



Counselor Education Graduate Program 2019-2020 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.

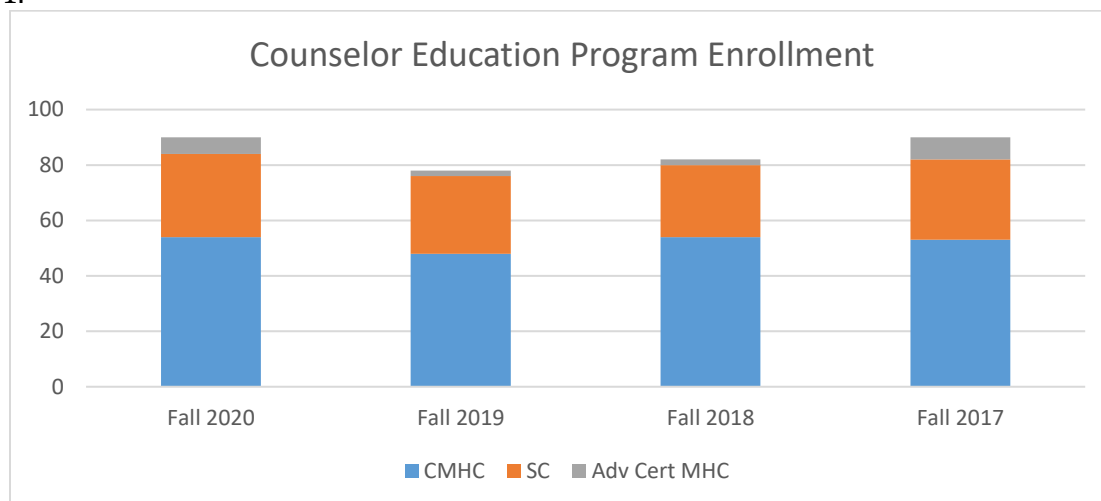
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Enrollment Data

Our **overall enrollment** in our School Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and Advanced Certificate in Mental Health Counseling programs has remained fairly steady and robust over the past 4 years (See Figure 1).

Figure 1.



Admissions

The overall **number of applications** we received, across all three programs, increased significantly from the Fall 2019 to the Fall 2020 admissions pool. During the 2019-20 Academic Year, the counseling faculty reviewed and considered for **admissions** the applications of 95 prospective students (an increase of 22 from 2018-2019). Thirty-four of these were admitted into the counseling graduate program (36% of those that applied).

Table 1.

Year	CMHC				SC				Adv Cert CMHC			
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2020	2019	2018	2017	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total Applications	55	48	40	53	34	23	19	28	6	2	3	2
Accepted (Acceptance Rate)	27 (49%)	31 (64%)	27 (67%)	31 (58%)	16 (47%)	14 (61%)	15 (79%)	15 (54%)	5 (67%)	2 (100%)	2 (67%)	1 (50%)
Accepted-Confirmed	19	26	19	15	13	9	12	12	2	2	1	
Avg GRE Total	297.70	298.35	293.09	297.71	294.34	293.38	279.5	293.25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Avg GRE Accepted	299.85	298.52	295.12	298.97	296.06	292.92	276.07	296.67	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Avg GPA Total	3.40	3.40	3.29	3.34	3.32	3.32	3.36	3.30	3.68	3.71	3.55	3.40
Avg GPA Accepted	3.55	3.49	3.38	3.41	3.48	3.46	3.43	3.50	3.74	3.71	3.55	3.43

Faculty Changes

In the Fall of 2019, we excitedly welcomed two new lecturers: **David Bright**, with an emphasis in School Counseling, and **Courtney Edwards**, our new Practicum/Internship Coordinator. **David Bright** has accepted our offer to stay on as a tenure-track faculty and **Courtney Edwards** has agreed to continue in her position for the 2020-2021 academic year. We are grateful to have both as part of our team!

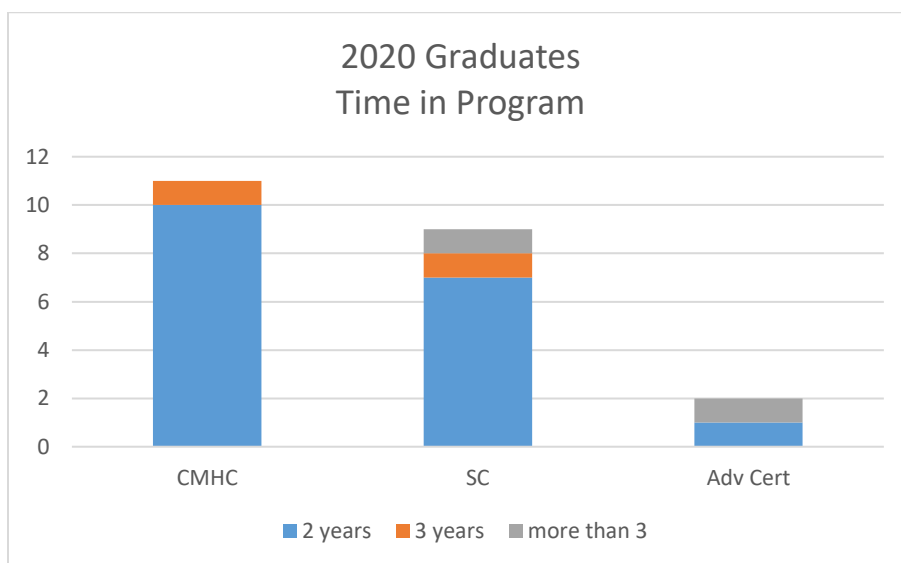
Program Completion

The **number of students who graduated** the program the last two academic years are listed in Table 2 below. Of the 22 students who graduated during the 2019-2020 academic year, 82% graduated from the program within 2 years, 9% graduated from the program within 3 years, and 9% took longer than 3 years. See Figure 2.

Table 2.

	Dec 2017	May 2018	Aug 2018	Dec 2018	May 2019	Aug 2019	Dec 2019	May 2020	Aug 2020
CMHC	0	3	4	1	13	10	0	9	5
SC	0	5	1	0	4	4	0	7	2
Adv Cert CMHC	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Total	0	9	5	1	17	14	0	18	7

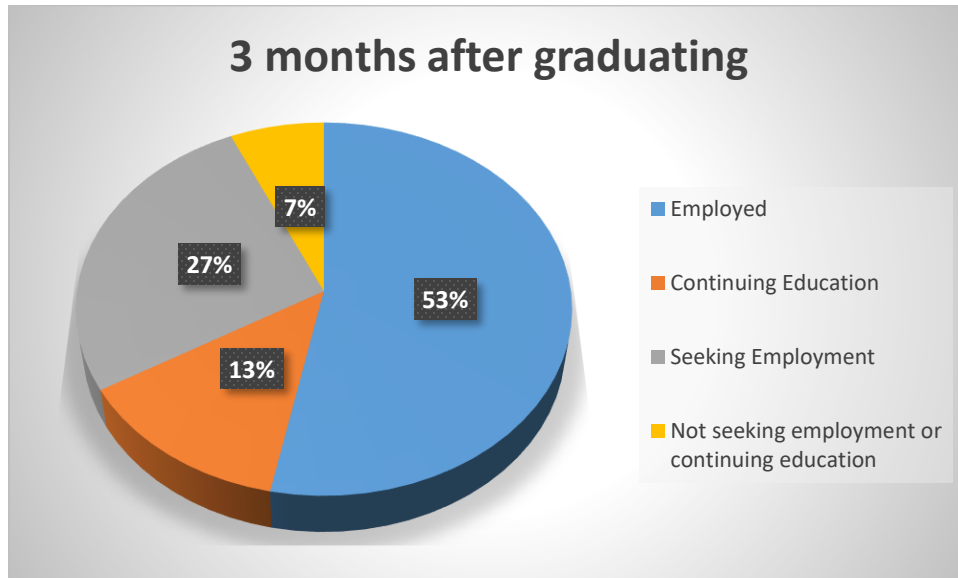
Figure 2.



Employment Rates & Exam Passage

Of the 2019-20 program graduates who responded to the First Destination survey 3 months after graduation (n=15), 53% were employed, 27% were seeking employment, 13% were seeking further education, and 7% were not seeking employment or further education.

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 rate for 2018 was 83% (Out of 13 graduates who took the NCMHCE, 11 passed and 2 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 2019-20 academic year.

Program Revisions

The curriculum for both the Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling programs was revised starting with the Fall 2018 cohort. In Fall 2019, the Counselor Education faculty approved a systematic assessment plan. This plan will assess how well our students are meeting the 26 Key Performance Indicators (which are based on our 13 Program Objectives). We will also survey students at the end of their first semester, upon graduation, 3 months post-graduation and 3 years post-graduation for feedback on the program's areas of strength and areas for growth. We will survey both our site supervisors as well as the employers of our alumni to see how well we are training our graduates.

CACREP Accreditation

In March 2019, we received notice that we had been approved for a site visit from CACREP, the final step in achieving accreditation. A site visit was scheduled for October 2019 but unfortunately postponed due to Dr. Hill being in the hospital. We rescheduled the site visit for April 2020; however, this visit was also postponed due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions. We will FINALLY be hosting CACREP (virtually) November 30th – December 2nd, 2020. Hopefully third time is a charm! 😊