

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program
Valparaiso University
2022 Annual Report

For Academic Year 2021-2022

- A. Program Review:** During the 2021-2022 academic year, our program faculty surveyed Current Students, Alumni, Supervisors, and Employers in an effort to understand constituent perspectives on how the CMHC program meets current objectives. Additionally, this cycle of assessment serves to meet requirements to measure standards of quality set by CACREP. Results of the 2022 program assessment of Student, Alumni, Supervisor, and Employer perspectives revealed that program objectives are being met at consistently high levels, i.e., on a Likert scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (very well), despite the impact of the pandemic.
- B. Program Modifications:** A systemic department review in 2021-2022 resulted in the following modifications:
- a. *Increase Supervisor Training:*** Based on the feedback provided in the surveys, it became apparent we needed to create better ways of providing consistent training to our supervisors. As such, our faculty will be creating a series of videos covering basics about supervision and ethics specific to the field of counseling. We will then be able to provide a clear message, support, and training to *all* of our supervisors and ensure they are each given updated information needed to offer superior oversight of our counseling students in the field.

 - b. *Improve Connections between the CMHC program and Internship Sites/Potential Employers:*** As a faculty, we believe it is important to enforce and solidify our connections with sites and potential employers post pandemic. This desire seemed to be supported in data received from surveys of supervisors and employers. In an effort to enhance connections, support, and knowledge of our CMHC program with local agencies, we have created an annual internship and employment fair, hosted at Valparaiso University. This event provides the opportunity for students, supervisors, and potential employers to meet in person and discuss opportunities, answer questions, and provide information regarding a variety of experiences available. In addition, it provides another opportunity for supervisors and employers to obtain information about the CMHC program.

- c. Increase Connections Among Current Students:* Feedback from our current students indicated a desire for more opportunities to connect with cohorts outside of their own. The CMHC faculty believe increasing this connection will be valuable in promoting professional development and potential long-term mentorship connections as students move into actual counseling practice. In order to facilitate these connections, the faculty will use the proseminar class in the spring semester each year to provide a minimum of one training or workshop in which all students, regardless of cohort, will attend. In addition to the proseminar class, the cohort representatives will work together, in conjunction with the program director, to develop a plan for at least one joint activity each semester. This plan will become a standard part of the duty of being a cohort representative moving forward.
- d. Increase Alumni involvement:* Our CMHC program has developed an incredibly strong alumni base who are eager to continue being a part of the CMHC program. During the pandemic, our program was not able to maintain some of the alumni events we had done previously. Some of that disconnect was reflected in survey data. Therefore, in order to continue to promote strength in our alumni community we will be hosting an annual alumni panel in which alumni in various roles and stages post graduation will be able to share their experiences with licensing and employment. In order to continue to support our alumni, we will also invite alumni to be guest speakers for our students, as well as invite them to attend trainings, workshops, and events hosted by the department and our chapter of Chi Sigma Iota.