



**East Carolina University  
Counselor Education Program  
2022 – 2023 Annual Report**

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The mission of the Counselor Education Program at East Carolina University is to promote human development and learning by preparing culturally competent professional counselors to work with diverse populations to improve the mental health of individuals in the P-16 schools and communities in which they serve. Students and faculty are expected to work in accord with the highest ethical and professional standards while engaged in the fulfillment of this mission. The Counselor Education Program began in 1951 and, today, offers graduate studies at the Master's (MS) level.

The purpose of this Annual Report is to inform all stakeholders of the Counselor Education Program, including students, faculty, administration (school, college, and university), alumni, site hosts, employers of graduates, community partners, and the public about program evaluation results, program modifications based on these results, and other significant program changes.

### **1. Enrollment Data and Faculty Changes**

The ECU Counselor Education admits students in Summer/Fall semester sessions. The program faculty reviewed applications of 165 prospective master's students and enrolled 60 students in Summer/Fall 2022. Table 1 contains a summary of the number of prospective students that applied, admitted, and enrolled. **Between 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 the program saw significant growth** - more than double the number of applicants ( $n = 68$ ;  $n = 165$ , respectively) and those who enrolled ( $n = 31$ ;  $n = 60$ , respectively).

**Table 1: Number of Students that applied, were admitted, and enrolled during the 2022-2023 year**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>
<b>MS, Counselor Education</b> (School Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Student Affairs and College Counseling)	Summer/Fall 2022	165	86	60

## 2. Number of Graduates, Program Completion Rate, Certification/Licensure Exam Pass Rate, and Job Placement Rate for 2022-2023

Program	Number of Students who Graduated	Completion Rate	Certification/Licensure Exam Pass Rate	Job Placement Rate
<b>MS, Counselor Education</b> (School Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Student Affairs and College Counseling)	30	100%	88%	100%

## 3. Curricular Evaluation and Enhancement

In accordance with the 2016 CACREP standards, the ECU Counselor Education Program collected data in alignment with their Comprehensive Assessment Plan (CAP) to measure and evaluate key program components, student progress, and curriculum design.

In reviewing data for key performance indications (KPIs) for the 2022-2023 year, the majority of students scored at the accomplished or exceptional performance level for all KPIs.

### Academic Performance and Professional Dispositions:

All students were evaluated according to the CAEPPR process at least once per semester.

There were 96 students enrolled in Fall 2022 and 93 students enrolled in Spring 2023.

Students evaluated below 3.5 in any of the professional dispositions categories met with their academic advisors to discuss plans to address these areas.

### Students' Evaluation of Practicum and Internship Sites:

Practicum and internship students are asked to evaluate the placement site and the practicum and internship experience at the end of the semester for each placement. The students identified strengths (e.g., opportunities to work with a wide variety of clientele with a broad range of presenting problems and diagnoses, access to professional development trainings through the site, and site supervisors with a wealth of knowledge in addition to having the ability to encourage and support the counselor-in-training) and areas for improvement (e.g., limited access to providing a broad range of counseling services at the site). Most students responded positively about how the experience at their sites impacted their confidence and growth as a counselor-in-training.

### Site Supervisor Evaluation

Each year, site supervisors evaluate the overall preparation of the students for clinical experiences. Site supervisors have the opportunity to identify student strengths and areas for improvement in order to help strengthen future clinical experiences. Examples of strengths include students' eagerness and enthusiasm to learn and being compassionate advocates for their clients. Examples of areas of improvement include additional training opportunities for administering screeners and assessments and students' willingness to ask more questions when unfamiliar with sites' administrative tasks.

### **Exit Survey**

At the completion of the program, all students complete a Graduate Exit Survey. The survey is disseminated by the College of Education and includes demographic questions and other questions related to satisfaction of the program's preparation for professional responsibilities.

### **4. Constituent Surveys**

In accordance with the 2016 CACREP standards, the ECU Counselor Education Program updated constituent surveys, including surveys to Site Supervisors, Employers, and Alumni (integrated into Graduate Exit Survey) to inform program modifications that enhance the quality of the program.

### **5. Program Advisory Board**

The Program Advisory Board met in Fall 2022 and Fall 2023. The board is comprised of stakeholders including students, site supervisors, program alum, and community counseling professionals. Some of the Fall 2022 feedback provided included: increased training in Crisis/Crisis management in student affairs/college counseling, increased training in MTSS/PBIS for school counselors, and private practice billing. Noted strengths of the program included therapeutic skills, elective offerings, and interpersonal skills of students/alum. Program faculty will hold advisory board meetings once per semester. Most recently, the Program Advisory Board met on September 20, 2023. Sample feedback from this meeting included exploring professional development opportunities on the topic of assessment and crisis management to meet the needs of the region and a clinical mental health certificate program to assist with state licensure changes.

### **6. CACREP Self Study**

CACREP accreditation for the Counselor Education program expires March 2023. The program faculty submitted the self-study for reaccreditation in Fall 2022. Due to COVID-19 and other programmatic and personnel promotions and resignations, program faculty requested an extension that was reviewed and approved at the January 2023 CACREP Board Meeting. The faculty are preparing for a (virtual) site visit scheduled for November 1-3, 2023. As a result of the self-study preparation and process, the program faculty have instituted several improvements and changes to align with the CACREP (2016) Standards.

### **7. Program Changes and Modifications**

In reviewing all program evaluation data, including aggregate data from the 2016 CACREP standard key performance indicator (KPI) assignments, enrollment data, and constituent surveys, the faculty made the following program modifications:

#### Implemented Changes:

- Development of a trauma course based on student feedback, requests from practicum/internship experiences.
- New technology for admissions processes (e.g., video interview platform)
- Added KPIs to corresponding syllabi
- Added Taskstream to many courses as part of the assessment plan
- Added a New Student Orientation for students who begin in Summer

Goals

- Hire additional faculty to support enrollment growth
- Hire additional faculty with Student Affairs and College Counseling background experience
- Explore ways to adapt curriculum due to state licensure changes

Other program changes and accomplishments include:

- Successful national search for Teaching Assistant Professor and Assistant Professor, bringing the total number of faculty members to 8.
- Dr. Avent Harris assumed the role of Assistant Dean for Community Engagement and Wellness in the College of Education
- The program is seeing some of the highest student enrollment in 10 years
- Dr. Shanita Brown and Dr. Jason Perry were elected as President-Elect-Elect and Secretary (respectively) for North Carolina Counseling Association
- Dr. Avent Harris received the 2022-2023 ECU College of Education Scholar-Teacher Award
- Dr. Loni Crumb and Dr. Jason Perry serve as project team members for United Health Foundation grant for Telepsychiatry
- Counseling CARE Corps project with AmeriCorps to address mental health provider shortages and provide financial assistance to current students
- Dr. Avent Harris elected as President Elect for Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling
- Successfully launched the School Counseling Certificate program and enrolled first cohort of students in Fall 2023



*Counselor Education faculty. Back row from left: Allison Crowe, Loni Crumb, Jason Perry, Janeé Avent Harris. Front row from left: Laura Craven, Shanita Brown, Ashley Cannan, Allison Fears*