



# **COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

## **COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Behavioral Health

### **CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – 2025**

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#### **1. A Historical Overview**

In 1968 the Masters Program in Rehabilitation Counseling (RCP) originated at Coppin State College, now Coppin State University (CSU). The RCP was accredited through the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) for over 25 years. Many students have graduated from the RCP to become our future leaders, scholars, and highly esteemed professionals in the field. For many years the RCP at CSU has maintained a strong partnership with the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services, the DC Division of Rehabilitation Services along with other local rehabilitation agencies and service providers to ensure that our students are provided with an unparalleled graduate education. The mission of the RCP was to provide high quality graduate education in rehabilitation counseling leading to a master's degree, which prepared graduate students to be qualified rehabilitation counselors. Through the RCP curriculum students were also prepared to specialize as rehabilitation counselors to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to address varied issues within the rehabilitation counseling context. Rehabilitation counselors work collaboratively with individuals with disabilities, their support systems, and their environments to achieve their personal, social, psychological, and vocational goals.

The RCP also provided students with sufficient quality academic and internships, practicum, and experiential opportunities to ensure the provision of high quality professional vocational and other rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities and individuals with most significant disabilities. Students completed the internship hours in CSU's state-of-the-art community outreach Independent Living Lab. Through the years the RCP expanded to provide four post baccalaureate certificate programs in Rehabilitation Technology, Job Placement and Development, Forensics Rehabilitation, and Vocational Assessment & Evaluation. Also approved was a post master's certificate for students pursuing advanced coursework that will qualify them to sit for the National Counselor Exam (NCE) in preparation to become licensed clinical professional counselors in the State of Maryland.

On 07/17/17 the RCP became accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). As accrediting agencies the CORE and CACREP boards made their decisions to merge based on a number of factors affecting accreditation, its accredited programs, students in its accredited programs, and those served by its graduates.

After over 50 years of offering the degree of Master of Education in Rehabilitation Counseling and experiencing many years of accreditation through the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE), the decision was made to move from offering the M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling to offering the Master of Science (M.S.) in Clinical Mental Health Counseling-Rehabilitation (CMHC-R). This was in response to employment trends, and students' interest in pursuing state licensure to provide clinical mental health care.

Following the merger of CORE and CACREP [Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (<https://www.cacrep.org/newsletter/fall-2015-newsletter/>)] in 2017, the Rehabilitation Counseling Program was grandfathered in to CACREP accreditation, based on our longstanding CORE accreditation. The RCP program went on to receive CACREP accreditation on its own merit.

### **Transition to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Rehabilitation (CMHC-R) Program**

When the transition to the new 60-credit M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling – Rehabilitation took place, the CACREP accreditation did not apply, since this was a new program, requiring its own accreditation process. Students who were accepted into the counseling program as of Spring 2021 entered this new 60-credit Master of Science program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling-Rehabilitation. Students who were enrolled in the 49-credit Master of Education Program in Rehabilitation Counseling (RCP) prior to Spring 2021 had the option to remain in the RCP or to complete a Change of Program form to continue with and complete their studies under the new CMHC-R program. The 49-credit RCP remained CACREP accredited through Summer 2023, after which time the program was no longer accredited.

To be compliant with CACREP standards, the modification from the M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling to the M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Rehabilitation (CMHC-R) Program as a 60-credit hour program designed for the student who seeks mental health counseling careers in professional settings was submitted and approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) on February 17, 2021, and the University System of Maryland (USM) on November 30, 2020. As a result of the merger, new professional standards and requirements impacted programs and their structures nationally.

The Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Rehabilitation (CMHC-R) Program at CSU equips students with the essential skills needed for a successful career in the field. Through this program students gain a comprehensive understanding of counseling theories, evidence-based research, and effective strategies for preventing, diagnosing, and treating mental health disorders. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for specialization in various areas such as rehabilitation counseling, school counseling, or family therapy. Upon completion of the program, students are well-prepared to apply for licensure as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor and a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. This opens opportunities for them to work in hospitals, community-based organizations, or even establish their own private practice. The program is led by a team of highly qualified faculty who are dedicated to ensuring the success of their students and making a positive impact on the lives of those they serve.

### **Transition to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) Program**

On May 22, 2025, a proposal to request approval for the change in the title of the current CMHC-R Program to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) Program was made and submitted by the University based on CACREP Standards on Accreditation, and the CMHC-R consultants. The program is seeking accreditation in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialized practice area. Therefore, to have Rehabilitation as a part of the name may have a potential to mislead or misrepresent CACREP accreditation status. The Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Rehabilitation Counseling each represent separate professional specialty areas accredited by CACREP. To address the CACREP policy, the proposal was submitted to adhere to the policy and accreditation requirements. With the exception of the program name and HEGIS codes, the CMHC-R Program curriculum as approved by MHEC on February 17, 2021, remains the same. The course numbers and names will remain the same, but the HEGIS codes will change to reflect CMHC. Students will continue under the CMHC program to receive preparation to become Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPC) as well as Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC). With the program name change it will be clear through advertising about the nature of the Master of Science CMHC Program and its accreditation.

The 60-credit CMHC Program is currently in the process of applying to CACREP for certification. Upon receiving CACREP accreditation status, students graduating from the CMHC-R and the CMHC Programs within the previous three years will be considered to have graduated from the CMHC CACREP accredited program, since the accreditation status will be applied retroactively for three years prior to the date of accreditation.

For additional information see the Q&A at <https://www.coppin.edu/academics/clinical-mental-health-counseling-rehabilitation> or contact: Dr. James Stewart ([jstewart@coppin.edu](mailto:jstewart@coppin.edu)) or Dr. Janet D. Spry ([jspry@coppin.edu](mailto:jspry@coppin.edu)).

#### Program Highlights:

The CMHC Program has continued to support students with the grant/contract through the Baltimore City Office on Aging, which allows the Program Director of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) at CSU's Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Behavioral Health to recruit senior citizens for direct employment at the university. These programs, in essence, provide free manpower that allows faculty and staff more time to dedicate to teaching, service, and learning activities for our students.

Students enrolled in the CMHC Program come from diverse backgrounds: urban, suburban, public and private colleges, as well as multiple religious experiences and ethnicities and are representative of the economic spectrum including many from low to middle income families. Through grants awarded to the CMHC Program over the years by the U.S. Department of Education, many students have benefited as scholarship recipients in the CMHC Program.

The CMHC Program offers a curriculum of 60-credit hours with more than 25 elective courses for students to further develop their individual interests and goals. Most of the courses enroll 12 or fewer students, with Internship and Practicum courses enrolling 6 students in each class section. We have a full-time and adjunct faculty actively engaged in teaching and scholarly research that are very proud of a 98% graduation rate. Students are encouraged to participate in the Rehabilitation Counseling Student Association, to become members of the Chi Sigma Iota National Honor Society, and to become members of the large offerings of professional associations.

For several decades, CSU has been educating counselors who have made significant contributions to the profession. They have impacted change on local, state, and national levels. Many of our students have become Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC), Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPC) at the state and national levels; others have completed their doctoral studies, while others are currently pursuing their doctorate degrees. We encourage individuals to consider enrolling in our program that are committed to excellence, focused toward achievement, and dedicated to making significant contributions to the field of rehabilitation counseling to become a part of our growing tradition.

For additional information on the CMHC Program visit the CMHC Program-At-A-Glance at: [https://www.coppin.edu/info/202590/rehabilitation\\_counseling\\_med\\_program-at-a-glance](https://www.coppin.edu/info/202590/rehabilitation_counseling_med_program-at-a-glance)

## 2. Program Highlights

- The Substantive Change Application has been successfully approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and Middle States for:
  - a) a 60-credit hour program as required by CACREP
  - b) the name change from Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling to Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Rehabilitation Program (CMHCRP)

- c) the degree change from M.Ed. to M.S.
- d) the name change from CMHC-R to CMHC has been approved by the University and is in the process of submission to MHEC and USM for review and approval
- Students have attended and presented at conferences:
  - DORS Maryland Rehabilitation Conference, Baltimore, MD
  - American Association of Behavioral & Social Sciences Conference, Las Vegas, NV
  - American Counseling Association
  - Coppin State University Technology Conference
  - Maryland Counseling Association
  - The National Council on Rehabilitation Education
- Students are inducted into the National Honor Society by the Chi Sigma Iota Association
- The chapter of the Rehabilitation Counseling Student Association developed the constitution and by-laws for this association and planned National Disability Awareness Month activities that take place in October and participated in a virtual panel with the Maryland Rehabilitation Association (MRA). Additionally, these students had a virtual fundraiser walk-a-thon to benefit individuals with disabilities.
- The Graduate Council has approved a new certificate in Forensic Rehabilitation Counseling developed by the CMHC Program, which has been submitted to the MHEC.
- The University Systems of Maryland approved four post baccalaureate certificates and one post master's certificate.
- The Undergraduate Rehabilitation Services Program serves as a feeder into the CMHC Program.
- The grant from the Baltimore City Office of Senior Programs (SCSEP) and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) was renewed, which will continue to provide a work force of senior citizens who will assist with the daily operations of the CMHC Program as well as other departments across the university.
- The CMHC Program is a recipient of a State of Maryland Grant to provide services through an inclusive higher education program for students with developmental disabilities. It is a program for students with Intellectual Disabilities. The Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP) at CSU provides integrated academic, career, and independent living instruction in preparation for gainful employment. The CTP provides internship opportunities for students as well as stipends, scholarships, and mentorship opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students.
- The CMHC Program has a cooperative agreement with Baltimore City Public Schools and hosts the Transitioning Students Program at CSU. CMHC Program students receive internship and practicum experiences from this program by providing independent living skills training to the transitioning students. Services and workshops are provided in the Independent Living Lab at CSU.
- The CMHC Program has been awarded Employment Network status with the Social Security Administration's Ticket-to-Work Program. CSU is one of few universities in the U.S. with this status. Rehabilitation counseling services are provided to SSA beneficiaries and CMHC Program students receive practicum and internship experiences from this program, which operates in the Independent Living Laboratory at CSU and provides practicum and internship experiences for our students.
- The CMHC Program has a collaboration with the Baltimore City Department of Aging to provide employment/training opportunities to senior citizens looking to maintain and develop marketable skills. Although the ultimate goal is matching skills with employment needs at CSU, the program also supports independent living by applying practical skills for senior citizens to become active job seekers for suitable gainful employment. Additionally, the program benefits CSU by expanding and adding to the administrative structure at the university.

- The CMHC Program has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with St. Peter's Adult Learning Center in Baltimore, MD to provide vocational, evaluation, and assessment services to their consumers. CSU's CMHC Program Internship & Practicum students receive practical training experiences from this collaboration.
- The CMHC Program offers the Post-Master's in Professional Counselor Licensure for those students seeking this professional status and have a current master's degree approved by the Board of Professional Counselors.
- Graduate students have the opportunity to obtain additional training and skills in vocational assessment and evaluation with Pro Bono Counseling Services of Maryland. Through these experiences students are able to obtain valuable internship experiences as well as receive clinical hours toward professional counselor licensure requirements.
- The CMHC Program hosted the Maryland Counseling Association Conference on 09/28-29/2023. The details of the conference are provided in <https://mdcounseling.org/event-5160052>. Graduate students from the CMHC Program served as volunteers and 12 students received paid registration from the Ticket-to-Work program. Faculty from CUS's Psychology, Counseling, and Behavioral Health department attended.
- Seven (7) CMHC Program students registered to participate in the Maryland Mental Health First Aid Training held at CSU on 09/25/23, and students are continuing to receive this certification.
- The CMHC Program hosted the National Disability Awareness Month activities and shared information on disability awareness during the week of 10/22-28/2023. A panel was presented consisting of experts in the field of counseling and community providers to share information on social justice and the treatment of minorities with disabilities. Panel experts consisted of representatives from Disability Rights of Maryland, faculty from the Department of Criminal Justice, Department Psychology, Counseling, and Behavioral Health, alumni, the Maryland Commission on Individuals with Disabilities, and law enforcement. The panel was held 10/26/23. Students have continued to participate in and attend panel discussions designed to share information on mental health and disabilities during the month of October.



### 3. Program Outcomes

The CMHC Program offers the Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and the Post-Master's in Professional Counselor Licensure. For students interested in applying to the CMHC Program, the deadlines for submission of all credentials are May 15 for the fall semester, and October 15 for the spring semester. The program admits an average of 12 students per cohort in both the fall and spring semesters.



Currently the CMHC Program has an enrollment of 54 students in the Spring 2025 semester. The program has six (6) full-time faculty and seven (7) very committed, dedicated, and credentialed part-time faculty. The instructor to student ratio in the CMHC Program is 1:12. For the Internship and Practicum courses the ratio is 1:8. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA each semester to remain in good academic status.

Graduates from the CMHC Program was 12 students for May 2024, and 12 students for May 2025.

The CMHC Program offers a Post Master's in Professional Counselor Licensure Certificate Program, which is fully approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the University Systems of Maryland for those students seeking this professional status.

Students completing the CMHC Program at CSU qualify to sit for the NCE and CRC exam. Students are required to complete a total of 100 practicum hours, and 600 internship hours as well as the required coursework of the curriculum.

For information on the CRC application requirements, refer to the [Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification](#) (CCRC) website.



CMHC Program students may elect to take a Comprehensive Examination, the NCE, or the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) exam. The comprehensive exam is offered twice a year and the current passing rate for CMHC Program students is approximately 98%.

Information on the Comprehensive Examination may be accessed from the 2023-2025 Graduate Catalog link: <https://catalog.coppin.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=502#graduate-program-regulations>

Information on the NCE may be obtained on the National Board for Certified Counselors website: <https://nbcc.org/exams/nce>

Information on the CRC exam may be obtained from the [Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification](#) website.



<b>CMHC PROGRAM STUDENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS UPON GRADUATION COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY</b>			
<b>CONTACT METHOD</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Postgraduate Questionnaire	0	0	3
Telephone Contacts	0	5	0
E-Mail	3	0	2
Undocumented			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

From the postgraduate questionnaires, telephone contacts, and emails received from 2022-2024, thirteen (13) of the CMHC students reported having paid employment upon graduation. This data is based on a review of questionnaires, telephone contacts, and emails received by the CMHC Program Coordinators.

*A total of 18 students graduated from 2022-2024. A 72% response rate was received. Five (5) students from the CMHC Program have not yet responded for the reported time frame. Once the students officially report their status, the total report from this time frame will increase to 18. Currently, the reported student employment rate is 100% based on the students that responded. Once we are officially informed of the remaining students' employment statuses the chart will be updated.*



COUNSELOR EDUCATION COMPREHENSIVE EXAM COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY				
COMPREHENSIVE EXAM RESULTS				
SEMESTER	#STUDENTS	PASS	FAIL	PASS RATE
2022 SPRING	3	3	0	100%
2022 SUMMER	2	2	0	100%
2022 FALL	0	0	0	
2023 SPRING	5	5	0	100%
2023 FALL	5	5	0	100%
2024 SPRING	6	6	0	100%
2024 FALL	6	5	1	83%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>93%</b>

NATIONAL COUNSELOR EXAM (NCE) COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY			
NCE RESULTS			
YEAR	#STUDENTS	PASS	FAIL
2022	3	3	0
2023	5	5	0
2024	6	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>

The National Counselor Examination (NCE) is a 200-question multiple-choice exam used to assess a counselor's knowledge, skills, and abilities for effective practice. It's a requirement for counselor licensure in the State of Maryland and is also used for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification. The NCE evaluates a candidate's understanding of core counseling principles, ethical



practices, human development, and other essential areas of the profession. The State Board of Professional Counselors & Therapist License verification website:

(<https://mdbnc.health.maryland.gov/PCTVerification>) was used to verify the status of licensure reported by students. The student's date of graduation was verified through the University's Eaglelinks system for a review of transcripts.

From 2022-2-2024 fourteen (14) students have successfully passed the NCE Exam.

## CERTIFIED REHABILITATION COUNSELOR (CRC) STATEMENT

### COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) releases the Outcome Data Report to universities and colleges that meet the minimum requirement of 5 or more students/graduates who have sat for the exam for the first time during any given academic cycle. The CRC is a nationally accredited program, and this policy protects anonymity of students and graduates and aligns with CRCC's accreditation policy.

Once the CMHC Program has reached the required threshold, the CRCC will be able to provide the data report. From 2022–2024 no CMHC students have reported taking the CRC exam.

#### 4. Enrollment/Retention/Graduation Efforts

The CSU media department has completed a photo session with the CMHC Program to begin developing marketing material. The marketing material will be distributed to local colleges, regional colleges, community businesses, etc. to promote the program. Having funding for students has continued to be an effective recruitment tool. Maintaining a strong collaboration with the DORS has also been beneficial with program recruitment and retention efforts. Providing placement assistance for the CMHC Program students has positively impacted retention. Maintaining the CACREP standard student/faculty class ratio positively impacts recruitment and retention in addition to taking the time to listen and provide individualized advisement to students as required during office hours and on an extended basis, as needed. The CMHC Program has a very committed Advisory Council which has continued to include the discussion on recruitment and retention as an agenda item. Alumni and current students of the CMHC Program are invited to an annual Meet-and-Greet, which includes providing panel discussions for current students. Some of the continued suggestions made for recruitment and retention include:



- a. Continue to have alumni as part of a panel and speak to current students about their experiences and opportunities in the field. Sessions have taken place during the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters;
- b. have alumni serve as marketing resources for current students, providing them with valuable information to enhance and cultivate their interest in the field; and,
- c. have alumni to serve as mentors to current students and to assist them with developing research interests and career directions.



### CMHC-R & CMHC ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY SPRING 2024 - SPRING 2025

Race/Ethnicity	S24	F24	S25
Unknown	3	1	1
Black/ AA	98	51	42
Hispanic / Latino	5	1	1
White	3	0	1
International	5	6	7
Multi-Race	1	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>54</b>

### CMHC-R & CMHC MEAN STUDENT AGE COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY SPRING 2024 - SPRING 2025

SPRING 2024	FALL 2024	SPRING 2025
43	41	39

<b>CMHC-R &amp; CMHC ENROLLMENT BY STATUS COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY SPRING 2024 - SPRING 2025</b>			
STATUS	S24	F24	S25
Full-Time Students	61	45	40
Part-Time Students	54	16	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>54</b>

<b>CMHC-R &amp; CMHC ENROLLMENT BY GENDER COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY SPRING 2024 - SPRING 2025</b>			
Gender	S24	F24	S25
Men	24	12	10
Women	91	49	44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>54</b>

<b>CMHC-R &amp; CMHC FALL TO FALL RETENTION RATES COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY FALL 2023 – 2024</b>	
	Fall 2023 – 2024
Retention Rate	62%

<b>CMHC-R &amp; CMHC FALL TO SPRING RETENTION RATES COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY SPRING 2024 - SPRING 2025</b>		
	Fall 23 – Spring 24	Fall 24 – Spring 25
Retention Rate	79%	75%

## 5. Recruitment

The Recruitment Plan will cover the following three main topics:

- Development of a weekend program and offering of additional weekend courses
- Develop in-service training opportunities
- Distribution of CMHC Program information to advertise the program locally and nationally
- Continue to share program information at special events and conferences



## 6. Program Goals & Accomplishments

- Received final approvals for the development of The Center on Disability Programs, Studies, Services, and Research at CSU
- Finalize the proposal developed for a doctoral degree offered within the Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Behavioral Health
- Received final approval for the post baccalaureate in Forensic Rehabilitation Counseling
- Work with the CSU Marketing Department to submit surveys to ranking outlets such as the US News Best Health Schools and other ranking sources on behalf of the CMHC Program

## 7. Exclusivity

- CSU's CMHC Program is the only program that offers five exclusive opportunities for students to be trained on campus through collaborative programs with the State of Maryland, schools, agencies, and community businesses.
- CSU is one of two universities to receive a federal grant to operate the Social Security Administration's Ticket-to-Work Program as an approved Employment Network (EN).
- CSU is the first recipient of the Governor's grant to offer the Comprehensive Transition Project (CTP), and is in its second year with continued funding
- Through the Baltimore Transition Connection (BTC) CSU is one of three State of Maryland higher education institutes to provide opportunities for Baltimore City Public Schools students with disabilities to spend five days per week on campus to complete their high school education and receive the college experience



## 8. The CMHC Program Commitment

The CMHC Program prepares master's students to provide counseling services to meet the educational, personal, social, medical, vocational, and psychosocial needs of individuals with disabilities. These services will assist them with functioning to their maximum ability within the home, community, and at work. The CMHC Program is committed to developing student vision that will impact the communities they serve by enriching those communities to realize both diversity and the



value of all individuals, to see these individuals by their unique abilities and not their disability, and to help them realize their highest potential.

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the U.S. shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Students with disabilities must be given an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all postsecondary education programs and activities. That includes any course, course of study, or activity offered.







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