni follow-up surveys and Alumni Office data
- Site-supervisor records in Tevera
- Admissions, enrollment, and graduation data for the 22-23 cycle

For additional data on the MSC CMHC program, please see the [Student Achievement Outcomes](#) web page.