



Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council

MPCAC Annual Report July 2018-June 2019

Background

Encouraged by the proceedings of two national conferences on master's Psychology curriculum in 1990 and 1994, MPAC (then known as IBAMPP) developed and implemented a voluntary accreditation process for applied masters programs in Psychology in 1995. MPAC adopted the training standards developed by the Council of Applied Masters Programs in Psychology (CAMPP) and refined at these two national conferences. In 1997, MPAC accredited its first program.

In 2009, MPAC began the process of expanding its accreditation process to include counseling programs from the field of Psychology and Education. In 2010, the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC) was established. MPCAC was an integrated body comprised of two separate accreditation committees, the Masters in Psychology Accreditation Committee (MPAC), and the Masters in Counseling Accreditation Committee (MCAC). MPCAC served as the accrediting body, acting upon recommendations from the separate committees. The two separate Committees, MPAC and MCAC, were responsible for reviewing applicant programs to consider their eligibility for accreditation, either as Psychology or Counseling programs. Both Committees followed agreed-upon accreditation policies and procedures, as documented in the MPCAC Accreditation Manual.

In 2016, MPCAC carefully considered professional trends as well as feedback received from stakeholders. In the spirit of remaining attuned to the needs of its constituents and promote excellence of masters-level training in counseling and psychological services, MPCAC proceeded to refine its mission, scope, and objectives, as well as to revise its standards. As of June 30, 2017, MPAC and MCAC committees ceased to operate, and MPCAC became a unified Board overseeing a new single set of standards. MPCAC's website, www.MPCACaccreditation.org, contains the most recent accreditation manual, a list of accredited programs, and a list of MPCAC board members.

Current Status and Update

In Fall 2017, MPCAC released a document operationalizing the new curriculum standards and notified counseling licensing boards nationally about them. In early 2018, Members of the Executive Committee conducted Town Hall Meetings with accredited programs to discuss current licensure trends and concerns.

Compliance with new standards

All accredited programs were required to develop plans as to how they would come into compliance with the new 2017 MPCAC standards and submitted documentation describing changes that were made to come into compliance by Dec. 31, 2018.

New policies

The MPCAC Board conducted a detailed review of policies and procedures and made some substantial changes to improve accreditation procedures and to put policies in compliance with CHEA's new standards. These changes are listed below.

1. The processes and procedures need to include oversight of adjuncts and non-full-time, non-core faculty (FT faculty includes those who are involved in program decision-making and in the evaluation of students).
2. All programs submitting self-studies after July 1, 2019 must meet all MPCAC standards to be accredited for a maximum of eight years. There will be no interim reports but program data and fees must be submitted annually to maintain accreditation. Programs currently accredited with stipulations (accredited for fewer than 10 years) will be accredited for a maximum of 10 years if all standards are met. Re-accreditation for all programs will be for eight years.
3. Programs will be required to submit the following data each fall (deadline December 1) about the previous academic year:
 - a. The number of applications, acceptances, enrollees, students in program, graduates, and number (if any) continuing in doctoral programs
 - b. The 5-year graduation rate and 5-year licensure rate
 - c. The percent of courses taught by adjuncts, and
 - d. Demographics (ethnicity and gender) of full-time faculty
4. Programs will be required to submit the annual fee as invoiced in late August by December 1st.
5. Failure to report that annual program data or to pay the annual fee by December 1st will yield the following:
 - a. The program will receive a warning notice from the Central Office after December 1st regarding the failure to report data or to pay the annual fee.
 - b. On February 1st, a warning will be added to the program's listing on the MPCAC website as follows: Warning (for not reporting annual data) or (for lack of payment of fees) or (for both).
 - c. The delinquent programs will be reported to the Board at the February meeting.
 - d. After March 1st the program will be put on probation and designation will be added to the website, pending receipt of data and/or annual fees.
 - e. After June 30th program accreditation will be withdrawn.
 - f. Programs can report difficulties in reporting data and/or paying fees to the Executive Director who will review such circumstances with the Board.
6. Substantive program changes must be included in the annual report, as follows.
 - a. Substantive changes include changes in the number of credit hours, the delivery modality, program director, faculty (increases/decreases), explanation of consequence of change, what is being done to address, etc.
 - b. Substantive changes are reported by the Central Office to the Associate Chair for Accreditation. The Associate Chair appoints a subcommittee to gather and review

information and explanations from the program. The Associate Chair notifies the Board for information only.

- c. If the subcommittee determines that an action is needed, the subcommittee makes a recommendation to Associate Chair who makes recommendation to Board.
 - d. The Board makes the final decision regarding actions to be taken. Such actions may include sending the program a warning that an identified problem needs to be fixed, putting a program on probation until the problem is addressed, or withdrawing accreditation.
7. Under-performing programs: Accreditation is the MPCAC determination that a program is of high quality; indicators that a program may no longer be maintaining that high quality could result in the withdrawal of accreditation.
- a. The trigger which will identify a concern for MPCAC is a decrease in the 5-year graduation rate to below 70%.
 - b. MPCAC will investigate under-performing programs, seeking explanations for the decrease, and determining whether a program should be put on probation for a period of 24 months to make necessary modifications to increase the graduation rate.
8. Accredited programs must provide links to their annual data on their website and to the MPCAC website (www.mpcacaccreditation.org).
- a. The Central office will check each program's website (via provided link) to ensure data and MPCAC statement are posted.
 - b. Summary data of all MPCAC-accredited programs will be reviewed at February MPCAC Board meeting and posted on MPCAC website by March 31st.
9. Information about programs will be posted on the MPCAC website after a self-study is submitted as follows:
- a. Pre-site visit:
 - i. The site visit will not be conducted until the Accreditation Review Committee (ARC) determines that, based on the materials submitted, the program meets all MPCAC standards.
 - ii. When the self-study is received, the program name will be posted on the MPCAC website with the notation: Under Review.
 - iii. If the ARC decides that program meets all standards (the ARC may solicit further information or seek answers to specific questions), the site visit will be scheduled, and the ARC chair will inform the Board of the scheduled visit.
 - iv. If the ARC decides that the program does not meet all of the standards and that revisions are necessary, there can be a Deferral for a maximum of 24 months. The ARC will report such a deferral to MPCAC Board for information only.
 - v. If, after the deferral period, the ARC determines that the program still does not meet the MPCAC standards, the ARC reports that decision to the Board. The decision is reviewed by the Board and either endorsed or not.
 1. If the Board endorses the ARC decision, accreditation is denied and that decision is posted on the website for 12 months.
 2. If the Board does not endorse the decision, the Associate Chair for Accreditation organizes a new ARC for a re-review of the program's materials. [return to 4.a.iii, above.]
 - b. Post-site visit: Always a Board decision

- i. Accreditation for eight (8) years,
 - 1. Website: Accreditation from *date to date*
 - ii. Deferral for a maximum of 24 months to allow program modifications to meet the standards, or
 - 1. Website: Accreditation decision deferred to *date* (WHY)
 - iii. Denial: cannot re-apply for one full year.
 - 1. Website: Accreditation denied (posted for 12 months)
10. General categories of program reports on the MPCAC website are as follows:
- a. Accreditation:
 - i. Pre-site visit: Under review
 - ii. Post-site visit: Accreditation, Deferral (why), Denied (why) on website for 12 months
 - b. Annual data not reported and/or fees not paid
 - i. Warning: December 1st to March 1st
 - ii. Probation: March 1st to June 30th
 - iii. Accreditation withdrawn: July 1st
 - c. Other: inappropriate action
 - i. Board initiated investigation
 - ii. Warning: specifics with deadline
 - iii. Probation: specifics with deadline
 - iv. Accreditation withdrawn (why), posted for 12 months
11. A complaints link will be added to the MPCAC website. The process for dealing with complaints is already included in the Policies and Procedures Manual.
12. *Appropriate innovation*: Based on our values, every three years we will review our strategies to provide public accountability to ensure that we are protecting the public, future clients, and students. At the same time, we will review our procedures to eliminate unnecessary burden in reporting, either by the Board or by accredited programs.
13. Conflict of interest statement
- a. Must be signed annually (in July) by all Board members
 - b. Must be signed by site visitors who are not Board members prior to joining an ARC
14. Board self-assessment will be conducted as follows: The Central Office will administer a survey of accredited programs every three years to identify whether Board modifications are needed. Standards will be reviewed every seven years, after which the three-year survey will commence again. The survey of programs cycle will be: Year 3 – survey programs [in person Board meeting]; Year 6 – survey programs [in person Board meeting, begin review of Standards], Year 7 – review Standards; Year 3 – survey programs: Year 6 – survey programs, Year 7 – review Standards; etc.

ASPA and CHEA

In Fall 2017, MPCAC became a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) and is now recognized as an accredited body by this organization. ASPA is dedicated to enhancing quality in higher education through specialized and professional accreditation, and is comprised of organizations that evaluate programs and institutions of higher learning in more than 100 different specialized disciplines and professions.

CHEA published its revised standards in 2018 and will begin to accepted new applications for recognition in July 2019. MPCAC will begin the applications process at that time.

Fee Structure

To ensure financial viability and continuity of income over time, the MPCAC Board conducted a review of its accreditation fee structure along with a long-term budget analysis. The accreditation and re-accreditation application fee was increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500 and the yearly maintenance fee was increased from \$300 to \$500. The penalty for late dues payment remained the same at \$200.

Annual Reporting Requirements

In 2016-2017, MPCAC established an annual reporting structure common for many CHEA recognized bodies. This yearly report includes metrics such as number of applications, number of students enrolled, number of faculty members (including gender, race/ethnicity), retention rates, number of graduates in the current year, number of graduates from the entering class five years previously, and alumni information. Accredited programs will be required to report these data to MPCAC every September, and to post them on their institution's websites.

Degree programs will no longer be required to submit interim reports but are required to update MPCAC on other major changes affecting the program.

Board Membership

In April 2019, MPCAC welcomed two new members to the MPCAC Board, who will begin their term in July 2019:

- Jennifer Gafford, program director at the University of Denver (CO)
- Maureen Keeshin, program director at The Chicago School of Professional (IL)

At the end of June 2019, two MPAC Board members completed their terms and stepped down from the Board: Sabina Widner and Nadya Fouad, and Eleonora Bartoli completed a one-year position as Past Chair (ex-officio). Jane Stafford (Chair), Chloe Moushey (Secretary), Mark Kenney (Associate Chair of Information Management) and Brooks Wright (Treasurer) will continue to serve in their respective roles, together with Pat O'Connor, MPCAC's Executive Director. Genelle Sawyer was elected Associate Chair of Accreditation starting July 2019. Kristy Keefe, Erica James, Celeste Jean-Walley and Chris Walter will also continue to serve as members on the MPCAC Board.

Current Status of Accreditations

As of June 2019, 58 applied masters programs from 50 institutions across 22 States were accredited by MPCAC. In 2018-19, 8 programs were newly accredited and 1 received re-accreditation.

Alphabetic Listing of MPCAC Accredited Programs as of June 30, 2019

[Arcadia University](#)

M. A. in Counseling / Psychology
Department of Psychology
Glenside, Pennsylvania 19038-3295
Accreditation: Aug 2011 – Aug 2021

[Assumption College](#)

M. A. in Clinical Counseling Psychology
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609
Accreditation: Dec 2018 – Dec 2020

[Augusta University](#)

M.S. in Psychology, Clinical Track
Augusta, Georgia 30904
Accreditation: July 2017 – July 2027

[Avila University](#)

M.S. in Counseling Psychology
Kansas City, Missouri 64145
Accreditation: Jan 2018-Jan 2022

[Boston College](#)

M.A. in Mental Health Counseling
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts 02467
Accreditation: Mar 2017 – Mar 2027

[Boston College](#)

M.A. in School Counseling
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts 02467
Accreditation: Mar 2017 – Mar 2027

[Brenau University](#)

M.S. in Clinical Counseling Psychology
Gainesville, Georgia 30501
Accreditation: Feb 2017 – Feb 2027

[Bridgewater State University](#)

M. A. in Psychology
Department of Psychology
Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02325
Accreditation: Feb 2015 – Feb 2025

[Chatham University](#)

M.S. in Counseling Psychology
Counseling Psychology Department
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232
Accreditation: Apr 2017 – Apr 2027

[Chestnut Hill College](#)

M.S. in Clinical and Counseling Psychology
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19118
Accreditation: Feb 2018 – Feb 2020

[Clayton State University](#)

M.S. in Clinical/Counseling Psychology
Department of Psychology
Morrow, Georgia 30260
Accreditation: Dec 2016 – Dec 2020

[College of Staten Island, City University of New York](#)

M.A. in Mental Health Counseling
Department of Psychology
Staten Island, New York 10314
Accreditation: Aug 2016 – Aug 2026

[Columbia University, Teachers College](#)

Ed.M. in Counseling Psychology
Counseling and Clinical Psychology Department
New York, New York 10027
Accreditation: Feb 2016 – Feb 2026

[Delaware Valley University](#)

M.A. in Counseling Psychology
Doylestown, PA 18901
Accreditation: April 2019-April 2029

[Eastern University](#)

M.A. in Clinical Counseling
Counseling Psychology Department
St. Davids, Pennsylvania 19087-3696
Accreditation: Aug 2014 – Aug 2024

[Eastern University](#)

M.A. in School Counseling
Counseling Psychology Department
St. Davids, Pennsylvania 19087-3696
Accreditation: Aug 2014 – Aug 2024

[Felician University](#)

M.A. in Counseling Psychology
College of Arts and Sciences
Lodi, New Jersey 07644
Accreditation: Jun 2014 – Jun 2024

[Fordham University](#)

M.A. in Pastoral Counseling
Department of Pastoral Counseling & Spiritual Care
Bronx, New York 10458
Accreditation: May 2017 – May 2027

[Fordham University](#)

M.S.Ed. in Mental Health Counseling
Psychological and Educational Services
New York, New York 10023
Accreditation: Jan 2015 – Jan 2020

[Fordham University](#)

M.S.Ed. in School Counseling
Psychological and Educational Services
New York, New York 10023
Accreditation: Jan 2015 – Jan 2020

[Francis Marion University](#)

M. S. in Applied Psychology
Department of Psychology
Florence, South Carolina 29501-0547
Accreditation: Apr 2018 – Apr 2020

[Frostburg State University](#)

M. S. in Counseling Psychology
Psychology Department
Frostburg, Maryland 21532
Accreditation: Aug 2018 – Aug 2028

[Hawaii Pacific University](#)

M.A. Program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Department of Psychology
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Accreditation: Sept 2015 – Sept 2025

[Indiana University](#)

M.S.Ed.in Counseling and Counselor Education-School Track
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
Accreditation: Aug 2018 – Aug 2020

[Indiana University](#)

M.S.Ed.in Mental Health Counseling and Counselor Education
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
Accreditation: Aug 2018 – Aug 2020

[Lehigh University](#)

M.Ed in Counseling and Human Services
Department of Education and Human Services
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015
Accreditation: Aug 2014 – Aug 2024

[Midwestern State University](#)

M.A. Program in Clinical and Counseling Psychology

Wichita Falls, Texas 76308
Accreditation: Jun 2012 – June 2022

[Morehead State University](#)

M.S. Program in Clinical/Counseling Psychology
Department of Psychology
Morehead, Kentucky 40351
Accreditation: Apr 2011 – April 2021

[Murray State University](#)

Masters Degree Program in Clinical Psychology
Department of Psychology
Murray, Kentucky 42071
Accreditation: Apr 2014 – Apr 2024

[New Mexico Highlands University](#)

M.S. Program in Clinical/Counseling Psychology
Department of Psychology
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701
Accreditation: Nov 2011 – Nov 2021

[New York University](#)

M.A. in Counseling for Mental Health and Wellness
Department of Applied Psychology
New York, New York 10012
Accreditation: Jan 2015 – Jan 2025

[New York University](#)

M.A. in Counseling and Guidance
Department of Applied Psychology
New York, New York 10012
Accreditation: Jan 2015 – Jan 2025

[Pacific University](#)

M.A. in Applied Psychological Services
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123
Accreditation: Aug 2017-Aug 2021

[Texas A&M University – Commerce](#)

M.A. or M.S. in Applied Psychology
Department of Psychology and Special Education
East Texas Station
Commerce, Texas 75429-3011
Accreditation: Apr 2008 – Apr 2019 (currently under review; granted a one-year extension)

[Texas A&M International University](#)

Masters in Counseling Psychology Program

Laredo, Texas 78041-1900
Accreditation: Jan 2018-Jan 2022

[The Citadel](#)

M. A. in Clinical Counseling
Department of Psychology
Charleston, South Carolina 29409
Accreditation: Jun 2012 – Jun 2022

[The Chicago School of Professional Psychology](#)

M.A. in Counseling Psychology
Chicago, Illinois 60654
Accreditation: Dec 2018 – Dec 2028

[The Sage Colleges](#)

M.A. in Counseling and Community Psychology
Graduate Programs in Psychology
Troy, New York 12180
Accreditation: Aug 2010 – Aug 2020

[Towson University](#)

M.A. in Psychology, Counseling Psychology Concentration
Department of Psychology
Towson, Maryland 21252
Accreditation: Feb 2016 – Feb 2026

[University at Albany](#)

M.S. in Mental Health Counseling
Division of Counseling Psychology
Albany, New York 12222
Accreditation: Sept 2013 – Sept 2023

[University of Buffalo, The State University of New York](#)

M.S. in Mental Health Counseling
Buffalo, New York 14260-1000
Accreditation: Feb 2018-Feb 2028

[University of Central Oklahoma](#)

M.A. in Counseling Psychology
Department of Psychology
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034
Accreditation: Feb 2017 – Feb 2021

[University of Denver](#)

M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Denver, Colorado 80208

Accreditation: Aug 2017 – Aug 2027

[University of Georgia](#)

[M.E. in Professional Counseling-Mental Health Emphasis](#)

Athens, Georgia 30602

Accreditation: May 2019 – May 2023

[University of Hawaii at Hilo](#)

M.A. Program in Counseling Psychology (Mental Health Counseling Specialization)

Department of Psychology

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Accreditation: Mar 2011 – Mar 2021

[University of Indianapolis](#)

M.A. in Clinical Psychology Program

School of Psychological Sciences

Indianapolis, Indiana 46227

Accreditation: Jul 2015 – Jul 2025

[University of Kansas](#)

M.S. in Counseling Psychology

Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Accreditation: July 2017 – July 2027

[University of Massachusetts Boston](#)

M.S. in Mental Health Counseling

Department of Counseling and School Psychology

Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3393

Accreditation: Sept 2013 – Sept 2023

[University of Massachusetts Boston](#)

M.Ed in School Counseling

Department of Counseling and School Psychology

Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3393

Accreditation: Sept 2013 – Sept 2023

[University of Missouri-Kansas City](#)

Master of Arts in Counseling and Guidance

School of Education

Kansas City, Missouri 64110

Accreditation: Feb 2014 – Feb 2024

[University of South Carolina Aiken](#)

Master's Degree in Applied Clinical Psychology

Department of Psychology

Aiken, South Carolina 29801
Accreditation: Sept 2014 – Sept 2024

[University of Southern Mississippi](#)

M.S. in Counseling Psychology
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 69404
Accreditation: Apr 2018-Apr 2028

[University of Utah](#)

M.Ed. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
Accreditation: June 2018-2022

[University of Utah](#)

M.Ed. in School Counseling
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
Accreditation: June 2018-2020

[University of West Florida](#)

M. A. in Counseling Psychology
Department of Psychology
Pensacola, Florida 32514-5751
Accreditation: Jan 2013 – Jan 2023

[University of Wisconsin Milwaukee](#)

M.S. in Counseling
Educational Psychology
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
Accreditation: Jan 2014 – Jan 2018

[Western Illinois University](#)

M.S. in Clinical/Community Mental Health
Department of Psychology
Macomb, Illinois 61455-1390
Accreditation: Aug 2017 – Aug 2027

[William Paterson University](#)

M.A. in Clinical and Counseling Psychology Program
Department of Psychology
Wayne, New Jersey 07470-2103
Accreditation: Jul 2015 – Jul 2025

Financial Status

MPCAC is an independent, self-sustaining, non-profit organization. Council Members serve on a volunteer basis without remuneration; the Executive Director and Executive Assistant are paid staff.

MPCAC's operating budget is fully financed by accreditation fees. As of June, 2019 the balance was \$64,038.64.

2018-19 Council Membership

Eleonora Bartoli, past-Chair

Nadya Fouad

Erica James

Kristy Keefe

Mark Kenney, Associate Chair of Information Management

Chloe Moushey, Secretary

Genelle Sawyer

Jane Stafford, Chair

Celeste Walley-Jean

Chris Walter

Sabina Widner, Associate Chair of Accreditation

Brooks Wright, Public Member & Treasurer

Patricia O'Connor continued her service as Executive Director

Kimberly Yetto continued her service as Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia O'Connor, Ph.D.
MPCAC Executive Director

Jane Stafford, Ph.D.
MPCAC Chair

July 18, 2019