



GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY

THE MERCY UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

Fall, 2018

Dear Stakeholders,

It is with pleasure that we share with you our regular evaluation of the CMH program. We encourage your feedback on this information so that we can continue to improve.

One of our major efforts this past year was to recruit a full-time, tenure-track professor in order to fill the slot vacated by Dr. Ponton in the beginning of 2017. The position was advertised in the Chronicles of Higher Education and later on the American Counseling Association website. A search committee was established and candidates were reviewed. Unfortunately, we did not find an applicant that met the criteria we were looking for in order to fill a tenure-track position. We received relatively few applicants, and many did not have the requisite doctoral degree in Counselor Education. Others had no clearly established research interest. As such, our search was terminated at the end of the spring, and Counselor Educator Lori Nixon, PhD, LPC, ACS was appointed to another year as a Visiting Assistant Professor. As noted in last year's report, our Counselor Educator Sherritta Hughes, PhD, LPC, ACS accepted a position as an Assistant Professor with her primary duty to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, and her appointment commenced in August, 2017. We will be re-opening our search in the fall of 2018. Additional sources of publicizing the position will be investigated in addition to utilizing the Counselor Education faculty search resource held at the North Atlantic Region Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (NARACES) 2018 Annual Conference.

We have added two new adjunct professors. Wanda Quezada, Ed.D., LPC and Jennifer Nangano, Ph.D. Dr. Quezada received her doctoral degree in Counselor Education and Supervision from Argosy University and is the 2018-2019 President of the New Jersey Counseling Association. She will be teaching a section of the Group Counseling course during the Fall semester and will be teaching a section of Clinical Mental Health Counseling Interventions during the Fall semester. The need for these adjuncts occurred as a result of a mid-year acceptance policy during 2017. This resulted in an unusually large demand for certain courses running this fall as the mid-year acceptance cohort was in need of the same courses as the cohort that started last fall. Based on this learning experience, we will be discontinuing the policy of accepting students at the mid-year and will return to only having a cohort start at the beginning of each academic year.

Each year, as a program we survey site supervisors. In addition, we complete assessment measures in key courses. The faculty meet to discuss all students' progress. We use all this information to consider changes that are needed in the program to better meet the needs of the community, clients, students and supervisors.

We are thankful to the field placement supervisors, our partners in preparing professional counselors. Our Practicum Coordinator, Marni Elson-Victor, MA, LPC, LCADC, ACS, CCS visited 18 sites during the 2017-2018 academic year. Feedback obtained from Practicum and Internship site-supervisors via supervisor evaluations as well as Ms. Elson-Victor's visits continues to be very positive, as the supervisors perceive our students as being well-prepared for the Practicum/Internship experience.

During the past year, a number of our Community Advisory Board members were no longer available, as several have retired or changed positions. As such, we did not have a "quorum" to allow us to have well-attended meetings. This will be addressed in our discussion of goals for the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year.

We administer the CCPE examination as part of our comprehensive examination graduation requirement. The CCPE is highly correlated with the CCE (licensing examination) and is therefore predictive of employability. In the 2017-2018 academic year, 87% of those taking the examination for the first time passed. It is worth noting that the national pass-rate is approximately 84%, so our present results are in-line with the national average.

In addition to maintaining our CACREP accreditation, students can also take an addictions track by taking select courses. This provides students the opportunity to meet coursework requirements to be a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC) in addition to being eligible to be a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). This track is approved by the Addictions Professionals Certification Board of New Jersey, Inc. In March of this year, Dr. Springer (CMHC Program Director) met with Richard Bowe (Executive Director, APCB-NJ) in order to ensure the program is in good standing and to discuss any potential changes or modifications to the program.

Our goals for the past academic year were to continue to develop and implement an integrated process of monitoring field placement progress and to promote continued increased articulation with field placement sites. Ms. Elson-Victor's 18 site visits this past year compared to 10 the previous year represent a significant increase in effort and activity in this area.

In addition to the attainment of these goals, one student co-presented with Dr. Hughes at the Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA) 2018 Annual Conference, a national division of American Counseling Association (ACA). Five other students joined the New Jersey Counseling Association (NJCA), where one was appointed to a prime leadership role and is receiving professional mentoring by NJCA Board members.

Goals for the coming academic year involve:

- Reviewing and revising our list of NBCC CCE-qualified supervisors in the
- Monmouth, Ocean, Middlesex, and Mercer County areas who can provide supervision to post-MA, LAC individuals.
- Reconstituting our Community Advisory Board and holding at least one and possibly two meetings.
- Continue to develop and implement an integrated process of monitoring field placement

progress and promote continued increased articulation with field placement sites as these are on-going projects.

Program Outcomes: the following statistics were obtained from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and student surveys:

- Number of Graduates (August 2017-May 2018): 13
- Program Completion Rate: 69%
- Licensure Exam (CCE) Pass Rate: 90%
- Job-Placement Rate: 90%

We would be happy to discuss further any of the above items. We value our relationships with you.

Sincerely,

The Clinical Mental Health Program at Georgian Court University