



ADULT & GRADUATE STUDIES

PROGRAM HANDBOOK

MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
SCHOOL OF ADULT AND GRADUATE STUDIES

MONTREAT COLLEGE

Montreat College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Associate's degree, the Bachelor's degree, and the Master's degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Montreat College.

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Welcome

The pursuit of a graduate degree is a life-changing career decision. Congratulations on making this step in your professional and academic journey, and welcome to the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program at Montreat College. The following handbook will be your guide with the College throughout the time you are enrolled in the CMHC degree program and will provide you with valuable information regarding policies and procedures, expectations, and resources. The college reserves the right to update this document.

The program faculty is committed to helping you reach your academic and professional goals and mentoring you in this process as you grow and develop as a professional. The College staff and faculty look forward to getting to know you and your dreams. We are committed to assisting you in developing the required skills, knowledge, and attitudes for professional work as a mental health counselor.

Purpose of the Handbook

This handbook is written to provide you with important information about the Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree program, college and program resources, and policies and regulations. It is also a source of information for related professional associations and activities that can support your growth as a professional while enrolled in the program. Updates to this handbook will be made available to you via the program website, by notifications on the College Listserv, and as requested in print from faculty and staff. This handbook is a supplement to the Montreat College AGS Catalog and does not serve as a replacement to the Catalog.

Mission of the College

Montreat College is an independent, Christ-centered, liberal arts institution that educates students through intellectual inquiry, spiritual formation, and preparation for calling and career, all to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

The Conceptual Framework for the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Degree Program

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree prepares candidates to become competent counselor practitioners who are life-long learners, critical thinkers, agents of social justice in their communities, and spokes-persons for transformation, renewal, and reconciliation in their spheres of influence within the conceptual framework of *Counselor as Advocate, Leader, and Collaborator*.

Mission of the Counseling Program

The mission of the Counseling Program is to train candidates in the fundamentals of human development, human behavior, and counseling within the context of both a secular and Christian worldview and to guide them in developing a personal philosophy of counseling and professional practice in a variety of settings. The Counseling Program provides a forum for candidates to engage in reflective practice as professionals and to become life-long learners, active global citizens, and advocates for social justice.

Mission of the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Degree Program

The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree program educates candidates in the history and development of the counseling profession, the theories of counseling, the ethical practice of counseling, the competencies required for working with multicultural and diverse groups, and the strategies for working with individuals across the lifespan in everyday developmental, behavioral, psychological, social, emotional, and career challenging crises.

Program Goals for the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Degree Program

Upon completion of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate degree program, candidates should be able to meet the following objectives that are based on the 2009 CACREP Standards for Clinical Mental Health Counseling Programs:

Acquire a solid knowledge base related to clinical mental health counseling that includes the following:

- a. History and philosophy of clinical mental health counseling and current trends in the field (CMHC:A: 1; CMCH:C:9)
- b. Ethical and legal standards and ways to apply them to professional practice (CMHC:A:2; CMHC:B: 1)
- c. Professional associations and organizations, licenses and credentials related to clinical mental health counseling, the benefits of credentialing and membership in organizations, and the processes for obtaining credentials and licenses (CMHC: A:4)
- d. Counseling theories and techniques and strategies for integrating them into counseling sessions, based on client identified goals and needs, as well as supervision theories and models (CMHC: A:5; CMHC:E:3)

- e. Professional roles and functions in a variety of settings and specialties, professional issues that influence clinical mental health counselors, and self-care strategies and resources (CMHC:A:3; CMHC:A:7; CMHC:C:5; CMHC:D:9)
- f. Counseling strategies for working with diverse clients in multiculturally sensitive and competent ways (CMHC:D:2; CMHC:D:5; CMHC:E:1-6; CMHC:F:1-3; CMHC:H:1; CMHC:K:4)
- g. Advocacy strategies for clients and advocacy efforts, legislation, and public policy related to clinical mental health counseling (CMHC:B:2; CMHC:E:4; CMHC:E:6)

Demonstrate knowledge of and skills for practice in the following areas:

- a. Counseling, prevention, and intervention, including theories and techniques (CMHC:A:5; CMHC:C:1; CMHC:C:8; CMHC:D:1; CMHC:D:3; CMHC:C:7; CMHC:D:4)
- h. Substance abuse and addictions (CMHC:A:6; CMHC:C:4; CMHC:D:8; CMHC:K:3)
- i. Career development across the lifespan and career counseling theories and techniques (Section ii:4:a-g)
- j. Crisis, trauma, and disaster (CMHC:A:9-1 O; CMHC:C:6; CMHC:K:5; CMHC:L:3)
- k. Individual, couple, family, and group counseling (CMHC:D:5)
- l. Assessment, diagnosis, and treatment planning, using a variety of assessment tools such as the current edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM) (CMHC:C:2; CMHC:D: 1; CMHC:D:6; CMHC:G:1-4; CMHC:H:1-4; CMHC:K:1-5; CMHC:L:1-3)
- m. Ethical practice, decision making and the implications of advocacy and multicultural issues in sound ethical practice with clients (CMHC:A:2; CMHC:B:1)
- n. Research strategies and critical evaluation of literature and interventions related to the practice of clinical mental health counseling (CMHC:1:1-3; CMHC:J:1-3)
- o. Day-to-day practice skills, including intake, record keeping, and consultation (CMHC:A:8; CMHC:D:7)

Meet the following additional goals:

- p. Articulate a personal worldview and personal theory of counseling, integrating their own spiritual formation into their professional growth and practice as a counseling practitioner.
- q. Demonstrate mastery of the technology needed for success in today's

professional world and exemplary oral and written communication skills requisite of a graduate-level professional.

- r. Demonstrate a commitment to life-long personal and professional growth through continuing education, consultation, and supervision as appropriate.
- s. Create a professional portfolio that will include, but not limited to, documentation of the following: course projects, attendance at professional conferences and workshops, leadership roles, projects implemented during practicum and internship experiences (as appropriate), a Professional Growth Plan (PGP), beginning documents for the state licensure processes, and reflections on their experiences throughout the program.

Define Counseling

In 2010, the American Counseling Association (ACA) adopted the following definition of counseling: *Counseling is a professional relationship that empowers diverse individuals, families, and groups to accomplish mental health, wellness, education, and career goals.* For more information on this definition, visit ACA's website for the 20/20: A Vision for the Future of Counseling at <http://www.counseling.org/20-20/index.aspx>.

North Carolina law, in General Statute chapter 90, Article 24, the Licensed Professional Counselors Act, defines counseling in the following way(s):

§ 90-330. Definitions: practice of counseling

The *practice of counseling* means holding oneself out to the public as a professional counselor offering counseling services that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Counseling: Assisting individuals, groups, and families through the counseling relationship by evaluating and treating mental disorders and other conditions through the use of a combination of clinical mental health and human development principles, methods, diagnostic procedures, treatment plans, and other psychotherapeutic techniques, to develop an understanding of personal problems, to define goals, and to plan action reflecting the client's interests, abilities, aptitudes, and mental health needs as these are related to personal-social-emotional concerns, educational progress, and occupations and careers.
- a. Appraisal Activities: Administering and interpreting tests for assessment of personal characteristics.
- b. Consulting: Interpreting scientific data and providing guidance and personnel services to individuals, groups, or organizations.
- c. Referral Activities: Identifying problems requiring referral to other specialists.
- d. Research Activities: Designing, conducting, and interpreting research with human subjects.

The American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) provides the following definition of counselors: Clinical mental health counselors are highly-skilled professionals who provide flexible, consumer-oriented therapy. They combine traditional psychotherapy with a practical, problem-solving approach that creates a dynamic and efficient path for change and problem resolution. Clinical mental health counselors offer a full range of

services including:

- a. Assessment and diagnosis
- b. Psychotherapy
- c. Treatment planning and utilization review
- d. Brief and solution-focused therapy
- e. Alcoholism and substance abuse treatment
- f. Psychoeducational and prevention programs
- g. Crisis management

More information can be found at <http://www.amhca.org/about/facts.aspx>.

The Montreat College Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling uses these definitions of counseling and counseling activities as the foundation for identifying who counselors are, what they do, and what the profession of counseling looks like.

Meet the Faculty

Montreat College strives to continually recruit core, affiliate, and adjunct instructors whose professional identity is that of professional counselor, who have been trained with excellence, who have diverse experiences in practicing mental health counseling, and who, above all else, profess a Christian faith. Our current faculty includes the following professionals:

Core Faculty

Dr. Noreal Armstrong, PhD, LCMHC-S, NCC, LCDC

CMHC Department Chair

Assistant Professor of Counseling,

Office Location: Asheville Campus

Office: 828.667.5044 ext. 1512

Email: noreal.armstrong@montreat.edu



Dr. Armstrong earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of Texas at San Antonio's CACREP-accredited program; she is a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC), a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) and a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor. Dr. Armstrong is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor and National Certified Counselor. Dr. Armstrong earned her BS from Stephen F. Austin State University, her Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from Texas A&M Texarkana, and PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from The University of Texas at San Antonio. She has worked in the mental health field for nine years serving clients suffering with depression, grief, severe mental health, coping skills, and life management.

She is an active member in the following organizations: American Counseling Association (ACA), Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD), Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) and the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES). Dr. Armstrong has a strong research agenda in the areas of multiculturalism, deaf populations, substance abuse, adolescent development, and women in the professorate. She is passionate about advocacy, mentoring, and educating future counselors.

Dr. John-Nelson Pope, Ph.D., LCMHC-S), ACS, NCC

Associate Professor of Counseling

Office Location: Charlotte Campus

Office: 704-357-3390 ext. 1013

Email: john.pope@montreat.edu



Dr. Pope earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Counselor Education and Supervision from Texas A&M – Corpus Christi’s CACREP-accredited program; he is a nationally certified counselor (NCC) and Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) and a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor (LCMHC-S). He has served as the Director of Counseling Programs at the University of Louisiana at Monroe since 2013. Before that, he was a counseling clinical director at Texas A&M – Corpus Christi. After serving six years in the U.S. Navy, he pastored churches and established chaplaincy programs at two hospitals. He is a trained PTSD group facilitator and is also ordained by the Presbyterian Church as both a Chaplain and minister.

Gregg Blanton, Ed.D. LMFT, LCMHCS, AAMFT-S, NCC

Professor of Counseling and Psychology

Office Location: Black Mountain Campus

Email: gregg.blanton@montreat.edu



Professor of Human Services: Ed.D. in Counselor Education from Texas A & M University – Commerce, M.Ed. at Converse College, M.Ed. at Clemson University, and B.S. from Evangel College. Dr. Gregg Blanton has served on the faculty of Montreat College since 1997. In addition to teaching at Montreat College, Dr. Blanton maintains a private practice providing marriage, family, and individual therapy, as well as supervision of other counselors. Dr. Blanton has been a practicing psychotherapist for more than 15 years, working in a *variety* of institutional settings. He is a member and Approved Supervisor of the

American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and is a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

Affiliate Faculty

Dr. Brad Faircloth

Chairperson of the Psychology & Human Services Department and Assistant Professor of Psychology: PhD and MA in Developmental Psychology, and BA from the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Faircloth has experience working as a Senior Research Associate with the Family, Infant, and Preschool Program serving Alexander, Burke, and Catawba Counties, a division of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Megan Clunan

Dr. Megan Clunan is an Assistant Professor within the Psychology and Human Services Department of Montreat College. Dr. Clunan earned her BA from Florida State University in International Affairs. Dr. Clunan's graduate degrees were earned from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary -- a MA in Marriage and Family Counseling, a Master of Theology, and a PhD in Psychology and Counseling. Dr. Clunan is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and certified Supervisor for Mental Health Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy interns pursuing licensure. She has extensive experience working with survivors of childhood sexual abuse trauma, at-risk youth, and issues related to marriage and family. She is certified in various evidence-based models, including Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Apart from work, Dr. Clunan enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, swimming, and running.

Adjunct Faculty

Dr. Penny Lane Hamblin, Ed.D, NCC, LCMHC

Dr. Hamblin earned her Educational Doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision from Argosy University, Sarasota Campus CACREP-accredited program; she is a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC), a Licensed Professional Counselor (LCMHC), and a North Carolina Board Approved Supervisor. She served as an Adjunct Instructor for Montreat's CMHC program for a year before settling in full time in February of this year. Dr. Hamblin's clinical practice consists of individual, family, group, and marriage counseling specializing in treating the adolescent population. She is clinically certified in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and specializes in treating trauma clients. She is an active member of the following professional associations: American Counseling Association (ACA), Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), Licensed Professional Counselors Association of North Carolina (LPCANC); and Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES).

Dr. Terri Tilford, PhD, LCMHC

Dr. Terri Tilford is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Michigan and the State of North Carolina. She possesses an earned doctorate in Counselor Education, a Master of Arts in Counselor Education and a Bachelor of Science in Communication.

With a deep passion for serving others, Dr. Tilford has dedicated over 25 years in the profession of counseling and teaching. She has served as a licensed professional counselor in various settings in the states of Michigan and North Carolina and as a college professor in public and private colleges and universities. She has also served as a college administrator and college admissions counselor. In addition, she speaks at Christian conferences and professional conferences about walking with Christ, mental wellness and various topics in counseling. She has donated her time for many years in the community through volunteering to help youth and adults to become college and career ready.

Dr. Tilford received Christ as a youth and has been a Spirit-filled believer most of her life. Most of her service work has included support to pastor's wives, women's ministry and youth ministry. She loves people and is committed to serving others through using her spiritual gifts along with her education to help others obtain mental wellness and a clear path to their future educating future counselors.

David Graham, LCMHC, NCC

Adjunct Faculty: Ph.D. degree in Counseling from the University of North Carolina at

Charlotte and a Master's Degree in Counseling

Education from Syracuse University with a concentration in school counseling and multicultural counseling. Dr. Graham also has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Le Moyne College, Syracuse, New York. Dr. Graham has 22 years' experience providing academic instruction and counseling to students in various educational and therapeutic settings. He has over ten years of experience working in a post-secondary education institution and works as Counselor/Coordinator of Minority Student Outreach and responsible for providing Residence Life Hall Counselors Training in Recognizing and Supporting Distress Students. Dr. Graham has worked as a school counselor and research project director.

Janet Reading, LMFT

Assistant Professor of Counseling; LMFT: PhD in Education and Psychology Marriage and Family Therapy from University of Florida, Ed.D in Community Agency Counseling from University of Florida, M.S. in Student Counseling and Personnel Services from Wake Forest University, and B.A. in Psychology from Hood College. Dr. Lutz was previously an adjunct professor for Montreat College and Lenoir Rhyne University. She also served as a consultant to the court system in seven counties in Florida for over fifteen years performing assessments on abused children and their families to determine if parental rights should be maintained or terminated.

Additionally, she was the director of a children's unit in a psychiatric hospital, the clinical director of a child and adolescent day treatment program, director of child and family services for Pasco County in Florida, a college counselor for Allegheny College as well as having private practices both in Florida as well as Hickory, North Carolina providing individual, marriage and family therapy. She has written for the Journal of Marriage and Family Therapy. In the past, she has been an Adjunct Instructor for the graduate counseling programs at Lenoir Rhyne University. She has taught the following courses: Professional Orientation in Counseling, Counseling Skills, Ethics, Multicultural Counseling, Career Counseling, and Assessment in Counseling.

Joy Martin Ph.D., LCMHC

Adjunct Faculty: PhD in Human Services, with a specialization in Counseling Studies, from Capella University in 2014. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor with the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors. Dr.

Martin has over ten years of experience providing individual, group and family psychotherapy to children, adolescents, and adults. She has worked in a variety of counseling settings including a mental health agency that focuses on children, Department of Social Services with a focus on family treatment, a private agency as a lead therapist and supervisor, as well as a Mental Health/Substance Abuse Care Coordinator at a local Managed Care Organization. Dr. Martin specializes in working with children and adolescents who are experiencing problems with depression, anxiety, substance abuse, sexual abuse, sexually aggressive behavior, physical abuse, and neglect.

Nina Davis, PhD, LCMHC

Adjunct Faculty: PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, from Capella University in 2017. Masters in Agency Counseling from Winthrop University. Bachelor of Arts from College of Charleston. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor with the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors and with the SC Board of Examiners. Dr. Davis has worked in Mental Health/Managed Care for over 18 years, and has been a Licensed Professional Counselor for 14 years. Her professional experiences include serving as a Medicaid-Managed Care Organization's Lead Investigator/Program Integrity Compliance Clinician drawing upon her Council on Licensure Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) - National Certified Investigator/Inspector Basic Certification, Advanced Investigative Analysis, Advanced Investigative Report Development, & Advanced Interviewing certification. Dr. Davis, has also served for multiple years as a Provider Network Analyst for a Medicaid-Managed Care Organization assisting, monitoring, and regulating provider agencies as well as independent practitioners. Additionally, Dr. Davis participated in CABHA Certification and Secondary Reviews with DHHS, DMH, and DMA upon CABHA implementation. Within the private industry, Dr. Davis has offered consultation through her consultative services assisting providers with being "audit-proof", and mitigating their potential payback through quality reviews. As a mental health clinician, Dr. Davis has been a psychotherapist in private practice formerly working with children and adults with SPMI employing clinical modalities as solution focused therapy, motivational interviewing, and cognitive behavioral therapy. Presently, Dr. Davis' professional interests are improving organizational processes to streamline efficiency, increase productivity, and sustain profitability. She is currently professionally linked to the largest Medicaid-Managed Care Organization in the state of North Carolina as a Quality Improvement Supervisor.

Additional Adjunct Faculty includes:

Dr. Donna Fletcher, Dr. Jessica Korzyniowski, Dr. Melissa Mullins, Dr. Michelle Gordon, Dr. Allison Ford, and Dr. Jennifer Canfora.

Faculty Advisors

In addition to interacting in the classroom with instructors from *diverse* backgrounds, students will be assigned a *Faculty Advisor (FA)* for the duration of the program. While the curriculum at Montreat College is sequential and students will have a staff *advisor* to ensure they are staying on track with courses, Faculty Advisors provide mentorship, come alongside students to hear their professional interests and goals, and collaborate on ways to fulfill those interests and goals. FAs may encourage students to join related professional associations, attend counseling conferences for professional development, and support student presentations at counseling conferences and workshops. Further, FAs provide guidance on ways students can enhance their coursework by focusing projects and requirements on areas of interest, counseling specialty interest, and populations of interest. FAs are also a source of support *for* the practicum and internship selection processes. Students are encouraged to take initiative to cultivate this relationship; it is the students' responsibility to seek out the FA when questions or concerns arise. Collaborative work with program instructors in research, presentations, and publications can extend beyond the student's FA.

Program Requirements & Course Descriptions

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree curriculum is designed to provide students the opportunity to meet the educational requirements for application to become a Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LCMHC-A) set forth by the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors. To meet the state licensure requirements, the program requires students to complete 60 credit hours of graduate level coursework. Program courses are taken in a lock-step, sequential manner. If a student wishes to take courses beyond those required, as courses are available, the student should speak with his or her Faculty Advisor and *receive* written permission to take a course out of sequence and/or in a more intensive manner than is already established. All courses are core to the program. Students will take courses in the order outlined below.

COUN 5211 Professional Orientation to Counseling

This course will be an introductory exploration of the history of counseling as a profession as well as current trends in the practice of clinical mental health counseling. Students will begin to explore the various settings in which counseling can take place and the specialties within the profession, in addition to professional counseling licensure and credentialing. Additional topics *covered* in this course in an introductory way include counselor self-care, consultation, professional counseling organizations, *advocacy*, ethics, and multicultural competency. (3 credits, 15 week)

COUN 5212 Ethics and Ethical Practice in Counseling

This course will examine ethical standards and ethical decision making for the practice of counseling. Applicable Codes of Ethics will be examined, and case studies will be used to challenge students to think critically about ethics and ethical decision making. Ethical issues in individual, group, family, and couples counseling will be *covered*, as well as multicultural considerations. The course will also address confidentiality, informed consent, boundaries, multiple relationships, supervision, and consultation within an ethical framework. (3 credits, 8 weeks online)

COUN 5213 Theories & Techniques in Counseling

This course will provide an overview of counseling theories and related techniques including psychoanalytic, gestalt, behavioral, cognitive, reality, existential, Adlerian, family systems, feminist, and post-modern therapies. Students will have the opportunity to role play and demonstrate beginning skills for counseling through videotaped role play sessions with classmates. (3 credits, full term)

COUN 5221 Counseling Skills

This course will provide students an opportunity to continue to develop counseling microskills as well as foundational skills in interviewing in the helping professions. Students will videotape role-played sessions and participate in peer review as well as review with course instructor. (3 credits, 15 week)

COUN 5231 Spirituality & Religion in Counseling

This course will exam the role of spirituality and religious beliefs in the counseling relationship and process. Students will explore how different religious traditions that clients may participate in could influence the counseling process as well as examine their own religious and spiritual foundations for their counseling theory and practice.

Ethical standards will be discussed. (3 credits, 8 weeks)

COUN 5214 Counseling Across the Lifespan

This course will provide an overview of human development across the lifespan, from birth until death and explore critical considerations for counseling individuals across these stages of development. (3 credits, 15 week)

COUN 5215 Multicultural Counseling

This course will provide students an opportunity to begin to develop skills for multicultural competency when providing counseling services to clients of diverse backgrounds. Multicultural competencies will be reviewed, and students will explore their own identity as a cultural being. (3 credits, 15 week)

COUN 5222 Mental Health Diagnosis and Treatment

This course will provide students an overview of clinical diagnoses according to the Diagnostic Statistical Manual – IV – Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR). Diagnosis criteria and current best practice treatment options will be reviewed. Case studies will be utilized to provide students opportunities to practice diagnostic skills. Treatment planning in counseling will also be discussed. (3 credits, 15 week)

COUN 5241 Career Counseling

This course will provide an introductory exploration of career development across the lifespan, career counseling theories, assessments relevant to career counseling, and occupational information sources. The course will allow student opportunities to role play, consider case studies, and create a career intervention for a chosen population. (3 credits, 8 weeks)

COUN 5216 Assessment in Counseling

This course will provide an overview of assessment methods and tools used in counseling, including intakes as well as standardized assessments. Ethical standards for the use of assessments in counseling will be reviewed. Students will experience taking an assessment as well as provide a critical review of assessments. (3 credits, 15 week)

COUN 5217 Research Methods in Counseling

This course will provide an *overview* of qualitative and quantitative research methodology and techniques and discuss the role of research in counseling. Ethical standards for conducting research will be discussed. Students will develop the ability to read and critically evaluate counseling literature as well as develop a research prospectus. (3 credits, 15 week)

COUN 5251 Crisis Intervention/Crisis Counseling

This course will provide students with an *overview* of counseling skills for working in crisis and trauma situations as well as crisis intervention theory. Students will review case studies and create a crisis resource for a client population or counseling setting of interest. (3 credits, 8 weeks)

COUN 5223 Group Counseling

This course will provide an overview of theory and principles of effective group work, provide students an opportunity to develop skills in using group techniques, and plan activities for groups. Students will participate in a group experience during this course.

Ethical standards for group counseling will be reviewed. (3 credits, 15 week)

COUN 5261 Substance Abuse Counseling

This course will provide an overview of the nature of substance use, abuse, and dependency. Education, prevention, treatment, and recovery will be addressed. (3 credits, 15 week)

COUN 5271 Child and Adolescent Counseling (Elective)

This course will examine developmental, cultural, relational, and social concepts related to working with children and adolescents in a variety of settings including, school, residential, private practice, outpatient, and substance abuse treatment. The course will include experiential activities that inform students about the ethical and legal responsibilities required for working with children and adolescents and provide practice using expressive arts therapy centers. (3 credits, 8 weeks)

COUN 5281 Marriage and Family Counseling (Elective)

This course will examine various Marriage and Family Therapy presenting issues and techniques, as well as address the various roles and responsibilities of the professional counselor working within a marriage and family setting. Presenting issues include, but are not limited to: sex, addiction, co-dependency, enmeshment, disengagement, and intimacy, mental illness in the family, triangulation, parenting, family hierarchy, and spiritual development within the family (3 credits, 8 weeks)

COUN 6221 Counseling Practicum

This is an experiential course and requires students to complete a minimum of 100 hours of clinical counseling practice, under supervision, at an approved site. Students will provide counseling services as well as continue to learn skills in intake, assessment, counseling, and consultation. Students will participate in weekly individual supervision as well as group supervision. Both the counseling practicum site and the site supervisor must be approved by the CMHC program. Requires 100 hours of supervised clinical counseling experience. (3 credits, 15 week)

COUN 6222 Counseling Internship I

This is an experiential course and requires students to complete a minimum of 300 hours of clinical counseling practice, under supervision, at an approved site. Students will provide counseling services as well as continue to learn skills in intake, assessment, counseling, and consultation. Students will also begin to complete paperwork required for licensure as an LCMHC-A (Licensed Professional Counselor Associate) in NC. Students will participate in weekly individual supervision as well as group supervision. Both the counseling internship site and the site supervisor must be approved by the CMHC program. Requires 300 hours of supervised clinical counseling experience. (6 credits, 15 week)

COUN 6223 Counseling Internship II

This is an experiential course and requires students to complete a minimum of 300 hours of clinical counseling practice, under supervision, at an approved site. Students will provide counseling services as well as continue to learn skills in intake, assessment, counseling, and consultation. Students will also begin to complete paperwork required

for licensure as an LCMHC-A (Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Associate) in NC. Students will participate in weekly individual supervision as well as group supervision. Both the counseling internship site and the site supervisor must be approved by the CMHC program. Requires 300 hours of supervised clinical counseling experience. (6 credits, 15 week)

Regulations & Policies

Admissions

Students seeking admission into the CMHC degree program must submit the following materials:

- a. The Montreat College application for admission
- b. Official transcripts of all prior undergraduate college coursework documenting:
 - i. An earned Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution
 - ii. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in undergraduate study
 - iii. Official transcripts of all prior graduate college coursework (up to 18 credit hours may be transferred)
- c. Professional goals essay
- d. GRE exam scores no older than 5 years with Combined Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning Interpretive of 290 and 3.0 Analytical Writing score or above
- e. Completed background check (fee to be paid by the applicant)
- f. A required interview with the program faculty

Waivers & Transfer of Credit

Waivers for specific admissions requirements are rarely granted. If a student has just cause to believe his or her situation should be considered for a waiver, the student may submit a request for a waiver in writing to the Department Chair and provide any supporting documentation for consideration.

GRE Exam Scores

Conditions for waiving the GRE requirement:

- a. The applicant has completed a master's degree *from a regionally accredited institution* and is verified by receipt of official transcripts.
- b. The applicant is applying as a transfer student with graduate level counseling coursework from a counseling degree program that did not require the GRE. Or graduate *coursework in a related field (such as social work, psychology, pastoral counseling human services, and marriage and family counseling) from a regionally accredited institution and is verified by receipt of official transcripts.*
- c. The applicant is a former Montreat College CMHC student, in good standing, being readmitted within five years

***For applicants currently working full time in a qualified professional health and human services position such as, (QP, case manager, assessment evaluator, peer support) for three or more years and have a bachelor's with a 3.0 GPA from the last 60 credit hours of undergraduate study within ten years of the proposed start date can apply to waive the minimum score requirement of the GRE. The assessment and decision of each case will be made by the CMHC department.

Transfer of Credits

Students may transfer up to 18 credit hours of graduate level counseling-related coursework completed at a regionally accredited institution. The student must request to have his or her previous coursework considered for transfer credit. The Department Chair will review the student's request, compare the coursework from the previous institution with that of the Montreat College CMHC program curriculum to ensure the courses are comparable, and send the student an email stating any transfer credits that will be applied to the Montreat College degree. Students will be provided with the remaining courses to take in place of those transferred in order to maintain full time graduate status for financial assistance purposes. It is the students' responsibility to monitor their enrollment status for financial assistance purposes.

Course Registration

In the CMHC program, students take nine hours each 15 week, full semester. Two classes are hybrid and meet one night a week and the third class is online for 8 weeks. The online course may be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous formats. Students who believe their circumstances would allow adequate time to focus on more courses in the same period may submit an application to the Department Chair requesting permission for the course overload. Course overloads are considered under the following conditions:

1. The student must be admitted into the program.
2. The student must have completed at least 9 credit hours of graduate course work in the CMHC program at Montreat College.
3. The student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 from coursework completed in the graduate CMHC program at Montreat College.
4. The student must have the endorsement of his or her Faculty Advisor for the course overload.

Minimum Academic Standing & Degree Progression

Students in the graduate program are required to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Therefore, students must earn grades of B or higher in all courses. Should a student earn a grade of B- (2.66) or lower for a course, he or she must meet with the core program faculty to review circumstances surrounding the grade, course performance, and the student's plans to maintain the required minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA for the duration of the program as well as formulate a plan of action for remedying identified deficiencies in his or her performance in the course in which the student earned the low course grade. If a student earns a C in any course, the student will be required to retake the course.

Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam

Students pursuing the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree at Montreat College will take the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) as an exit requirement from the program. Institutions contract with the Center for

Credentialing and Education (CCE) to administer the CPCE. From the CCE website (<http://www.cce-global.org/Org/CPCE>): the CPCE is utilized by over 400 universities and colleges, and is designed to assess counseling students' knowledge of counseling information viewed as important by counselor preparation programs, and is based on the same eight knowledge areas as the National Counselor Exam (NCE). The NCE is required for state licensure in North Carolina as an LCMHC-A and LCMHC. During the year, CMHC program faculty will use data collected from students' CPCE scores to reevaluate the efficacy of the curriculum.

The CPCE exam will be administered at a Pearson Vue testing center; dates will be announced in advance to allow students adequate time to plan to take the exam. Students are eligible to sit for the CPCE exam upon completion of all but 3 credit hours of didactic course work, thus, they can complete the exam during the final didactic course or practicum course. Students must pass the exam to enroll in the internship course.

According to standards set by Montreat College, to obtain a passing score, a student must earn a cumulative passing score of greater than 1 standard deviation below the national mean of the most recent norms for the examination. The following policies apply with respect to the CPCE and program completion:

1. If a student passes the overall examination but fails a subsection within the exam
 - a. The program faculty will schedule an oral exam for the student in which questions will be asked relative to the content of the failed subsection.
 - b. If a student does not pass the oral exam, an academic remediation plan will be developed to address the student's weaknesses in the content area. This remediation plan could include a delay in beginning the internship experience and re-enrolling in the failed content course.
 - c. If the student successfully passes the oral component of the exam, the student will be granted enrollment in the internship course.
2. If a student does not receive a cumulative passing grade for the test, the student must meet with his or her Faculty Advisor to discuss strategies for preparing to take the examination again.
 - a. Students have a maximum of 2 opportunities to take and pass the exam.
 - b. A student unable to pass the exam will be unable to register for and complete the internship requirement until he or she is able to take and pass the examination.
 - c. Students who are unable to successfully pass the exam on the first attempt should be aware that additional semesters will be added to their projected graduation date.
3. If a student is required to take the exam again, the student will be responsible for covering the cost of taking the test again. The student will also be responsible to schedule the exam within the testing window and by week 12 of the Practicum course
4. A student who does not make a passing score on the second administration of the exam must meet with the Faculty Advisor and the primary faculty of the content area(s) that have below standard scores. If the student is unable to

successfully pass the exam on the second attempt, the following could be considered and is based on the individual's performance and needs:

- a. The student may be placed on academic suspension for one year from the program.
- b. The student and Faculty Advisor will review the exam results and develop a remediation plan for the student to successfully complete those areas of the exam where the student did not meet competency level. This plan could include retaking/auditing courses and/or participating in additional clinical experiences and supervision. In these instances, the student is responsible for all tuition fees associated with retaking courses.
- c. The student will be able to retake a course only once as a remediation option for not passing a second attempt of the exam.

CPCE Preparation Workshop

Faculty want their students to be well prepared and confident when they take the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam. The Workshop is offered four times a year and is designed for anyone who is scheduled to take the CPCE or the National Counselor Examination or who has been unsuccessful in passing the exams. Workshop leaders will review effective test taking strategies and the 8 major exam content areas, ACA ethics 2014, and the DSM-5. Participants will also be given a full-length practice test.

Faculty Evaluation of Student Progress

Faculty will assess student progress in the program at five intervals based on the completed Evaluation of Student Progress form (see Appendix E). The evaluation will take place during the following courses (COUN 5212, COUN 5215, COUN 5223, Practicum, and Internship II). During these evaluation periods, students will also complete a self-evaluation. Faculty will review the evaluations. If it is determined from the evaluations, that a non-academic remediation plan is required for any student(s), the Faculty Advisor will contact the student(s) and set up a meeting to discuss the issue. The purpose of this meeting is developmental with the expectation that it will provide the student increased insight and eliminate any future need for remediation plans related to issue(s) of concern.

Non-Academic Expectations & Professional Behavior

Students are expected to uphold the Code of Ethics endorsed by the NC Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors, which is the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics. This Code can be found at <http://www.counseling.org/Resources/CodeOfEthics/TP/Home/CT2.aspx>.

Students understand that they are required to abide by the ethical standards set forth by the American Counseling Association and the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors (NCBLCMHC).

If, at any time, a student behaves in an unethical manner, the student's actions will be (1) assessed by departmental faculty according to the standards of ACA and NCBLCMHC, (2) discussed with the student and by a member of the faculty, and if the circumstance requires it, (3) reported to either the American Counseling Association or North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors. Information released will only include your

name and a synopsis of the situation. Information related to student status will remain confidential.

Confidentiality

The nature of the CMHC program and topics covered in class creates the potential to put students in a vulnerable state as sensitive material may come up in role plays, class discussions, and other activities. This being so, confidentiality is stressed throughout the program and extends beyond work with clients in practicum and internship to apply also to conversations that take place in small groups, in-class group discussions, and large class discussions. Violating the confidentiality rights of fellow students and clients in the program is grounds for suspension or dismissal from the program.

Professional Dress & Behavior

As representatives of Montreat College, students are expected to uphold professional standards and expectations in all they do, including participation in class and experiential learning courses (practicum and internship). Students should dress professionally, keeping in mind the Christian foundation of the College. When working with clients in practicum and internship courses, students should be mindful, also, of the setting in which they are interning, the expectations of the internship site, the clients served, and what is appropriate based on these factors regarding dress and behavior.

Respect & Dignity of Individuals

At all times, students in the CMHC program are expected to show respect to and uphold the dignity of individuals, including instructors, classmates, and any individuals served in practicum and internship. Students are charged to remember that all individuals are made *Imago Dei* (that is, in the image of God). Further, students are asked to remember Genesis 1:31 "God saw all that he had made, and it was *very* good."

Academic and Non- Academic Remediation Process

When a serious concern arises within a course, and CMHC program faculty assesses that it is in the best interest of the student's professional growth and training as a future counseling professional and to protect the client populations the student is serving (if in practicum and internship) and/or will serve in the future, a remediation plan may be devised.

Following are the steps in a remediation process:

1. The instructor will meet the student to provide the student with feedback regarding the issue of concern and to hear the student's perspective on the problem. This meeting will be documented by the instructor.
2. If the instructor and student agree on the identified problem as well as a possible solution or solutions, an agreement is made and documented. The solution is then implemented and evaluated at an agreed upon time by the instructor. If the solution is reached, this is documented, and the situation is considered closed.
3. If the solution agreed upon by the student and instructor is not reached, the instructor will implement the consequences of not attaining the solution, and the action is documented.

4. If the instructor and student do not agree upon the identified problem or a solution, the professor will consult with the campus Faculty Advisor. In consultation, the Faculty Advisor and instructor will identify a solution, which is documented by the Faculty Advisor using Appendix E or the Student Program and Progress Report. .
5. The Faculty Advisor will meet with the student and instructor to discuss the solution identified by the Faculty Advisor and the instructor and will document this meeting. If the student accepts and completes the steps to the solution, the situation is considered closed and documented on the Student Program and Progress Report as such. If the student does not accept the solution, he or she can appeal to the Department Chair.
6. Upon making an appeal, the student and the Department Chair will meet and discuss the identified problem and the provided solution(s). The Department Chair will decide if the solution(s) will be upheld or not. If it is to be upheld but the student does not accept the upheld solution, he or she can make continued appeal, following the grievance policies and procedures of Montreat College outlined in the AGS College catalog. If the solution is not upheld by the Department Chair, a meeting can be called that brings together the student, the instructor, the Faculty Advisor, the Department Chair, the Academic Advisor and interdepartmental faculty (when available) to create the Remediation Committee. This meeting will be documented.
7. If a student refuses to accept a remediation plan, even after making an appeal and following the processes outlined above, he or she is at risk for suspension and/or dismissal from the program.
8. The Department Chair will submit a written recommendation of probation, suspension, or dismissal and send a copy to the student, the Registrar, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Associate Dean of AGS.
9. The process, all meetings, and all communications with and to the student, will be documented and kept in the student's file. The instructor may share information with other instructors as appropriate.
- 10 The student may appeal the decision as outlined in the AGS college catalog regarding the process for grievances.
- 11 If the recommendation is that the student be suspended or dismissed from the program, the student will meet with the Faculty Advisor and Academic Advisor and both will assist the student in exiting the program in a caring and compassionate manner.

Academic Probation

Graduate students who earn a cumulative grade point average below 3.00 in course work taken for graduate credit will be placed on academic probation for the next term. If at the end of that term the cumulative grade point average is still below a 3.00, the student will face academic suspension.

Students who receive financial aid must make satisfactory academic progress to maintain eligibility for federal and/or state funds. Financial aid may or may not be available for students admitted on probation.

Academic Suspension

The administration reserves the right to suspend a student from the College because of poor scholarship. Any student on academic probation who fails to meet the requirements of probation will be subject to academic suspension without refund of fees.

Graduate students not permitted to continue for academic reasons may appeal the suspension in writing to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College within two weeks of the suspension. Graduate students not permitted to continue for academic reasons may seek reapplication in writing through their academic program director.

Dismissal from the Program

A student will be at risk for dismissal from the CMHC program for any of the following reasons:

1. Failing to successfully complete a remediation plan.
2. A completed remediation plan does not resolve the original problem.
3. Severe professional and/or ethical misconduct.
4. Academic dishonesty.

Assessment of Student Learning in CMHC

Program faculty gauge students' progress throughout the program. As stated in self-study, students' academic performance is assessed through course grades and cumulative Grade Point Average. Faculty assess student's professional development as they acquire counseling skills in skills courses and supervised experiences (professional practice). Finally, students' personal development is monitored throughout their course of study. If a Faculty Advisor or instructor notices a development issue, a student may be contacted to implement a remediation process for growth. Faculty encourage students to develop the capacity to respect individual differences, be open to personal growth, and aware of interpersonal or intrapersonal problems which may interfere with the ability to be a professional helper. Annual assessments include evaluations of current students' academic and personal/professional development, level of learning based on students' accomplishment of student learning outcomes, personal/professional development in counseling identity, knowledge, advocacy, relationship skills, research, and scholarship. Graduates are evaluated by assessing knowledge of student learning outcomes, accomplishments, and employer evaluations. Faculty evaluate the curriculum, program, coursework, admissions process, and current student functioning. Site supervisors evaluate current students, program outcomes and direction of the programs.

Student Formative Evaluation Portfolio

Admission and retention decisions in the Counseling Program are outcomes of an on-going process of student evaluations. The process begins with the completion of Application for Admission forms and continues throughout the entire curriculum concluding with the Comprehensive Examination, Portfolio Review, and Survey/Exit interviews.

Included in the process is an assessment of comprehensive of the knowledge base of the profession, competency in the application of skills considered essential for the

profession, and personal growth, development, and suitability for the profession (professional decorum).

The milestones of this process are listed below. It is students' responsibility to submit the following materials to the faculty advisor at the appropriate intervals during their pursuit of the degree. Students will maintain a portfolio that will reflect their progress throughout the program.

Portfolio

All counseling students are required to maintain a professional portfolio. The purpose of the portfolio is to document each students' journey and growth in the Counseling Program. During the program, Key Assignments will be placed in the student's portfolio by the student. All students will maintain a hard copy of their portfolio to be reviewed by faculty during the student's final semester in the program. The portfolio is a capstone type of project and it is very important that it displays students' journey of growth and development during the program.

The portfolio will fulfill the following objectives:

1. Objective #1: Ethically Informed Professional Identity
2. Objective #2: Awareness of Personal Strengths and areas needing sustained growth
3. Objective #3: Appreciation of diverse cultures
4. Objective #4: Critical thinking and creative expression
5. Objective #5: Commitment to professional and/or community service

The following is a list of key assignments that will be maintained in the hard copy portfolio:

When Required / Course	KEY ASSIGNMENTS FOR CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
Admission	<i>Biography from Application</i>
COUN 5211	<i>ACA or NCCA Membership and Professional Growth Plan (PGP)</i>
Professional Orientation to Counseling	<i>Students discuss their developing a professional identity as a counselor including their specialty identification.</i>
	Create a professional portfolio that will include, but not limited to documentation of the following: course projects, attendance at professional conferences and workshops, leadership roles projects implemented during practicum and internship experiences (as appropriate), a Professional Growth Plan (PGP), beginning documents for the state licensure processes, and reflections on their experiences throughout the program.

Code of Ethics Comparison Paper

Students will choose from a list provided a Code of Ethics for a profession similar to counseling or a specialty within counseling and then write a 6- to 8-page, typed, double-spaced paper, comparing that Code of Ethics with the ACA Code of Ethics. Papers should meet the following guidelines:

1. Follow APA style formatting (font, size, margins, page numbering)
2. Include an Abstract, Title page, and References (all in APA style formatting)
3. Discuss the major differences between the 2 codes of ethics
4. Assess how these differences could lead to varying ethical decisions in a similar situation
5. Discuss the major similarities between the 2 codes of ethics
6. Comment on any other aspects of the 2 codes of ethics that stand out or raise questions regarding ethical decision making

COUN 5213
Theories and Techniques in
Counseling

Personal Counseling Theory Paper

Students will write a 5- to 7-page paper that describes their personal counseling theory, using the textbook and scholarly journal articles to support their thoughts, ideas, and opinions. Students will discuss how they view human nature, why they have chosen to become a counselor, and how these two components influence their counseling theory. All citations should be properly noted in the paper and the sources listed in a reference page according to APA style guidelines. The paper will include an APA formatted title page and will otherwise follow APA formatting guidelines.

COUN 5216
Assessment in Counseling

Assessment Research Paper

Students will select a construct such as anger, depression, IQ, mania, suicidal tendencies, developmental delays, education, and identify and evaluate an assessment instrument that assesses the chosen construct. Utilizing guidelines from the Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling and Education (AACE), students will complete the evaluation and demonstrate how assessment might be used for informing evidence-based practice or evaluating counseling practice and programs, utilize exemplary communication skills, apply APA style documentation and formatting guidelines to written work, and integrate technology into coursework and the profession (7-9 pages).

COUN 5222
Mental Health Diagnosis and
Treatment

Case Conceptualization Paper

Students will be given a case scenario and are expected to provide a thorough explanation of the rationale for the diagnosis and assessment of symptoms for a client with a predetermined mental disorder. A complete treatment plan must be included which describes treatment objectives, goals, and interventions to be used, following the D.O.A.C.L.I.E.N.T.M.A.P outline in the Seligman text. Treatment planning will be evaluated based on its accuracy and the thoroughness of the differential diagnosis and treatment discussion.

COUN 5217

Evidence-Based Practice Project

Research Methods in Counseling

- a. Literature Review
- b. Hypothesis
- c. Methods of Research
- d. Results of Research
- e. Discussion
- f. References

COUN 5215

Immersion Project

Multicultural Counseling

The immersion project is experiential learning about another culture. Students will be actively investigating a multicultural issue in the “real world” outside of the classroom. The intent is to increase their knowledge and sensitivity to a culture that differs from their own. Students will be to choose between two options, participate fully in those activities working within a culture other than their own, and then submitting a 5-7 APA-style paper. Details of the assignment may be found in the Course Module.

Last Semester of Program

Reflection Paper

This paper should include the overall journey the student has undergone while attending the Counseling Program. It should include personal growth, professional growth, and areas in which the student continues to need exploration as a counselor intern (8-10 pages)

Recommendations & Endorsements

Students may request that instructors, program supervisors of clinical experience, and their Faculty Advisor provide recommendations or endorsements for professional positions and/or licensure. According to policies set forth by the NC Board of LPG, the academic supervisor of clinical experience (i.e., CMHC program instructor providing supervision to the student for practicum and internship) will verify the graduate clinical experience on licensure documents. If the supervising instructor is unable to sign, the Department Chair will sign the documents upon verifying supervision and work logs from the student, faculty supervisors, and site supervisors as appropriate.

Endorsements and recommendations of students for professional positions will be made at the discretion of the individual instructor of whom the request is made. Further, the instructor will make at his or her discretion endorsements and recommendations of students for positions for which they are qualified. For example, an instructor may determine that it is not appropriate to recommend a student for a professional position in substance abuse work if the student did not focus his or her internship experiences in a substance abuse setting and/or if he or she did not perform well in the substance abuse course.

If a student desires to have an instructor provide a verbal or written endorsement or recommendation, the student should make a specific request of the instructor and provide adequate time for the instructor to provide the endorsement recommendation. The student should also plan to provide the instructor with a current copy of his or her resume and/or have a discussion with the instructor about career interests and goals, accomplishments, and related activities.

Professional Liability Insurance

Students participating in practicum and internship are required to have professional liability insurance with coverage of \$1,000,000 each claim, and up to \$3,000,000 aggregate (\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000). One benefit of student membership in the American Counseling Association (ACA) is that student liability insurance is covered with paid membership dues. Visit the ACA website for more information at www.counseling.org.

Writing Style

Students are required to use the *Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA) 6th Edition (2010) as the guide for all written work completed in the training program. Students should own a copy of the APA manual (6th edition) and should become familiar with the style guide.

Practicum & Internship

A separate handbook lays out the policies and regulations as well as expectations for students' practicum and internship experiences. All related applications and forms for the practicum and internship are a part of the Practicum and Internship Handbook.

Programs & College Resources

Program Orientation

All students accepted into the CMHC program, and who have paid their enrollment deposit, are expected to attend the Program Orientation Night (PON). The PON takes place during the first night of class for each cohort and occurs at the location where the cohort will attend classes. The PON will provide students an opportunity to meet key program and College personnel, learn about the College's classroom management system (Open LMS), , and most importantly, have the opportunity to begin making connections with classmates as a foundation for team work and collegial relationships that will be encouraged *over* the duration of the graduate program.

Graduate Assistant/Administrative Assistant

Montreat College is pleased to offer a Graduate/Administrative Assistantship Program for students enrolled in the CMHC program. The Graduate/Administrative Assistant (GA/AA) is offered to a currently enrolled student in the CMHC program, who is in academic good standing and making progression toward degree completion. As a GA/AA, the student will work 20 hours of clock time per week for the CMHC program. Responsibilities focus on administrative support duties. Specifically, the GA/AA will assist the Department Chair in (1) writing projects for the CACREP accreditation self-study process, (2) maintaining and assisting in the organization of program data, (3) assist with elements of teaching and updating the online Student Portal and (4) other tasks as needed. In exchange for 20 hours per week from July 1 to June 30, the GA/AA will receive partial/full tuition waiver for the year he or she is a GA as well as a monthly pay stipend. The assistantship does not provide medical or dental insurance benefits, cost of living benefits, or housing stipends. A GA/AA contract will be written for a one year time frame from July 1 to June 30; in the instance that a GA position is filled later than the July 1 start date, all benefits will be pro-rated, and the contract will reflect the actual start date (i.e., it may be for less time than the full 12 months) with the same end date of June 30.

The GA/AA position will be announced to all classes in advance of the start date of the position and all currently enrolled students who have received full admission to the program and are in good academic standing will be eligible to apply and be considered. A GA/AA must maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA to continue receiving benefits (tuition waiver and monthly stipends). Should a GA's cumulative GPA drop below a 3.5, the GA and Department Chair will discuss the circumstances surrounding the situation and develop an action plan and timeline for bringing the GPA back to the required 3.5. If this plan of action is not implemented successfully in the determined time frame, the student will be released from his or her GA/AA responsibilities and will assume responsibility for tuition expenses for courses. If a student currently serving as GA encounters a need to withdraw from the program or to take a leave of absence, he or she will be released from his or her GA/AA responsibilities and cease receiving benefits (tuition waiver and monthly stipend). Upon returning to the program, the student may reapply for a GA position if one is available and he or she meets the requirements (see Appendix F for the Graduate Assistantship application).

Career Services

Students in the CMHC program will be assigned a Faculty Advisor (FA) who will serve as a mentor throughout the training program. As such, the FA will provide career mentoring and collaborate with the student to discern his or her interests, aid in the practicum and internship process and provide career mentoring as the student approaches graduation.

Program instructors are also encouraged to share information about practicum, internship, and career opportunities that come to their attention through the program listserv, in one-on-one settings as appropriate, or by posting information to location bulletin boards.

Personal Counseling

As Counselor Educators, the CMHC faculty believe there is value in and benefit from personal counseling for a variety of developmental, career, and relationship issues as well as for managing personal stress. Students are required to participate in 5 to 8 personal mental health counseling sessions throughout the duration of the program. It can be beneficial for a counselor-in-training to experience what it is like to be a client in the therapeutic relationship. Counseling is also a way to take care of yourself while in the program. Students will inform the Faculty Advisor on their campus when counseling has started. The Faculty Advisor will need an entrance, midterm, and exit letter of attendance from the licensed clinician. This letter will be kept in the student's CMHC file. A list of local mental health providers for each CMHC program location is provided in Appendix I. However, it is not appropriate for students to receive personal counseling from CMHC program instructors during the time they are enrolled in the program.

National Counselor Exam

The NCE exam is offered by NBCC through participating institutions twice a year (April and October) for students near the end of their training programs and for alumni within a year of graduating from their training program. The National Counselor Exam is one of two exams required by the NC Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors (NCBLCMHC) for application for licensure as a LCMHC-A and LCMHC.

The Writing Center

Montreat College offers support services for students seeking to strengthen their writing skills. While the Writing Center is located at the main location in Montreat, graduate students at all locations are eligible to use the services provided. From the Montreat College website:

Montreat College students not enrolled at the main campus have two options for benefiting from our Writing Program: First, you are welcome to travel to our main campus location in Room 105 of the L. Nelson Bell Library. The Drop-in Writing Center hours are Monday-Thursday: 7 p.m.-midnight, and Sunday: 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Secondly, you may easily email your paper for electronic review. You will normally receive a response from a writing consultant within 48 hours, Sunday through Thursday, but note, only when the traditional semester is in session (beginning the third week of classes and ending the week before final exams). Requests received on Thursday will normally be answered on Monday. To submit, please send your paper to writingtutor@montreat.edu.

There is also an AGS specific writing tutor. Contact Tracey Gruver at tgruver14@montreat.edu for help with APA format and other structure inquiries.

Professional Counseling Association Resources

Students are strongly encouraged to consider joining professional counseling associations at the state, regional, and national levels. Because the College recognizes that taking on the financial responsibility of graduate school is significant and can thereby limit financial resources, students are not required to join associations. There are, however, many benefits to being involved in professional counseling associations:

1. Opportunities for students to network with professionals
2. Many associations and divisions of associations offer discounted conference rates and scholarships or grants for conference attendance
3. Discounted membership rates
4. Opportunities to supplement knowledge gained from program curriculum
5. Leadership opportunities for graduate students.

For these reasons, the CMHC faculty enthusiastically encourages students to consider joining professional counseling associations.

National Level

American Counseling Association (www.counseling.org)

Divisions of the American Counseling Association

(<http://www.counseling.org/AboutUs/DivisionsBranchesAndRegions/TP/Divisions/CT2.a.spx>)

Association for Assessment in Counseling and Education (AACE)

Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA) Association
for Creativity in Counseling (ACC)

American College Counseling Association (ACCA)

Association for Counselors and Educators in Government (ACEG)

Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES)

The Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC)

Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling
(ALGBTIC)

Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD)
American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) American
Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA)
American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC)
Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW)
Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ)
International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors (IAAOC)
International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors (IAMFC) National
Career Development Association (NCDCA)
National Employment Counseling Association (NECA)
Association for Play Therapy (A4PT) <http://www.a4pt.org/>

State Level

Licensed Professional Counselors Association of NC (LPANC) www.lpcanc.org
North Carolina Counseling Association (NCCA) www.nccounseling.org
Divisions of NCCA

NC Association for Counselor Education and Supervision
NC Career Development Association
NC Association of Humanistic Education and Development
NC Association for Assessment in Counseling
NC Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development
NC Association for Spiritual, Ethical, Religious & Value Issues in Counseling
NC Association for Specialists in Group Work
NC Addiction and Offenders Counselor
Association NC Mental Health Counselor
Association
NC College Counseling Association
Association for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues in Counseling of NC
Association of Marriage and Family Counselors
NC Association for Adult Development and
Aging Association for Professional Counseling in
Schools NC Graduate Student Association –
Interest Group
NC School Counselor Association (NCSCA) <http://www.ncschoolcounselor.org>
NC Association for Play Therapy (NCAPT) <http://www.ncapt.org/>

Regional Level

Southern Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (SAGES) www.saces.org

Appendix E

Evaluation of Student Progress Form (Appendix E)

MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

MONTREAT COLLEGE SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND ADULT STUDIES

Student's Name: _____ Evaluation Period/Year: _____

Faculty Advisor: _____ Instructor(s) Completing Form: _____

THIS EVALUATION IS TO BE COMPLETED BY CMHC PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS AS PART OF AN ONGOING EVALUATION PROCESS OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND NON-ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR, AS A COMPONENT OF STUDENT RETENTION. THE EVALUATION COVERS FOUR AREAS OF PERFORMANCE: CLINICAL, PROFESSIONAL, INTERPERSONAL, AND ACADEMIC. A COPY OF THE EVALUATION FORM WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE STUDENT'S FILE.

Instructions: Based on your observation of the student, circle the number that corresponds using the Rating Scale provided.

NO – No opportunity to observe

0 – Does not meet criteria

1 – Meets criteria minimally or inconsistently

2 – Meets criteria consistently

CLINICAL (COUNSELING SKILLS AND ABILITIES) NOT APPLICABLE UNTIL PRACTICUM

NO 0 1 2

1. The student demonstrates the ability to establish relationships in such a way that a therapeutic working alliance can be created.				
2. The student demonstrates therapeutic communication skills as outlined below:				
a. Creating appropriate structure-setting the boundaries of the helping relationship and maintaining boundaries such as settling parameters for meeting time and place, maintaining time limits, etc.				
b. Understanding content-understanding the core elements of the client's story.				

NO 0 1 2

c. Understanding context-understanding the uniqueness of the story elements and their underlying meanings				
d. Responding to feelings-Identifying client affect and addressing those feelings in a therapeutic manner				
e. Congruence-genuineness; external behavior is consistent with external affect				
f. Establishing a communicating empathy-taking the perspective of the client without over identifying and communicating this experience to the client.				
g. Non-verbal communication-demonstrates effective use of head, eyes, hands, feet, posture, voice, dress/attire, etc.				
h. Immediacy- Staying in the here and now				
i. Timing- responding at the optimal moment				
j. Intentionality- responding with a clear intention of the therapists' therapeutic intentionality				
3. The student demonstrates awareness of power differences in the therapeutic relationship and manages these differences therapeutically				
4. The student collaborates with the client to establish clear therapeutic goals				
5. The student facilitates movement towards client goals				
6. The student demonstrates the capacity to match appropriate interventions and corresponding theory to the presenting client profile.				
7. The student creates a safe clinical environment				
8. The student demonstrates analysis and resolution of ethical dilemmas				
9. The student willingly increases knowledge (and implementation) of effective counseling strategies				

PROFESSIONALISM- Professional Responsibility

NO 0 1 2

1. The student conducts him/herself in an ethical manner so as to promote confidence in the counseling profession				
2. The student relates to peers, professors, and others in a manner that is consistent with slated professional standards				
3. The student demonstrates sensitivity to real and ascribed differences in power between themselves and others, and does not exploit or mislead other people during or after professional relationships				
4. The student demonstrates application of legal requirements relevant to counseling training and practice				

5. The student demonstrates the ability to determine when counseling law and ethical standards differ and take action accordingly				
6. The student projects a professional image and positive attitude				

COMPETENCE

7. The student recognizes the boundaries of his/her particular competencies and the limitations of his/her expertise				
8. The student takes responsibility for compensating for deficiencies as set forth through discussion with faculty				
9. The student takes responsibility for assuring client welfare when encountering the boundaries of his/her expertise				
10. The student provides only those services and applies only those techniques for which he/she is qualified by education, training, and experience				

INTERPERSONAL- MATURITY

NO 0 1 2

1. The student demonstrates appropriate self-control (such as anger and impulse control) in interpersonal relationships with faculty, peers, clients, supervisors, and members of the community				
2. The student demonstrates honesty, fairness, and respect for others				
3. The student demonstrates an awareness of his/her own belief systems, values, needs, and limitations and the effect of those on his/her own work				
4. The student demonstrates the ability to receive, reflect on, and integrate feedback from peers, faculty, and supervisors				
5. The student exhibits appropriate levels of self-assurance, confidence, and trust in his/her own ability				
6. The student follows professionally recognized conflict resolution processes, seeking to informally address the issue first with the individual(s) with whom the conflict arises				

INTEGRITY

7. The student refrains from making statements which are false, misleading, or deceptive				
8. The student avoids improper and potentially harmful dual relationships				
9. The student respects the fundamental rights, dignity, and worth of all people				
10. The student respects the rights of all individuals to privacy, confidentiality, and choices regarding self-determination and autonomy				

11. The student respects cultural, individual, and role differences, including those due to age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, and socioeconomic status				
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ACADEMIC

1. The student regularly attends class				
2. The student is on time for class				
3. The student stays and actively participates in class activities and discussions for the entire class				
4. The student completes all of assignments on time				
5. Completed assignments reflect appropriate graduate level work				
6. The student is open to feedback regarding academic performance and incorporates given feedback into subsequent work				
7. The student is able to grasp, apply, and integrate knowledge at both concrete and abstract levels of thought				
8. The student is responsive to critical feedback				
9. The student treats faculty and peers with respect in regards to verbal and nonverbal communication				

- Any score of 0 in any area of functioning could result in remediation and/or dismissal from the program.
- 3 or more scores of “1” in any area of functioning could result in remediation and/or dismissal from the program.

Comments:

Signatures of Instructor(s) completing the evaluation:

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Appendix F

Graduate Assistantship Application

**Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Montreat College School of Professional and Adult Graduate Studies
(Current)**

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Checklist to verify eligibility (per handbook):

- _____ Fully accepted (unconditional admission)
- _____ Cumulative CMHC Program GPA of 3.5 (unless student has not begun courses at the time of application; in this case, applicant must have a 3.0 undergraduate GPA)
- _____ Available to provide 20 hours per week of work to the CMHC program

Additional Information Required to Accompany Application:

1. Cover letter/letter of interest
 - a. Why are you interested in the Graduate Assistantship position?
 - b. What skills will you use in completion of GA responsibilities?
 - c. What makes you a unique candidate for consideration for the GA position?
 - d. How will this position help you meet your professional goals?
2. Current resume

By application for the Graduate Assistantship position, I testify that I have read the program handbook and any accompanying job description, understand that I must maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA, understand that this is a time-limited position, and if I wish to continue in a GA capacity in subsequent years, that I must reapply, and that I will be required to clock 20 hours per week of tasks for the CMHC program.

Student Signature

Date

Appendix H

Health Standards

We, the faculty members of Montreat College's CMHC program, strive to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and grow as a future counselor. Our aim is to adhere to standards set forth by CACREP and the ethical codes established by the American Counseling Association.

Per CACREP Section 2 F.1. k and Section 2 F.1.l we must provide strategies within our curriculum for personal and professional self-evaluation, implications for practice and self-care strategies appropriate to the counselor role.

F.5.b of the ACA Code of Ethics states students and supervisees monitor themselves for signs of impairment from their own physical, mental, or emotional problems and refrain from offering or providing professional services when such impairment is likely to harm a client or others.

Upon acceptance to the CMHC program you will be required to have a drug screening completed. This screening is to ensure your fitness for our program and future work during Practicum and Internship.

The screening will be completed by Wolfe. You will be provided instructions for completing this process. There is a \$38.00 fee to be paid online or in person at the testing site. If you pay online with a debit or credit card, you will be provided a receipt to take to a testing lab. There results will be report to Wolfe and Montreat.

All screenings must be completed within three weeks of acceptance.

If a student fails the initial drug screening, he or she will be able to take classes at the start of the semester: Introduction to Counseling and will have eight weeks to get retested that their own expense. If a student then passes, he or she will be allowed to continue in the program. If failed, the student may be dismissed from the program.

If you have any questions about the drug screening order or payment process, **please contact Wolfe at 828-251-9898 or 800-979-1739.**



Appendix I

Counseling Referrals of Montreat CMHC students

Black Mountain

*Nikki Mousette **

Safe Harbour Christian Counseling
(828) 395-6073
nikki@safeharbor1.com
Swannanoa, NC

*Linda Curtis, **

Henry Building
(828) 242-9556

Hailey Klieforth

(847) 807-1699
Tele-health Counselor
Sliding Scale; as low as \$80 for students

Asheville

MAHEC (Mountain Area Health and Education Center)

(828) 257-4400

121 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 28803

Intern counselors can be seen based on need and availability. Client must be a patient.

“MC” Carla Ellis, LCMHCA

Mc@mcelliscounseling.com
ATherapistLikeMe.org
Montreat Students: \$50/session

*Lauren Griffin **

WNC Counseling
201 Stone Ridge Blvd
Asheville, NC 28804
(386) 801-2606
lauren@wnccounseling.com
www.wnccounseling.com

Katherine Therrell LCMHCS, PLLC

3653 Sweeten Creek Road
Suite B
Arden, North Carolina 28704
(828) 565-1925
(828) 551-6262 cell
Accepts most insurances

*Dr. Sandra Brown **

Pastoral Counseling & Growth
191 E Chestnut St,
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 258-2112

Morganton

*Brandi Geddings, LPCA **
*Caroline Sigmon, MSW, LCSW **
New Directions
201 Government Ave. SW
Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 267-1740

Dr. Penny Hamblin, PhD
PLH Counseling PLLC
plhcounseling@gmail.com

Tora Kincaid, LCMHCA
Practical Counseling Solutions
160 Sterling Street, Ste 200
Morganton, NC 28655
Practicalsolutions101@gmail.com
(828) 764-7549 (leave a message)
First 3 sessions free, sliding scale for Montreat students.

*Dr. Debra Peters, LP **
Wisdom Path
220 West Union St.
Morganton, NC 28655
(828) 475-6544

Charlotte

Atrium Health's Carolinas Medical Center
(704) 355-2000
atriumhealth.org
1000 Blythe Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28203
Intern counselors can be seen based on need and availability. Client must be a patient.

*Counseling Center at Charlotte **
3900 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209
Email: info@charlottecounselingcenter.org
Tel. (704) 527-7907
Fax (704) 527-7906

*First Baptist Church **
120 N. Lafayette Street
Shelby, NC 28151
(704) 472-1437
http://charlottecounseling.org/Home_Page.html

*Pricing may be adjusted on a case-by-case basis based on need.

Standard G: Counseling agencies are provided for students on each Montreat campus. These counseling agencies have been added to the program handbook and expressed to students during the night of orientation to the program. Students requesting counseling services now have options available to them.

