



MPCAC Annual Report July 2019-June 2020

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 master's 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.

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. 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.

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 2019 standards. These are in the Policies and Procedures Manual, dated March 2020, which is posted on the MPCAC website. Critical changes include:

- Required payment of annual fee and reporting of annual data including substantive changes and stipulated penalties for failure to pay or report;
- Clarification of the definition of, and methods to assess, under-performing programs;
- Accreditation limit of eight years;
- Website listing of program with current status as accredited (with warning, probation), under review, deferred, or denied;
- Board self-assessment every three years; review of MPCAC standards review every seven years.

ASPA

MPCAC continues its membership in the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA). ASPA is dedicated to enhancing quality in higher education through specialized and professional accreditation and comprises organizations that evaluate programs and institutions of higher learning in more than 100 different specialized disciplines and professions. MPCAC remains an active member of ASPA and our Executive Director, Dr. Pat O'Connor, participates in ASPA-sponsored webinars and attended the ASPA meeting March 30th and 31st which was scheduled for Chicago but held virtually.

CHEA

Recognition by the Council for Higher Accreditation (CHEA) remains a top priority for MPCAC. CHEA published its revised standards in 2018 and began accepting new applications for recognition in July 2019. MPCAC submitted its initial application on July 16, 2019. The multi-phase process which includes CHEA's review of our processes to confirm that we meet all CHEA standards will result in our having a decision about recognition by May 2021.

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 fees were 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

MPCAC has an annual reporting structure which is 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 including the retention rate of first year students, number of graduates in the current year, number of graduates from the entering class five years previously, and alumni information. Accredited programs are required to report these data to MPCAC every fall, and to post them on their institution's websites. Failure to report (or to pay the annual fee) may result in a warning, then probation, then withdrawal of accreditation. At this point no such instances have occurred.

Accredited programs are required to update MPCAC on other major changes affecting the program at the time of the submission of the annual program data or earlier if the changes occur more than four months prior to the due date for the annual report.

Board Membership and Officers

In April 2019, MPCAC welcomed three new members to the MPCAC Board, who began their terms in July 2019:

- Jennifer Gafford, program director at the University of Denver (CO)
- Maureen Keeshin, program director at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (IL)
- Stephanie Szymczyks, school counselor at Stanton College Preparatory School (FL)

At the end of June 2019, two MPCAC 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) were elected to 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 also continue to serve as members on the MPCAC Board. In August 2019, Chloe Moushey resigned from the Board because of increased work responsibilities; Chris Walter agreed to complete the term as Secretary for the Board.

Current Status of Accreditations

As of June 2020, 57 applied master's programs from 50 institutions across 23 States were accredited by MPCAC. Currently two programs are being reviewed for re-accreditation, four programs with stipulations are being reviewed for continuation of their accreditation, and five programs are under review for initial accreditation.

Alphabetic Listing of MPCAC Accredited Programs as of June 30, 2020

[Arcadia University](#)

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

[Assumption University](#)

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 2028

[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 2025

[Fordham University](#)

M.S.Ed. in School Counseling
Psychological and Educational Services
New York, New York 10023
Accreditation: Jan 2015 - Jan 2025

[Francis Marion University](#)

M. S. in Applied Psychology
Department of Psychology
Florence, South Carolina 29501-0547
Accreditation: Apr 2018 - Apr 2028

[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 –Nov 2020

[Indiana University](#)

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

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

[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-Nov 2022

[University of Utah](#)

M.Ed. in School Counseling
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
Accreditation: June 2018-Nov 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 2024

[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

paid staff. MPCAC's operating budget is fully financed by accreditation fees. As of June 2020, the balance was \$70,546.14.

2019-20 Council Membership

Jane Stafford, Chair
Mark Kenney, Associate Chair of Information Management
Genelle Sawyer, Associate Chair of Accreditation
Chris Walter, Secretary
Jennifer Gafford
Erica James
Kristy Keefe
Maureen Keeshin
Stephanie Szymczyks
Celeste Walley-Jean
Brooks Wright, Public Member & Treasurer
Central Office:
Patricia O'Connor, Executive Director
Kimberly Yetto, Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jane Stafford, Ph.D.
MPCAC Chair

July 20, 2020