



East Carolina University
Counselor Education Program
2023-2024 Annual Report

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.

Enrollment Data and Faculty Changes

The ECU Counselor Education admits students in Summer/Fall semester sessions. The program faculty reviewed applications of 181 prospective master's students in Spring 2023, admitted 105, and enrolled 68 students in Summer/Fall 2023. Table 1 contains a summary of the number of prospective students that applied, were admitted, and enrolled. Between 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 the program saw growth in number of applicants ($n = 161$; $n = 181$) and those admitted ($n = 84$; $n = 105$) and those enrolled ($n = 58$; $n = 68$). In 2023-2024, the program also admitted the first cohort of School Counseling Certificate Students as noted in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Students that applied, were admitted, and enrolled for the 2023-2024 AY

Program	Semester	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled
MS, Counselor Education (School Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Student Affairs and College Counseling)	Summer/Fall 2023	181	105	68
School Counseling Certificate	Summer/Fall 2023	15	5	2

Number of Graduates, Program Completion Rate, Certification/Licensure Exam Pass Rate, and Job Placement Rate for Graduates of 2023-24

Program	Number of Students who Graduated	Completion Rate	Certification/Licensure Exam Pass Rate	Job Placement Rate
MS, Counselor Education (School Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Student Affairs and College Counseling)	39	100%	87%	100%

Curricular Evaluation and Enhancement

In accordance with the 2024 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 2023-2024 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 137 students enrolled in Fall 2023 and 128 students enrolled in Spring 2024. 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. Students identified strengths (e.g., immersive experiences in which they were able to participate in all aspects of the counseling process, excellent opportunities for professional development provided by the site, and supervision provided by helpful and knowledgeable counselors who encouraged student learners to independently provide services with the assurance of support if a crisis occurred) and

areas of improvement (e.g., accruing enough hours of direct service to clients in private practice settings, needing to advocate for consistent supervision when supervisors have multiple student learners, and difficulties maintaining a comprehensive school counseling program when required to wear additional “hats” as a school employee). Most students responded positively about how their experiences as a practicum student or intern impacted their 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 student learners being self-motivated, prepared with foundational knowledge, and being reflective about interactions with clients and open to supervisors’ feedback. Areas of improvement include students being provided with access to digital toolboxes, with collections of assessments, inventories, activities, and/or lessons ready to be utilized in their clinical experiences.

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. Our most recent data (2022-23) showed that 97% of students had positive responses when asked to what extent in which their graduate education contributed to their: 1) communication skills; 2) knowledge in their program; 3) opportunities to develop leadership skills; 4) personal development; 5) problem-solving skills; and 6) technical skills. Additionally, 100% of students felt prepared to practice in their discipline or profession as a result of their graduate education at ECU.

Constituent Surveys

In accordance with the 2024 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.

Program Advisory Board

The Counselor Education Program Advisory Board met in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. The board is comprised of stakeholders including current students, site supervisors, program alum, and community counseling professionals. Noted strengths of the program included therapeutic skills, elective offerings, and interpersonal skills of students/alum. Program faculty 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.

CACREP Self Study, Site Visit, and Accreditation Decision

CACREP accreditation for the Counselor Education program was set to expire March 2023. The program faculty submitted the self-study for reaccreditation in Fall 2022. The faculty successfully completed a CACREP site visit (virtual) in November 2023. The faculty received and responded to site visit feedback and requests in December 2023. The CACREP Board reviewed the program's site visit information during the January 2024 Board Meeting. The Board renewed accreditation for all specialty areas (i.e., school counseling, clinical mental health counseling, student affairs/college counseling) through 2030. The faculty will submit a progress report in May 2025 to provide the board with updated information on faculty to student ratios. The faculty are currently conducting a search to hire a Teaching Assistant/Associate professor that will help support the program, with a specific focus on teaching and leading the program as Program Coordinator.

Program Changes and Modifications

In reviewing all program evaluation data, including aggregate data from the 2024 CACREP standard key performance indicator (KPI) assignments, enrollment data, and constituent surveys, the faculty made the following program modifications:

Implemented Changes:

- As a result of feedback received during CACREP site-visit, licensure changes, and potential interest from students/community stakeholders program faculty formed a sub-committee to explore launching a Clinical Mental Health Counseling certificate
- Successful matriculation of a School Counseling Certificate Program.
- Successful hire of Tenure-Track Assistant Professor with School Counseling Licensure and Experience – Dr. Allison Fears

Goals

- Successful completion of Teaching Assistant/Associate Professor/Program Coordinator Search
- Hire additional faculty with Student Affairs and College Counseling Background and/or School Counseling Background
- Explore ways to adapt curriculum due to state licensure changes
- Update all syllabi to align with CACREP (2024) standards
- Update Assessment Plan to align with CACREP (2024) standards
- Explore relaunching the Counseling in Spanish Course
- Seek to relaunch the Advanced Counseling Concerns and Strategies course to focus on school counseling.

- Seek to move Spirituality and Religion in Counseling and Trauma and Crisis Counseling Course from Special Topics to permanent course numbers.
- Create and offer additional electives as students have expressed an interest and need for more electives within the COAD program.
- Grow certificates within the COAD program, and consider a CMHC certificate

Other program changes and accomplishments include:

- Dr. Jason Perry assumed the role of Program Coordinator in December 2023.
- Dr. Allison Crowe was honored as the North Carolina Counseling Association Administrator of the Year.
- Dr. Loni Crumb was awarded the Mandela Washington Fellowship. Dr. Avent Harris will help co-direct the project in Nigeria.
- Dr. Avent Harris serves as President-Elect of the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling
- Dr. Allison Fears elected as Secretary for the North Carolina Counseling Association
- Four students attended the North Carolina Counseling Association conference and received professional development support from the Counselor Education program.
- The McClammy Lab provides weekly mental health services to the ECU Community School students and families.
- Counselor Education program faculty partnered with the Office for Community Engagement & Wellness to offer Wellness Wednesday days to the College of Education and the ECU Community School.