

Spring Arbor University
Master of Arts in Counseling
Annual Program Report: 2023-2024

In keeping with ongoing CACREP accreditation requirements, the MAC program provides an annual self-report to be distributed to all stakeholders. The primary purpose of this process is accountability – to the ideals of Spring Arbor University, to our current students, and to those who employ and seek the services of our graduates. Per CACREP guidelines, our report is divided into two sections: a summary of our program evaluation results and a summary of the modifications we have made/are planning to make in the near future based on those results.

Section 1 – Summary of Program Evaluation Results

CACREP standards require that we evaluate the MAC program according to three broad standards. These are listed in summary form below:

A: Aggregate student assessment addressing knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions.

- **Knowledge:** Nine CACREP-aligned core competencies are analyzed to reflect overall program effectiveness. Each competency is tagged to two specific assignments turned in during different semesters over the course of the degree program. The minimum expectation is that at least 80% of students will achieve a score of 80% or more on these domains. The domains, their outcomes, and a comparison of scores from the prior academic year are as follows:

Knowledge Area	2022-2023 Percentage	2023-2024 Percentage	+/-
Faith Integration	100	100	0
History, Philosophy, Ethics, and Trends in Counseling	92	94	+2
Multicultural Issues and Social Justice	86	99	+13
Lifespan Development and Interventions	97	98	+1
Career Theory, Development, and Assessment	97	93	-4
Theory, Consultation, and Crisis Intervention	96	94	-2
Group Work	98	95	-2
Test, Measurement, and Assessment	95	100	+5
Research and Program Evaluation	96	98	+2
Mean Aggregate Percentage	95	97	+2

- **Skills and Professional Disposition:** Professional Competency Profile instruments designed to assess proficiency in the domains of effective listening skills, multicultural sensitivity and awareness of diversity issues, and overall fit for the counseling field are completed by students and instructors at the end CNS 604, CNS 620, and CNS 641. The outcomes summarized below show that 98% of students meet expectations, with 31% exceeding expectations.

Criterion	Level 1 – Needs Improvement	Level 2 – Meets Expectations	Level 3 – Exceeds Expectations
Effective Communication Skills: Listening	2%	64%	35%
Multicultural Sensitivity and Awareness of Diversity Issues	1%	65%	35%
Fit for the Counseling Field	3%	72%	23%
Overall Mean	2%	67%	31%

B: Demographic and other characteristics of applicants, students, and graduates.

Data collected for the 2022-2023 academic year for ethnicity and gender is summarized as follows:

Year	Ethnicity	Applications*	Accepted	Registered
2022-2023	Pacific Islander	0	0	0
	Asian	1	1	1
	Black	21	11 (52%)	11
	Hispanic	4	1 (25%)	1
	White	76	52 (68%)	49
	Multi-Race	4	1	1
	Unknown	9	3	3
Total		115	69	66

*Application does not denote a completed file.

Year	Male Applied	Female Applied	Male Accepted	Female Accepted	Male Registered	Female Registered
2022-2023	24	91	10 (42%)	59 (65%)	9 (90%)	57 (97%)

Year	Ethnicity	Graduated
2022-2023	Asian	2
	Black	10
	Hispanic	1
	White	55
	Multi-Race	1
	Unknown	1
Total		70

C: Data from systematic follow-up studies of graduates, site supervisors, and employers for program graduates.

A series of three surveys are systematically disseminated to gauge MAC program effectiveness via feedback from students regarding their satisfaction with their clinical experience and preparation for it, clinical supervisors regarding their satisfaction with the preparation of students for clinical work and the level of support provided by MAC faculty and staff, and for employers of MAC graduates regarding their satisfaction with the preparation and professionalism of program graduates in clinical settings. The most recent data is summarized below:

Student Clinical Experience Feedback

Question	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
I am satisfied with the clinical preparation I have received to this point in the program.	37.35%	27.71%	65.06%
I am satisfied with the professionalism demonstrated by my SAU supervisor.	34.94%	51.81%	86.75%
I am satisfied with the level of responsiveness to my concerns demonstrated by SAU faculty and staff.	32.53%	20.48%	51.81%
My overall impression of SAU Master of Arts in Counseling program is positive.	48.19%	18.07%	66.26%

Clinical Site Supervisors Feedback

Question	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
I am satisfied with the clinical preparation of my SAU interns.	34.43%	47.54%	81.97%
I am satisfied with the professionalism demonstrated by my SAU intern.	21.31%	70.49%	91.8%
I am satisfied with the level of communication I receive from SAU about the internship program.	42.62%	32.79%	75.41%
I am satisfied with the level of responsiveness to my concerns demonstrated by SAU faculty and staff.	44.26%%	27.87%	72.13%
My overall impression of SAU Master of Arts in Counseling program is positive.	45.9%	40.98%	86.88%

Graduate Employers Feedback

Question	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
I am satisfied with the clinical preparation of my SAU graduate clinician.	7.69%	61.54%	69.23%
I am satisfied with the professionalism demonstrated by my SAU graduate clinician.	7.69%	61.54%	69.23%
I am satisfied with the level of knowledge demonstrated by my SAU graduate clinician.	7.69%	61.54%	69.23%
My overall impression of SAU Master of Arts in Counseling program is positive.	7.69%	61.54%	69.23%

Section 2 – Program Modifications

Analysis of current trends in the field and among similar programs led to the conclusion that some elements of the curriculum needed to be adjusted. The following changes have been implemented or are scheduled to be offered in the upcoming academic year.

- 1.) Options for Faster Completion** – Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year, the program has streamlined the curriculum to avoid overlap, while still meeting CACREP and LPC standards. Courses have been identified as either core or electives, which allowed for different scheduling options. Additionally, the schedule is transitioning from a defined cohort plan to a carousel rotation. The new rotation enables students to enter the program at multiple points during the year and offers additional flexibility related to scheduling and time to complete. Students are now be able to finish in as little as two years if they so desire.
- 2.) Movement to a hybrid delivery format** – Courses shifted from a continuous 8-week synchronous Zoom-based format to a seven-week hybrid format. Students have an optional weekly Zoom session to discuss material with classmates and instructors and/or can follow an asynchronous discussion-based/assignment completion format. This allows students to tailor their learning experience based on their needs, preferences, and the demands of their lives outside of school. Additionally, the shift to a 7-week format allows a one-week break between courses.
- 3.) Play Therapy Concentration** – Beginning in Fall of 2025, students will have the option of taking three elective courses that can provide the academic portion of the requirements to apply for designation as a Registered Play Therapist[®]. These courses can be taken as a part of the degree program or in a non-degree-seeking status for those who are already LPCs.

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
CNS 640	Foundational Concepts in Play Therapy	3
CNS 642	Play Therapy for Traumatized Clients	3
CNS 644	Child-Centered Play Therapy for Individuals and Families	3

- 4.) Marriage and Family Counseling Electives** – In response to changing market trends as well as feedback from current students and graduates, elective coursework is being added to the curriculum, starting in Spring of 2026. Our intention is to apply for CACREP status as an accredited Marriage and Family Counseling program, but in the meantime, coursework may be taken as an elective in the CMHC program.

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
CNS 632	Marriage and Family Counseling: Planning, Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment	3
CNS 637	Theories of Family Counseling	3
CNS 638	Premarital and Marital Counseling	3
CNS 639	Human Sexuality	3
CNS 659	Marital and Family Counseling Practicum	3
CNS 686 A/B	Marriage and Family Counseling Internship	3/3

5.) Biological and Pharmacological Foundations – In response to changing CACREP standards and licensure requirements in various states, plans are in place to roll out a three hour course that will be added to the CMHC core requirements.

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
CNS XXX	Biological and Pharmacological Foundations	3