



Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council

MPCAC Annual Report July 2023-June 2024

Beginning July 1, 2023, MPCAC implemented the new structure, designed to shift the operational work of the Board to the Central Office and three committees: Executive Committee (EC), Committee on Accreditation (CoA), and the Finance Committee (FC). As this allowed the Board to become more focused on accreditation decisions and policy-making, the Board modified its meeting time, shifting to quarterly meetings (March, June, September, and December). At these meetings, the Board reviews, discusses, and makes decisions regarding accreditation and re-accreditation for qualified program applicants. The basis for these accreditation decisions are the recommendations of the CoA which meets monthly to review Site Visit Reports and to decide whether the conclusions from the Reports are sufficiently clear for Board review. These Reports, which include the Site Visitors' proposed stipulations and recommendations, are provided by the relevant Accreditation Review Committees (ARC) plus two additional CoA reviewers.

The EC Committee (Jane Stafford, Board Chair, Genelle Sawyer, CoA Chair, Kristi Keefe, Education Coordinator, Mark Kenney, FC Chair, and Pat O'Connor, Executive Director (ED)) met weekly during this year 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 emerge. Such issues are brought to the quarterly Board meetings for discussion and resolution. One example had been the decision of the Board, based on the EC's strong suggestion, to hire an Accreditation Coordinator (AC). The departure of that person in late September, however, left a gap in the workings of the Central Office. The ED, with the support of the EC, solicited applications for the position. At the same time, one of the Board members, Mark Kelley, decided to resign from his academic position, and, independently, applied for the AC position. His familiarity with the work of MPCAC, his availability and willingness to take on the part-time position led to his selection as the AC, starting in mid-December.

Several major tasks were undertaken during this year. First was the implementation of the new Board structure, part of the aforementioned shift from a working to a policy and governing Board. As of July 1, 2023, as noted above, the Board changed from monthly to quarterly meetings with a fixed committee structure: The EC, the CoA, and the FC. The Board Chair can also appoint a Task Force to address specific issues or concerns. In November, Kristy Keefe, Coordinator of Education and Training, who had been on the EC, resigned from her academic position due to significant changes at her institution, and from the MPCAC Board. The work of that position has since shifted to the Central Office, which, at this time, includes the ED and the AC. The FC meets quarterly, in the beginning of the month of the full Board meetings. Details of these Board committees are described in the nearly completely revised *Policies and Procedures Manual*, which will be available in summer, 2024.

A second major task undertaken during this year was the final revision of the 2017 MPCAC standards which were implemented January 1, 2024. To achieve that final revision, MPCAC hosted a series of Town Halls, facilitated by the Executive Director, for program directors of accredited, deferred, and under review programs during the summer of 2023. A final review of the 2024 Standards, taking all feedback into account, led to modifications and adjustments as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Board in the fall of 2024. The current 2024 *Accreditation Manual*, adopted in December 2024, is available on the MPCAC website (www.mpcacaccreditation.org). The third major task was the revision of the *Policies and Procedures Manual*. The nearly complete version was presented to the Board at the June 2024 meeting. The Board accepted the *Manual* with some relatively minor concerns which should be completed during the summer of 2024.

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 Accreditation Coordinator, Mark Kenney, participated in the annual CHEA meeting in Washington D.C., January 2024

In March 2024, CHEA sent a letter to the ED, reminding MPCAC that an interim report is due December 1, 2024.

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 ED participates regularly in ASPA-sponsored webinars, attended the ASPA in-person meeting in Washington D.C. in September 2023, and virtually in March 2024. In the March meeting, the ED was elected to the ASPA Membership Committee.

AASCB

As MPCAC is an affiliate member of the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB), Dr. O'Connor, MPCAC Executive Director, participates in the monthly member meetings (as an observer), and the bi-monthly affiliate member meetings. The ED was not able to attend the annual AASCB meeting in January 2024 but did organize MPCAC's involvement as a sponsor. As an accrediting organization in 24 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 increased to \$3,000 July 1, 2023; and the yearly maintenance fee ranges from \$1000 to \$2000, depending on program size, for the 2024-2025 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 began to conduct in-person site visits for new program applicants and virtual site visits for program seeking re-accreditation; fees are \$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 requires that accredited programs provide annual reports; requests for these data are sent out in late August with reports due by December 1st. 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.

Two of the required metrics are used as triggers by MPCAC to identify any programs which may not be performing well: the retention rate from year one to year two (minimum of 75%) and the five-year graduation rate (minimum of 70%). When the annual data are submitted, the Central Office can review the data and contact programs to express concern and to solicit explanations when those minimal numbers are not achieved. In the 2023-2024, data from six programs indicated the potential for performance issues. Each of the programs was contacted and each provided explanations for the initial decrease (from the previous year) in the triggering events. All had explanations and/or had taken steps to ensure an appropriate increase. The issues included that some students should not have been counted as part of the program, that the data were not correctly calculated, and that the singular decrease in the trigger was exactly that – a single decrease.

Board Membership

Jane Stafford (Chair), Genelle Sawyer (Chair of the CoA), Chris Walter (Secretary) and Brooks Wright (Treasurer) continued to serve in their respective roles, with Pat O'Connor continuing as the MPCAC ED. Priscilla Smith-Julien resigned as the Accreditation Coordinator and Mark Kenney assumed that role as noted above. Kristy Keefe (until November 2023), Maureen Keeshin, Celeste Jean-Walley, Eric Chen, and Stephanie Szymczyk served as members on the MPCAC Board. Stephanie Szymczyk has assumed the role of chair of the FC. Two faculty, both from accredited programs, joined the Board during the 2023-2024 year: Linda Bacheller (Barry University) and Apoorvee Sawhney (University of Denver).

After five years as a supportive, effective, and wonderful MPCAC Chair, Jane Stafford has resigned, effective June 30, 2024, though she will remain on the MPCAC Board. Maureen Keeshin was elected to become MPCAC Chair, effective July 1, 2024.

Current Status of Accreditations

As of June 2024, 64 applied Masters programs from 56 institutions across 24 States were accredited by MPCAC. In 2023-2024, 6 programs were newly accredited and 2 received re-accreditation. As of June 2024, 7 programs are 'under review' with three having completed site visits, two having site visits

scheduled, and the remaining two being in earlier stages of the review process. The last program to have been accredited with stipulations (as per 2017 standards) was successfully reviewed for continued accreditation in 2023. Finally, 11 programs have a deferral with stipulations which must be addressed before they can be either accredited (for new applicants) or re-accredited (for existing accredited programs).

Alphabetic Listing of MPCAC Accredited Programs as of June 30, 2024

[Arcadia University](#)

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

[Barry University](#)

M.S. in Clinical Psychology
Miami Shores FL 33161
Accreditation: Sep 2023 – Sep 2031

[Bastyr University](#)

M.A. in Counseling Psychology
San Diego, CA 92121
Accreditation: Mar 2024 – Mar 2032

[Bastyr University](#)

M.A. in Counseling Psychology
Kenmore, WA 98103
Accreditation: Mar 2024 – Mar 2032

[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
Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02325
Accreditation: Feb 2015 – Feb 2026

[Chatham University](#)

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

[Chestnut Hill College](#)

M.S. in Clinical and Counseling Psychology
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19118
Chestnut Hill College@Lehigh Valley
Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034
Accreditation: Feb 2018 – Feb 2028

[Clayton State University](#)

M.S. in Clinical/Counseling Psychology
Morrow, Georgia 30260
Accreditation: Dec 2016 – Dec. 2026

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

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

[Columbia University, Teachers College](#)

Ed.M. in Counseling Psychology
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
St. Davids, Pennsylvania 19087-3696
Accreditation: Aug 2014 – Aug 2025
Under review

[Eastern University](#)

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

[Felician University](#)

M.A. in Counseling Psychology
Lodi, New Jersey 07644
Accreditation: Jun 2014 – Jun 2025
Under review

[Fordham University](#)

M.A. in Pastoral Counseling
Bronx, New York 10458
Accreditation: May 2017 – May 2027

[Fordham University](#)

M.S.Ed. in Mental Health Counseling
New York, New York 10023
Accreditation: Jan 2015 – Jan 2026

[Fordham University](#)

M.S.Ed. in School Counseling
New York, New York 10023
Accreditation: Jan 2015 – Jan 2026

[Francis Marion University](#)

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

[Frostburg State University](#)

M. S. in Counseling Psychology
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

[Lehigh University](#)

M.Ed. in Mental Health Counseling
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015
Accreditation: Aug 2014 – Aug 2025
Under review

[Midwestern State University](#)

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

[Morehead State University](#)

M.S. Program in Clinical/Counseling Psychology
Morehead, Kentucky 40351
Accreditation: Apr 2011 – Sept 2030

[Murray State University](#)

M.A. or M.S. in Clinical Psychology
Murray, Kentucky 42071
Accreditation: Apr 2014 – Dec 2024

[New Mexico Highlands University](#)

M.S. Program in Clinical/Counseling Psychology
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701
Accreditation: Nov 2011 – Nov 2030

[New York University](#)

M.A. in Counseling for Mental Health and Wellness
New York, New York 10012
Accreditation: Jan 2015 – Jan 2026

[New York University](#)

M.A. in School Counseling
New York, New York 10012
Accreditation: Jan 2015 – Jan 2026

[Pacific University](#)

M.A. in Applied Clinical Psychology
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 Mental Health 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 2028

[The Citadel](#)

M. A. in Clinical Counseling
Charleston, South Carolina 29409
Accreditation: Jun 2012 – Jun 2030

[The Chicago School](#)

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

[Towson University](#)

M.A. in Psychology, Counseling Psychology Concentration
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 – Mar 2025
Under review – on probation

[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 Florida](#)

M.A in Clinical Psychology
Orlando FL 32816
Accreditation: Sep 2023 – Sep 2031

[University of Central Oklahoma](#)

M.A. in Counseling 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 2029

[University of Hawaii at Hilo](#)

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

[University of Indianapolis](#)

M.A. in Clinical Psychology Program
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
Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3393
Accreditation: Sept 2013 – Mar 32

[University of Massachusetts Boston](#)

M.Ed. in School Counseling
Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3393
Accreditation: Sept 2013 – Sept 2032

[University of Missouri-Kansas City](#)

M.A. in Counseling
Kansas City, Missouri 64110
Accreditation: Feb 2014 – Feb 2032

[University of South Carolina Aiken](#)

M.S. in Applied Clinical Psychology
Aiken, South Carolina 29801
Accreditation: Sept 2014 – Sept 2025
Under review

[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 2032

[University of Wisconsin-Madison](#)

M.S. in Counseling
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
Accreditation: Dec 2023-Dec 2031

[University of Wisconsin Milwaukee](#)

M.S. in Counseling
Educational Psychology

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
Accreditation: Jan 2014 – Jan 2025
Under review – on probation

[Western Illinois University](#)

M.S. in Clinical Community Mental Health
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
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, 2024, the balance was \$106,905.53.

2023-2024 MPCAC Board Membership

Jane Stafford, Chair

Genelle Sawyer, Chair, Committee on Accreditation

Chris Walter, Secretary

Brooks Wright, Public Member & Treasurer

Linda Bacheller

Eric Chen

Maureen Keeshin

Apoorvee Sawhney

Stephanie Szymczyk

Celeste Walley-Jean

Central Office:

Patricia O'Connor, Executive Director

Mark Kenney, Accreditation Coordinator

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jane Stafford, Ph.D.
past MPCAC Chair

August, 2023