

Program Graduate Outcomes Report

Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling - 2024

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 September 18, 2023, and ending on October 6, 2024.

Number of Graduates

There were 395 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 31.1%. However, students continue to complete our program beyond the 3.6-year mark. Across these five cohorts, 61.8% of students had graduated or were still in the program working toward graduation as of November 2024 (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
20TW3	Jan 20, 2020	Nov 26, 2023	82	30.5%	63.4%
20TW4	Apr 6, 2020	Feb 18, 2024	67	26.9%	64.2%
20TW5	Jun 22, 2020	May 5, 2024	72	25.0%	51.4%
20TW1	Sept 14, 2020	Jun 21, 2024	115	38.3%	70.4%
20TW2	Nov 30, 2020	Oct 6, 2024	98	30.6%	56.1%
Total Avg			434	31.1%	61.8%

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. We

send graduate surveys to our alumni 6-months after their degree conferral. This resulted in two data collection periods (April and September 2024) and a total of 116 eligible graduates who hit the six-month post-graduation mark.

Of the 116 graduates who reached the six-month post-graduation mark in the academic year, 16 completed the graduate survey, resulting in a 14% response rate. Of the 16 respondents, 8 graduates reported taking one or more state licensure exams, with a total of 9 individual exams taken. Of those 9 exams, graduates reported having passed 9, resulting in an aggregate pass rate of 100%. The individual exam data is below:

	NCE	NCMHCE	State Exam
Took Exam	5	3	1
Passed Exam	5	3	1
Pass Rate	100%	100%	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 114 exams taken, 85 received passing scores, resulting in an aggregate pass rate of 75%.

	Fall 2023		Spring 2024	
	NCE	NCMHCE	NCE	NCMHCE
Took Exam	46	33	28	7
Passed Exam	39	18	23	5
Pass Rate	85%	55%	82%	71%
National Pass Rate	91%	67%	92%	77%

Employment Data

We collect graduate employment data through our annual graduate survey described above. Of the eligible 116 graduates in the academic year, 16 completed the graduate survey, resulting in a 14% response rate. Of the 16 respondents:

- 94% (15) reported being employed as follows:
 - 13 employed full-time
 - 2 employed part-time
- 93% (14) of employed respondents reported working in the field of mental health
 - 14% (2 of 14) had their position while enrolled in the CMHC program
 - 50% (7 of 14) were hired by their field experience site during field experience or following graduation
 - 36% (5 of 14) gained new employment resulting from their CMHC degree