Summary of Program Data Collection 2023–2024

Academic Year 2023–2024

Each annual and three-year review generates recommendations that are then forwarded to the appropriate department, whether it be recruiting, admissions, enrollment, institutional advancement, financial aid, registrar, or counseling program faculty and staff. Certain modifications require approval by one of two administrative committees: 1) the SSW Academic Affairs committee, or 2) the SSW Faculty and Administrative Committee. Policy changes, significant procedural changes, and changes requiring notification and/or approval by accrediting bodies must be proposed and approved by one or both of these committees before changes can be implemented.

Data from academic year 2023–2024 are summarized below for review in determining any program or curricular modifications that might be needed.

External Data Type 1 - Changes in State of Texas Laws, Licensure Policies, and Accreditation Standards

In 2023, CACREP revised its standards from 2016 to the release of new 2024 Standards. Our program was up for renewal, with our self-study due summer 2024. The program's current 8-year accreditation is scheduled to expire October 2025. We decided to submit our self-study by June 30, 2024, under 2016 Standards with anticipation of review and site visit by CACREP in AY 2024–2025.

We also began taking steps in 2023-2024 toward preparing to revise our program policies and assessment procedures to the 2024 CACREP Standards. CACREP has given programs two academic years, until July 2026 to transition into compliance with the new standards.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

The MHC program has created a new MHC faculty liaison position to oversee the transition to the CACREP 2024 Standards over the next two academic years. This faculty liaison has begun work to select and purchase accreditation software to assist with the transition and data collections and analysis in coming years and will begin this coming AY to oversee steps for the MHC program's first of a two-year transition period.

External Data Type 2 – Professional Field Considerations

In AY 2023–2024, the program noted the considerations professional counselors needed to make regarding ethical practice and human sexuality, particularly in Texas. The Texas Supreme Court upheld a law banning gender-affirming care for youth under the age of 18 years old. This law potentially places professional counselors in Texas in a position between choosing ethical practice and legal statutes. To support students in developing the knowledge and skills they need to respond to issues of gender and sexuality, the program offered CMH5328 Human Sexuality in the Counseling Profession.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

For 2024-2025, it is recommended for the MHC program to continue to offer CMH5328 Human Sexuality in the Counseling Profession to support students in developing their skills and

knowledge base. Additionally, we recommend addressing legislation on gender affirming care in CMHCMH5325 Professional Orientation and Ethics in Counseling as part of students learning about the impact of legislation on the profession and clients.

Program Data Type 1 - MHC Program Vital Statistics

In the past academic year, completion of the MHC degree required a minimum of 60 credit hours. In the academic year 2023–2024, there were 25 MHC graduates, the largest MHC graduating class on record. Our graduates achieved a 100% pass rate on the NCE exam. Approximately 70 students were enrolled in our program last year; 56% of accepted students completed the program in the expected time period—three academic years for full-time students. This means approximately fifty-six percent of our enrolled student body was considered "full-time."

Our counseling courses accommodate both part-time and full-time students and our program serves populations from mostly Central, South, and East Texas, with an increasing number of students moving to Texas from out of state to begin the program. Based on our alumni feedback, 83% of graduates sought and successfully secured a job placement post-graduation. Based on alumni survey results, 66% of our graduates pursued post-graduate licensure, with the majority pursuing an LPC/LPC-Associate license post-graduation.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

Vital Statistics were informative to the program.

Program Data Point 2 - MHC Program Admission and Enrollment

In the academic year 2023–2024, admission rates met the goal at 105% (goal was 20 students admitted; actual was 21 students). Retention rate held steady at 98% (benchmark is at or above 75%). Course completion rates also held steady at 100% (benchmark 90%).

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

MHC Admission and Enrollment data were informative to the program.

Program Data Type 3 - Student Remediation Plans

In the academic year 2023–2024, one student or 1% of our program's total enrollment was placed on a pre-remediation plan, and 5 students or 8% were placed on formal remediation. 100% of those on formal remediation plans successfully fulfilled the goals of their plan.

Pre-remediation plans are put into place by faculty advisors or instructors anytime a student obtains a 1.0 (failing to meet benchmark of 2.0) on any KLO or KPD standard, and an intervention is implemented to assist the student in making the required improvement prior to formal remediation. Formal remediation plans are required anytime a student achieves a 1.0 (failing to meet benchmark of 2.0) on any KLO or KPD standard.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

Remediation plan data will be monitored ongoing.

Program Data Type 4 – Key Learning Objectives Assessments

KLO data for 2023–2024 showed 99% of students meeting standards or higher (Benchmark 2.0 = Meeting Standard) for core curriculum. MHC faculty noted the lowest scores were observed for the past two AY's in the areas of Human Growth and Development (KLO average 2.04; Benchmark 2.0 = Meeting Standard) and Foundations of Clinical Mental Health (KLO average 2; Benchmark 2.0 = Meeting Standard).

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

KLO scores will be monitored for trends next AY.

Program Data Type 5 - Key Professional Disposition Assessments

KPD data for 2023–2024 showed 100% of students met the benchmark set at 2.0 = Meets Standard for the Key Professional Dispositions conducted at graduation in Spring 2024. The scores in the area of Openness were increased from last AY (KPD average raised from 2.6 to 2.8, for an increase of 7%). This AY, the lowest scores were found in the area of Personal and Spiritual Wellness (KPD average 2.38 which was 14% lower than the aggregate score last year; Benchmark 2.0 = Meeting Standard).

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

The MHC faculty convened consultations with the MHC Program Advisory Board last AY and a topic of conversation was the racial and cultural influences on the vocabulary utilized to define Key Professional Dispositions. The definition of "professionalism" is cultural and racial influenced, and the MHC Faculty will continue to consult with the advisory board and make recommendations back to the program for any improvements to the KPD assessment tools or processes for coming years. Further, MHC Faculty will consult with the advisory board regarding Personal and Spiritual Wellness.

Program Data Type 6 – Candidacy Endorsements

Candidacy endorsement data for 2023–2024 showed 25 of candidacy applications filed during the last academic year were endorsed, reflecting that 100% of MHC students entered the final year of their MHC program having satisfactorily met all prerequisite benchmarks in knowledge, skills and dispositions.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

The MHC faculty acknowledged that because of where the candidacy process falls in the academic life cycle of a student, the process of candidacy endorsement is not a sufficient gatekeeping check for students having completed the required credit hours prior to graduation. This is monitored in collaboration with the office of Registrar, and this coming AY the MHC

faculty will meet with the Registrar to determine an intermediary check for required credits early in a student's final year in the program when there is time left to remediate any outstanding credits or courses yet to be completed.

Program Data Type 7 – Final Clinical Internship Evaluations

Final Clinical Internship Evaluations for 2023–2024 showed 25 or 100% of Clinical Internship II students met or exceeded standards according to Final Clinical Supervisor Evaluation Forms.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

Two academic years ago, the procedures for collecting Final Clinical Internship Evaluation data from site supervisors was transitioned to a software Jotform which has improved efficiency in data collection. The item was added to ask supervisors to rate students on their ability to assess the impact of spiritual beliefs on clients' and counselors' worldviews (CACREP 2.F.2). This data was collected this AY and will be monitored ongoing for trends. In addition, this coming AY, an MHC faculty person designated as liaison to assist with the transition to CACREP 2024 Standards and new assessment software will determine whether the software purchased has the capacity to also support the agreements, contracts, and assessment tools utilized by the program to seek data from site supervisors and students related to Clinical Internship. The MHC transition liaison will report back to faculty during the End-of-Semester meeting for Fall 2024.

Program Data Type 8 – Student Site Evaluations

Student Site Evaluation data for 2023–2024 showed 15 sites evaluated, and 10 sites were found rated as meeting or exceeding standards and were retained as approved for the coming academic year. Five sites were flagged as needing improvements. In each instance, faculty met with site supervisors to discuss the improvements needed, which mostly pertained to sites fulfilling their agreement to provide students an opportunity to engage in group counseling.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

The recommendation was made to develop relationships with new site partners that provide ongoing opportunities for students to engage in group counseling. During the summer of 2024, two new site partners were established, both offering group counseling as part of the internship experience.

Program Data Type 9 - Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exams (CPCE)

Data from 2023–2024 showed that 25 students completed the CPCE exam, and 25 of the exams taken were passed by students at all points in the program. 100% of students passed the overall exam, and four students received scores which fell below the benchmark for one or more domains. Per MHC program requirements, those students were given oral exams and passed the exam bringing the overall pass rate to 100%.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

Last year, MHC core faculty sought and received approval to transition students comprehensive exam back to the CPCE from the CECE exam, due to the higher than expected number of students who required retakes on the CECE exam in the years prior, compared to the CPCE exam from pre-pandemic era, and the disproportional number of students of color who appeared to be underperforming. It was thought that having a year of CPCE data to compare to the past year of CECE data would help program faculty make some determinations going forward about the best manner for assessing comprehensive knowledge at the student and program level.

This year, the pass rate for the CPCE exam was 100% at the time of assessment, a 10% increase from years past when we were utilizing the CECE for comprehensive knowledge assessment during the pandemic. The recommendation is made to retain the CPCE exam as the comprehensive measure of the Key Performance Indicator of knowledge for the coming AY.

Program Data Type 10 – Capstone Paper Assessments

Capstone Paper Assessment data from 2023–2024 showed that all 25 or 100% of papers evaluated were found to meet the Benchmark set at 2.0 or above, per rubric completed by the Internship II instructor and verified by MHC faculty at End-of-Semester Review.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

Faculty are still in conversation about the best measures of comprehensive knowledge and Key Professional Dispositions for students in their final year of the program, and Capstone Paper Assessments will be monitored this coming year for ongoing trends.

Program Data Type 11 – National Counselor Qualifying Exam Data (NCE & NCMHCE)

NCE and NCMHCE data from 2023–2024 collected from program graduates showed a 100% pass rate reported by respondents; this pass rate held steady from the previous AY and will be monitored in the coming AY's for trends.

Program Data Type 12 – Alumni Feedback

Alumni Feedback data from 2023–2024 was collected via the Alumni Survey and results showed that alumni reported 100% of program components as effective at forming them to meet the standards of a professional counselor.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

The lowest scores on the Alumni Feedback Survey indicated that alumni identified a need for improvement in their experience of formation and transformation in the area of developing foundational professional knowledge in the area of Addictions. This area will be monitored this coming AY for ongoing trends that might indicate a need for responsive curriculum and/or pedagogy.

Program Data Type 13 – Stakeholder/Constituent Feedback

Stakeholder and Constituent Feedback data from 2023–2024 was collected via a survey and results showed that stakeholders reported 100% of program components as effective at forming graduates to meet the standards of a professional counselor.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

The recommendation is made to continue to monitor Stakeholder/Constituent Survey data to identify trends over time.

Program Data Type 14 – Student to Faculty Ratios

Student to Faculty Ratio data for 2023–2024 were calculated as 10:1 for the Fall 2023 semester and 10:1 for the Spring 2024, for an average of 10:1 for the AY which is meeting our benchmark of 10:1 FTE Students to FTE Faculty. This ensures faculty accessibility and the capacity to provide personal attention to student needs through instruction, advising, remediation, and mentorship into the profession.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

This ratio will be monitored for the coming year in partnership with the SSW Enrollment and Admissions department.

Program Data Type 15 – Faculty Utilization

Of the 27 courses taught in the academic year 2023–2024, 23 courses or 85% were taught by core MHC faculty (Benchmark = 75%). Of the 27 courses taught in 2023–2024, 24 courses or 89% saw enrollment that were between 50% and 125% capacity (Benchmark = 25 Students for Content Courses; 12 Students for Clinical Practice Courses); one course or 4% saw enrollment at higher than 150% optimum capacity.

Improvements/Modifications Recommended:

Counseling program course rotations and frequencies are continuously updated and Faculty Utilization data will be monitored in coming academic years. The recommendation is made to monitor these areas in coming years for trends that might indicate courses are needed more often or to be divided into more sections.