

M.A. IN COUNSELING PROGRAMS OUTCOMES 2022-2023

Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) Specialty

The M.A. in Counseling Program at Palo Alto University is proud to offer two CACREP-accredited specialties. This statement highlights relevant programs and student outcomes for the CMHC specialty.

Graduation and Completion Rates 2022-2023

- 85 students graduated from the Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialty area in the 2022-2023 academic year.
- This number represents an 89% on-time completion rate based on an anticipated enrollment period of 2.5 years.

Licensure Exam Pass Rates

In the state of California, the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) requires two exams for licensure. The first is a California Law and Ethics exam and the second is the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Exam (NCMHCE). The table below identifies the 2022-2023 pass rates for PAU graduates of the CMHC specialty seeking licensure as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) in California.

		All PAU Test Takers			PAU FIRST TIME TEST TAKERS		
	Exam	Taking Exam	Passed	Pass percent	Taking Exam	Passed	Pass percent
2022 January To 2023 June	LPCC Law and Ethics	30	22	73%	30	22	73%
	NCMHCE	20	15	75%	17	13	76%

Starting in the Fall of 2020, Palo Alto University became a partnership school with the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) to be able to offer to currently enrolled students the opportunity to take two exams often used for license. No student in the CMHC track took the NBCC exams in Fall 2022. Two students took the exams in Spring 2023 with a 100% pass rate.

Job Placement Rates-CMHC

Two sources of data were used to identify job placement rates of CMHC graduates. The "future plans" survey is completed by all students at the time of graduation, and the "Alumni" survey is sent each Spring to all PAU alumni.

Based on the results of the Future Plans survey of all graduating counseling students (not

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disaggregated by emphasis area, N=41), 31 graduating students, or 76%, had secured employment at the time of graduation. The largest identified sector (24%) was non-profit agencies with other sectors including education, government, and self-employed.

Based on the results of the 2023 Alumni Survey (n=12), 75% of respondents who graduated from the CMHC emphasis area reported they were employed either full time or part time. 16% were pursuing additional education.

When asked about setting for current employment, CMHC alumni identified numerous mental health settings including private practice, community agencies, correctional facilities, hospitals, private agencies, university settings, addiction/recovery settings, behavioral health centers, educational settings, and children services centers.