



Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council

## **MPCAC Annual Report July 2022-June 2023**

During this year the MPCAC Board met regularly, once each month, to review, discuss, and make decisions regarding accreditation and re-accreditation for qualified program applicants. The basis for these decisions is Site Visit Reports provided by the relevant Accreditation Review Committees (ARC) plus two additional reviewers. The Executive Committee met weekly to keep abreast of the status of applications, to monitor the work of the ARCs, and to identify and make recommendations regarding policy and procedural issues that may emerge. Such issues are brought to the Board meetings for discussion and resolution. The Board has functioned as a 'working board' since its inception with members involved in all aspects of the work of MPCAC and efforts have been underway to move the operational work of the Board to the Central Office. The departure of MPCAC's Executive Assistant led to a reorganization to expand that role to incorporate some of the tasks previously performed by Board members. This position of Accreditation Coordinator, as part of the Central Office, supports the transition of the Board from a working to a policy and governing Board.

Two major tasks were undertaken during this year. First was the development of a new structure for the MPCAC Board, part of the aforementioned shift from a working to a policy and governing Board. As of July 1, 2023, the Board will make a substantial change from monthly to quarterly meetings (March, June, September, and December) with a fixed committee structure: The Executive Committee (EC), the Committee on Accreditation (CoA), and the Finance Committee (FC). The Board Chair (Jane Stafford) can also appoint a Task Force to address specific issues or concerns. The EC includes the Board Chair, the Executive Director (Pat O'Connor), the CoA Chair (Genelle Sawyer), the FC Chair (Mark Kenney), and Kristy Keefe as the Coordinator of Education and Training, a newly created position. The EC meets weekly to review issues relevant to MPCAC operations. The CoA, meeting monthly, reviews the Site Visit Reports to make recommendations to the full Board for their decisions at the quarterly Board meetings. The FC meets quarterly in the month before the full Board meetings. Details of this Board restructure are available in Appendix A, MPCAC Board Restructure.

The second major task undertaken during this year was the revision of the 2017 MPCAC standards with the expectation that they will be implemented in January 2024. This process began with Kristy O'Keefe conducting a detail review of Board decisions to identify any patterns with standards being met or not met. Dr. O'Keefe then surveyed program directors, site visitors, and Board members to solicit their input on the standards, aiming to determine which were more difficult, more confusing, or otherwise were problematic. With that foundational information, the entire Board met in person for 2 ½ days in March 2023 to develop a draft revised set of standards. That draft served as the basis for continued discussions during the monthly Board meetings with the Board voting on a draft to go out for public

comment at the May 2023 meeting. The Board voted to adopt the standards, effective January 2024, following with the successful conclusion of three more steps. First, the standards were distributed to directors of accredited programs for their review and comments. They were asked to submit any comments by June 30 2023. Second, MPCAC will host a series of Town Halls, facilitated by the Executive Director, for program directors of accredited, deferred, and under review programs during the summer, and third will be a final review of the standards, taking all feedback into account, making modifications and adjustments as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Board.

The current *Accreditation Manual* and *Policy & Procedure Manual* are available on the MPCAC website ([www.mpcacaccreditation.org](http://www.mpcacaccreditation.org)) as is the working draft of the Accreditation Manual. Both of these documents will be revised in the next year.

### **CHEA**

As a CHEA-recognized organization, MPCAC continues to monitor the work of CHEA to identify any changes in standards or expectations that might affect the structure or work of MPCAC. MPCAC Executive Director, Dr. O'Connor, participated in the annual CHEA meeting in Washington D.C., January 2023.

### **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 participates regularly in ASPA-sponsored webinars, attended the ASPA in-person meeting in Washington D.C. in September 2022, and the virtual ASPA meeting in March 2023.

### **AASCB**

As an affiliate member of the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) Dr. O'Connor, MPCAC Executive Director, participates in the bi-monthly affiliate member meetings and attended the annual AASCB meeting in New Orleans in February 2023. As an accrediting organization in 23 states, MPCAC continues to represent the interests of MPCAC-accredited programs whose graduates can become licensed in those and many other states.

### **Fee Structure**

The application fee for new programs seeking accreditation and accredited programs seeking re-accreditation will increase to \$3,000 July 1, 2023; and the yearly maintenance fee also will range from \$1000 to \$2000, depending on program size, for the 2023-2024 year. The penalty for late dues payment remains the same at \$200. The COVID-related pandemic resulted in our shifting entirely to virtual site visits with a site-visit-fee of \$1,000. The virtual site visit continued through 2022-2023, eliminates all onsite costs for the applicant programs. However, beginning in fall 2023 MPCAC aims to conduct in-person site visits for new program applicants and virtual site visits for program seeking re-accreditation; fees will increase to \$2000 per site visitor regardless of whether the site visit is in-person or virtual so that it is equitable for all programs, regardless of location or type of site visit.

## **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, graduation rates for each 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. There were no such instances in the past year. Summary data for the previous year are posted on the MPCAC website, usually in January.

Accredited programs are required to update MPCAC on any major changes affecting the program within THREE MONTHS of the change.

## **Board Membership**

Jane Stafford (Chair), Mark Kenney (Associate Chair of Information Management), Genelle Sawyer (Associate Chair of Accreditation), Chris Walter (Secretary) and Brooks Wright (Treasurer) continued to serve in their respective roles, with Pat O'Connor continuing as the MPCAC Executive Director and Priscilla Smith-Julien as the Accreditation Coordinator. Jennifer Gafford, Kristy Keefe, Maureen Keeshin, Erica James, Celeste Jean-Walley, and Stephanie Szymczyk served as members on the MPCAC Board. Jennifer Gafford and Erica James both resigned from MPCAC because of changes in their employment positions and/or responsibilities. Eric Chen (from Fordham Mental Health Counseling Program) will join the Board as of July 1, 2023; he attended the May and June meetings as a guest.

## **Current Status of Accreditations**

As of June 2023, 60 applied masters programs from 51 institutions across 23 States were accredited by MPCAC. In 2022-2023, 1 program was newly accredited and 4 received re-accreditation. The Accreditation Review Committee for one program requested changes prior to scheduling a site visit; the program was given a two-year postponement to implement the changes; the program did not comply and was removed from the "under review" list on the MPCAC website. As of June 2023, 15 programs are 'under review' with two having completed site visits, six having site visits scheduled, and the remaining seven being in earlier stages of the review process. The last program to have been accredited with stipulations (as per 2017 standards) will be reviewed for continued accreditation in 2023. Finally, one program did not submit their re-accreditation materials on time which led to their not being re-accredited on time. They were given a six-month extension on probation to complete the process which they did by the June MPCAC Board meeting.

## **Alphabetic Listing of MPCAC Accredited Programs as of June 30, 2023**

### **[Arcadia University](#)**

M. A. in Counseling / Psychology  
Department of Psychology  
Glenside, Pennsylvania 19038-3295  
Accreditation: Aug 2011 – Aug 2030  
Re-accredited: June 2030

[Assumption College](#)

M. A. in Clinical Counseling Psychology  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609  
Accreditation: Dec 2018 – Dec 2028

[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 2028

[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. 2026

[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 2025

[Eastern University](#)

M.A. in School Counseling  
Counseling Psychology Department  
St. Davids, Pennsylvania 19087-3696  
Accreditation: Aug 2014 – Aug 2025

[Felician University](#)

M.A. in Counseling Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Lodi, New Jersey 07644  
Accreditation: Jun 2014 – Jun 2025

[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

[Indiana University](#)

M.S.Ed.in Counseling and Counselor Education-School Track  
Bloomington, Indiana 47405  
Accreditation: Aug 2018 –Aug 2028

[Indiana University](#)

M.S.Ed.in Mental Health Counseling and Counselor Education  
Bloomington, Indiana 47405  
Accreditation: Aug 2018 – Aug 2028

[Lehigh University](#)

M.Ed. in Counseling and Human Services  
Department of Education and Human Services  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015  
Accreditation: Aug 2014 – Aug 2025

[Midwestern State University](#)

M.A. Program in Clinical and Counseling Psychology  
Wichita Falls, Texas 76308  
Accreditation: Jun 2012 – June 2022  
Re-accredited: June 2031

[Morehead State University](#)

M.S. Program in Clinical/Counseling Psychology

Department of Psychology  
Morehead, Kentucky 40351  
Accreditation: Apr 2011 – Oct 2022  
Re-accredited: September 2030

[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  
Re-accredited: May 2030

[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 2027

[Robert Morris University](#)

M.S. in Counseling Psychology  
Moon Township, PA 15108  
Accreditation: Feb 2021 – Feb 2029

[Russell Sage College](#)

M.A. in Counseling and Community Psychology  
Troy, New York 12180  
Accreditation: Nov 2020 – Nov 2028

[Sonoma State University](#)

M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Rohnert Park, CA 94929  
Accreditation: Sep 2022 – Sep 2030

[Texas A&M International University](#)

Masters in Counseling Psychology Program  
Laredo, Texas 78041-1900  
Accreditation: Jan 2018-Jan 2022  
Re-accredited: June 2030

[The Citadel](#)

M. A. in Clinical Counseling  
Department of Psychology  
Charleston, South Carolina 29409  
Accreditation: Jun 2022 – Jun 2030

[The Chicago School](#)

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

[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  
Under review

[University of Baltimore](#)

M.S. in Applied Psychology, Counseling Psychology Concentration  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Accreditation: Feb 2022 – Feb 2030

[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-Aug. 2027

[University of Denver](#)

M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Denver, Colorado 80208  
Accreditation: Aug 2017 – Aug 2027

[University of Georgia](#)

M.Ed. in Professional Counseling-Mental Health Emphasis  
Athens, Georgia 30602  
Accreditation: May 2019 – May 2023  
Under review

[University of Hawaii at Hilo](#)

M.A. Program in Counseling Psychology (Mental Health Counseling Specialization)  
Department of Psychology  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Accreditation: June 2021-June 2029

[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  
Under review

[University of Massachusetts Boston](#)

M.Ed. in School Counseling  
Department of Counseling and School Psychology

Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3393  
Accreditation: Sept 2013 – Sept 2023  
Under review

[University of Missouri-Kansas City](#)

Master of Arts in Counseling and Guidance  
School of Education  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110  
Accreditation: Feb 2014 – Feb 2024  
Under review

[University of South Carolina Aiken](#)

Master's Degree in Applied Clinical Psychology  
Department of Psychology  
Aiken, South Carolina 29801  
Accreditation: Sept 2014 – Sept 2025

[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- June 2028

[University of Utah](#)

M.Ed. in School Counseling  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112  
Accreditation: July 2018- June 2028

[University of West Florida](#)

M. A. in Counseling Psychology  
Department of Psychology  
Pensacola, Florida 32514-5751  
Accreditation: Jan 2013 – Jan 2024  
Under review

[University of Wisconsin Milwaukee](#)

M.S. in Counseling  
Educational Psychology  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211  
Accreditation: Jan 2014 – Jan 2024  
Under review

[Western Illinois University](#)

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

[Whitworth University](#)

M.Ed. in School Counseling Program  
Spokane, Washington 99251  
Accreditation: Dec 2020 – Dec 2028

[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, 2022, the balance was \$106,905.53.

**2021-2022 Council Membership**

Jane Stafford, Chair

Mark Kenney, Associate Chair of Information Management

Genelle Sawyer, Associate Chair of Accreditation

Chris Walter, Secretary

Kristy Keefe

Maureen Keeshin

Stephanie Szymczyk

Celeste Walley-Jean

Brooks Wright, Public Member & Treasurer

**Central Office:**

Patricia O'Connor, Executive Director

Priscilla Smith-Julien, Accreditation Coordinator

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jane Stafford, Ph.D.  
MPCAC Chair

August, 2023