

Program Graduate Outcomes Report

Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling - 2023

The Master of Arts (MA) in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) is a CACREP-accredited program that launched in April 2017. The data provided in this report outlines key graduate metrics to include the number of graduates, completion rates, licensure pass rates, and job placement rates over the past academic year. The data is collected and updated annually in compliance with CACREP accreditation requirements, and the current reporting period reflects data from our past academic year starting August 22, 2022 and ending on September 10, 2023.

Number of Graduates

There were 239 MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program graduates in the past academic year.

Completion Rates

Students in the MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program are associated with a cohort when entering the program and tracked from that cohort start date when determining progression and program completion. When taken full-time, the program can be completed in approximately 2.5 years. However, many of our students are part-time and elect to take a single course per term or move between part-time and full-time status while in the program. To address the variance in student status we calculate completion rates at 150% of full-time status, which translates to 18-terms or approximately 3.6 years.

During this academic year we had five cohorts who completed the full 18-term completion period. Our average completion rate for these eligible cohorts was 32.0%. However, students continue to complete our program beyond the 3.6-year mark. Across these five cohorts, 54.6% of students had graduated or were still in the program working toward graduation as of October 2023 (see active and current completion rate in the table below).

Column Headers Defined

- **Cohort Term:** the SNHU graduate term code for each cohort
- **Cohort Start Date:** the date students in the cohort began the program
- **18-Term Completion Date:** the date students in the cohort hit the 150% completion mark
- **Student Count:** the number of students starting in the cohort on the cohort start date
- **Completion Rate:** the percentage of the student count that graduated from the program within the 3.6-year completion period
- **Active and Current Completion Rate:** the combined percentage of the student count in the cohort that have graduated or are still in the program and working toward graduation

Cohort Term	Cohort Start Date	18-Term Completion Date	Student Count	Completion Rate	Active and Current Completion Rate
18TW2	Dec 17, 2018	Oct 30, 2022	91	28.6%	51.6%
19TW3	Mar 11, 2019	Jan 22, 2023	75	24.0%	46.7%
19TW4	May 27, 2019	Apr 9, 2023	79	29.1%	54.4%
19TW5	Aug 12, 2019	Jun 25, 2023	95	41.1%	61.1%
19TW1	Oct 28, 2019	Sep 10, 2023	98	34.7%	57.1%
Total Avg			438	32.0%	54.6%

Licensure Exam Pass Rates

State licensure exam requirements differ by state; however, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico require at least one of the two exams offered through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). These include the National Counselor Exam (NCE) and the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam (NCMHCE), which, in addition to being used for licensure, are also used for certification as a National Certified Counselor (NCC) or Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC).

Certification is a voluntary credential representing to members of the public and potential employers that the counselor has met national standards set by the counseling profession. For approved programs like ours, students in their field experience courses (our final three courses) can take certification exams and receive certification prior to graduation.

Licensure, however, is approval from a particular state oversight licensing agency to practice as a counselor or identify oneself as a licensed counselor and occurs post-graduation after completing additional practice requirements. While certification is not licensure, many states allow students to use their pre-graduation scores on the NBCC certification exams to meet post-graduate licensure requirements. Alternatively, students who do not take these exams while enrolled in their graduate program are required to do so as part of the post-graduation licensure process. Depending on the state, graduates may be required to pass the NCE, NCMHCE, or both. Additionally, some states require additional state-specific exams as part of the licensure exam process.

We encourage you to visit the [National Board for Certified Counselors website](#) for more detailed information on the NBCC exams listed above or the differences between certification and licensure.

To assess licensure exam pass rates, we capture data through two means: (1) a self-reported graduate survey and (2) pass rates on the NBCC certification exams taken by eligible students in our program.

Graduate Survey

We use a graduate survey to help us capture key metrics such as job placement rates, licensure pass rates, and the impact of our degree on various aspects of post-graduate employment. In an effort to improve our graduate survey process and elicit more meaningful data, we revised



our survey process in this past academic year. Rather than sending one survey to all graduates at the same point in time, we now send graduate surveys to our alumni 6-months after their degree conferral. This resulted in two data collection periods (May and September 2023) and a total of 146 eligible graduates who hit the six-month post-graduation mark.

Of the 146 graduates who reached the six-month post-graduation mark in the academic year, 21 completed the graduate survey, resulting in a 14% response rate. Of the 21 respondents, 10 graduates reported taking one or more state licensure exams, with a total of 12 individual exams taken. Of those 12 exams, graduates reported having passed 9, resulting in an aggregate pass rate of 75%. The individual exam data is below:

	NCE	NCMHCE	State Exam
Took Exam	6	5	1
Passed Exam	4	4	1
Pass Rate	67%	80%	100%

NBCC Certification Exams

As an approved Participating University for the NBCC certification exams, we offer students the ability to seek certification and sit for the NCE and NCMHCE while still enrolled in our program. Students are eligible to take these exams while in their field experience courses (final three courses of the program), and the exams are offered twice per year. Pass rate information is provided to the program through NBCC roughly six-months following the testing dates. The data below reflects first-time test takers on each exam. Of the combined 113 exams taken, 69 received passing scores, resulting in an aggregate pass rate of 61%.

	Fall 2022		Spring 2023	
	NCE	NCMHCE	NCE	NCMHCE
Took Exam	38	22	38	15
Passed Exam	25	8	25	11
Pass Rate	66%	36%	66%	73%
National Pass Rate	79%	53%	81%	77%

Job Placement Rates

We collect graduate job placement data through our annual graduate survey described above. Of the eligible 146 graduates in the academic year, 21 completed the graduate survey, resulting in a 14% response rate. Of the 21 respondents:

- 95% (20) reported being employed as follows:
 - 17 employed full-time
 - 3 employed part-time
- 95% (19) of employed respondents reported working in the field of mental health
 - 5.3% (1 of 19) had their position while enrolled in the CMHC program
 - 63.2% (12 of 19) were hired by their field experience site during field experience or following graduation
 - 31.6% (6 of 19) gained new employment resulting from their CMHC degree