



Counselor Education Graduate Program

2017-2018 Annual Report

The Counselor Education Program at SUNY New Paltz trains highly skilled mental health and school counselors knowledgeable in both the practice and science of counseling. The program's climate combines rigorous academic standards along with a collegial and supportive mentoring environment that conceptualizes students as emerging professionals. The program is committed to academic and personal development of counseling trainees within an atmosphere that values cultural and intellectual diversity. The program's goal is to prepare mental health and school counselors who:

- Possess the knowledge and skills necessary to practice as highly competent counselors
- Demonstrate intellectual curiosity and a commitment to continually expanding their counseling knowledge and proficiency
- Understand and model the professional standards and ethics of their profession
- Attend to their own personal growth, as well as that of their clients, through utilizing supervision, valuing interpersonal feedback, and engaging in ongoing self-evaluation
- Show mastery of the research process and understand its central role in counseling practice and conducting program evaluation
- Are open-minded and respectful of multicultural and intellectual diversity
- Use their counseling knowledge to function as compassionate and caring practitioners, advocates, and leaders within their profession and within the communities they serve

The purpose of this annual report is to inform current and prospective students, the public and important community stakeholders about key findings, decisions, and modifications of the program in line with our program mission statement and objectives.

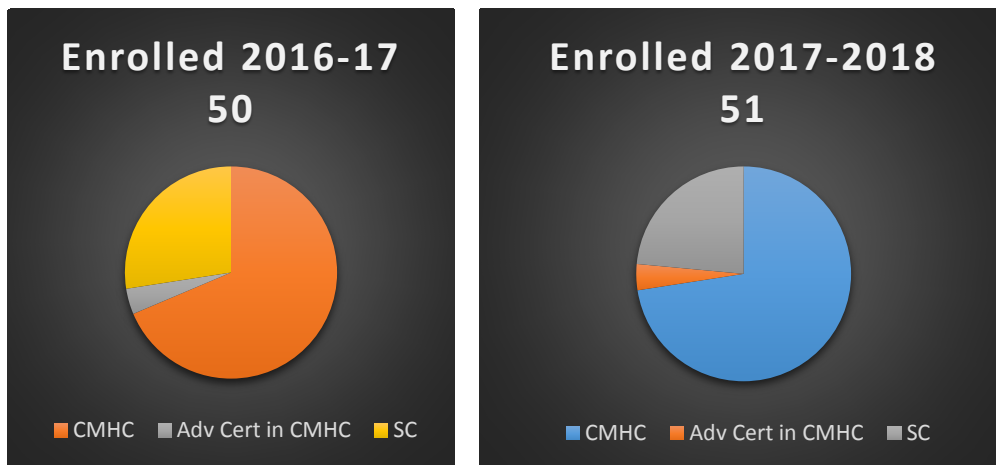
1. Enrollment Data

Our **overall enrollment** in both our School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health counseling programs have steadily increased over the last three years (See Table 1). Figure 2 summarizes the enrollment trends across programs for 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years.

Table 1.

Academic Year	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Adv Cert Mental Health Counseling	School Counseling	TOTAL
Fall 2015 & Spring 2016	13	0	5	18
Fall 2016 & Spring 2017	16	2	8	26
Fall 2017 & Spring 2018	23	2	12	37
Fall 2018	19	3	13	36

Figure 1.



2. Admissions

While the overall **number of applications** decreased slightly from the 2017 to the 2018 admissions, the total **number of students admitted** to each the CMHC and SC programs remained relatively unchanged with little sacrifice to GPA or GRE scores. This suggests that the quality of our applicant pool has remained unchanged even though our overall number of applications were down slightly. The **overall enrollment** across the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) and School Counseling (SC) programs has remained steady from the 2016-17 to the 2017-18 academic year (from 50 to 51 enrolled students).

During the 2017-18 Academic Year, the counseling faculty reviewed and considered for **admissions** the applications of 60 prospective students. Thirty-six of these 60 were admitted into the counseling graduate program (60% of those that applied; see Table 2).

Table 2.

	Fall 2017 Admissions (Reviewed Spring 2017)			Fall 2018 Admission (Reviewed Spring 2018)		
	CMHC	SC	Adv Cert in CMHC	CMHC	SC	Adv Cert in CMHC
# of Applications	54	28	3	39	18	3
Rejected	17	13	1	9	2	0
Withdrew	1	0	0	3	1	0
Accepted	36 (67%)	15 (54%)	2 (67%)	27 (69%)	15 (83%)	3 (100%)
Accepted-Confirmed	21	11	1	20	14	2
Accepted-Declined	14	1	1	7	1	0
Deferred	1	1	0	0	0	1
Avg GRE Total	297.7115	293.25	n/a	293.0857	279.5	n/a
Avg GRE Accepted	298.9722	296.6667	n/a	295.1154	276.0667	n/a
Avg GPA Total	3.341775	3.297415	3.397809	3.293648	3.359403	3.554577
Avg GPA Accepted	3.410404	3.504853	3.43137	3.376815	3.429858	3.554577

3. Faculty Changes

In the Fall of 2017, we welcomed two new Counselor Education faculty members: (1) **Dr. Adam Stephens**, a tenure-track faculty member with an emphasis in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and (2) **Prof. Matt Maher**, a one-year lecturer responsible for coordinating the practicum and internship placements for both the CMHC and SC students.

Due to the departure a faculty member with an emphasis in School Counseling, we were approved to hire a tenure track counselor educator with an emphasis in School Counseling. After a year of reviewing applications and conducting interviews, the Counseling Graduate Program is delighted to welcome **Dr. Dan Li**. Dr. Li has experience teaching both School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling and expertise in research methods and supervision.

We are also excited to announce that we have been approved to make the practicum/internship coordination position (currently a one-year lecturer position) a more permanent part of our program. During the Fall 2018 we will be searching for a person to fill a **3-year renewable lecturer position**. This person will both coordinate the practicum and internship placements as well as teach in the program.

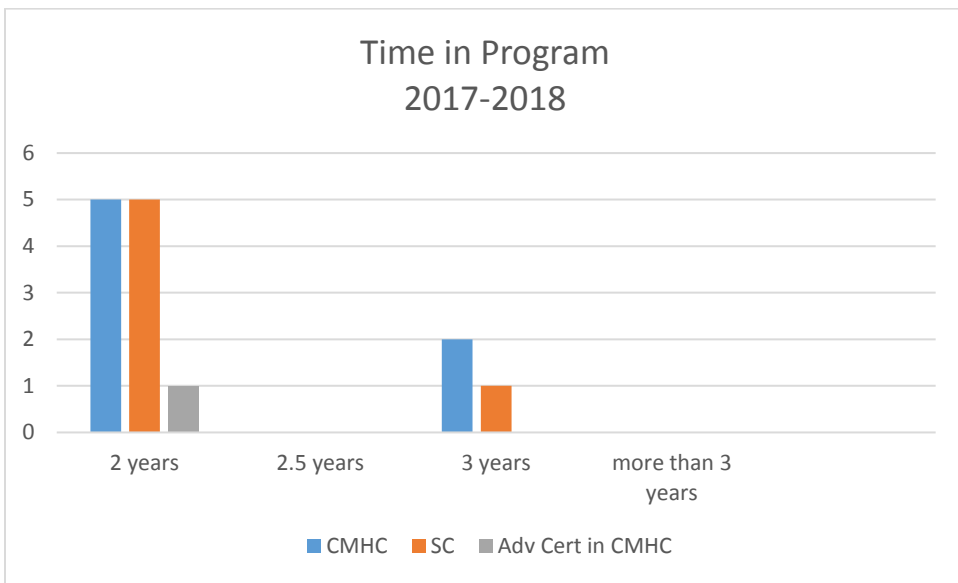
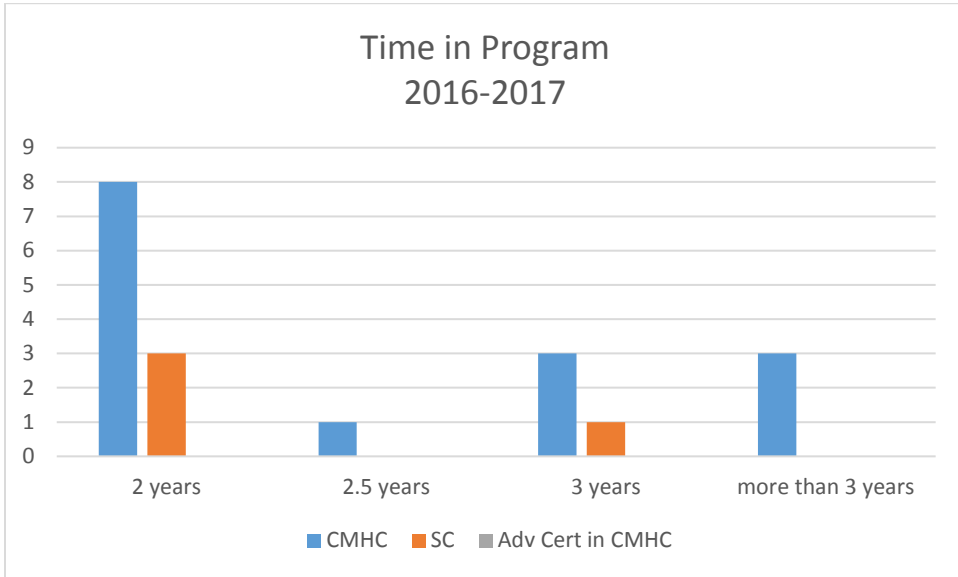
4. Program Completion

The **number of students who graduated** the program December 2017, May 2018, and August 2018 are listed in Table 3 below. Of these graduating students, 58% graduated from the program within 2 years (11 out of 19) and 26% graduated from the program within 2.5 or 3 years (5 out of 19), See Figure 2.

Table 3.

	December 2017	May 2018	August 2018	Total
CMHC	0	3	4	7
SC	0	5	1	6
Adv Cert CMHC	0	1	0	1
Total	0	9	5	14

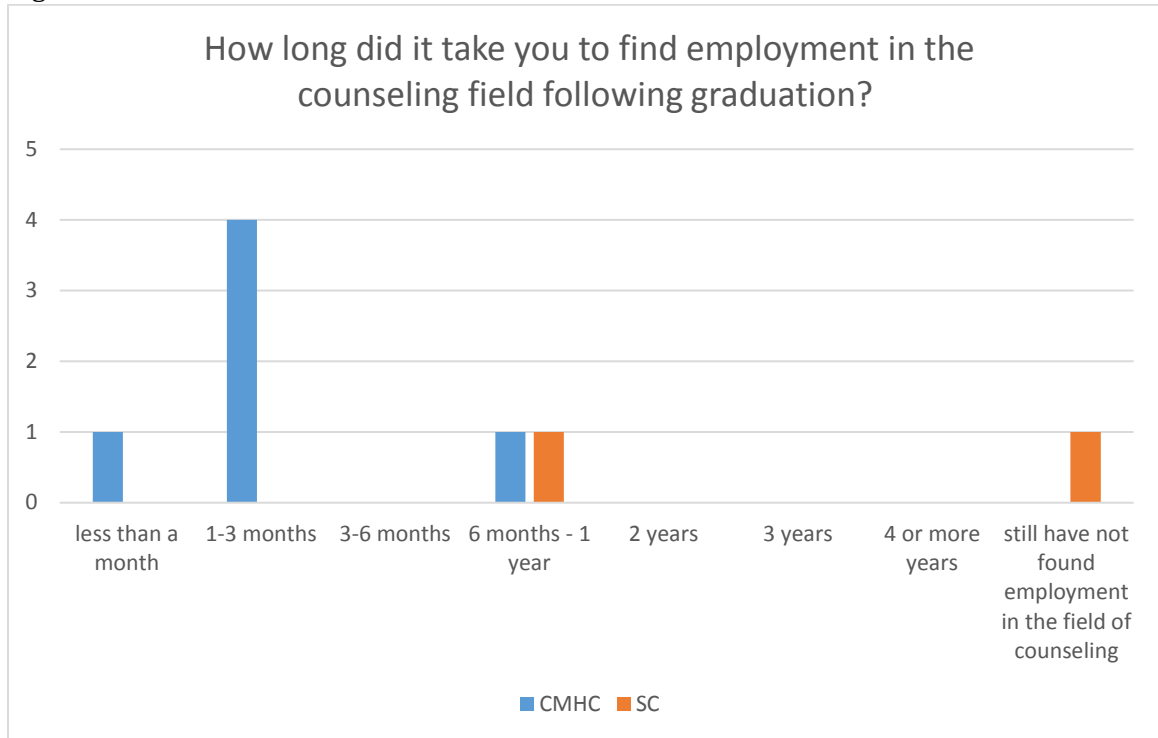
Figure 2.



5. Employment Rates & Exam Passage

87.5% of those 2016-17 program graduates surveyed (n=8) who desired **employment** in the counseling profession are currently employed as professional counselors; 62.5% found employment within the first 3 months of graduating (see Figure 3).

Figure 3.



Graduates from the Counseling Graduate Program Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program consistently achieve high pass rates on the **National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Exam (NCMHCE)**, the exam required for licensure in New York State. The pass rates for 2016-2017 graduates taking the NCMHCE exam for the first time was 83% (Out of 6 graduates who took the NCMHCE, 5 passed and 1 failed).

No School Counseling (SC) or Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) students opted to take the **National Counselor Exam (NCE)** for the purposes of certification during the 2017-18 academic year.

6. Curricular Revisions

Using the CACREP 2016 Standards as our guide, the Counseling Faculty proposed a set of curriculum revisions to both the Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling programs. The revised curriculum, as proposed, will still be 60 credits. Students will no longer take Human Growth and Development electives offered by the Psychology Graduate Faculty but will take a course in Substance Use & Addictions Counseling. The Practicum and Internship classes will become 3 credits instead of 4, and students will take courses in Ethics & Professional Identity and Supervision, Consultation, and Social Advocacy prior to starting Practicum. Further, our Disaster Mental Health course will become a requirement rather than an elective.

These **curriculum revisions were approved** by NYSED and Office of Professions December 2017 and will be **implemented Fall 2018**.

7. CACREP Self-Study

In our continual pursuit of CACREP Accreditation, the Counselor Education faculty compiled and submitted our 100+ page Self-Study document to CACREP in February 2018. We hope to hear from CACREP regarding a site visit, the next step in the accreditation process, sometime during the Summer/Fall of 2018.