



## **MPCAC Annual Report July 2024-June 2025**

During this past year the operational work of MPCAC has continued to shift to the Central Office and the three MPCAC committees: Executive Committee (EC), Committee on Accreditation (CoA), and the Finance Committee (FC). Additionally, The Board approved the development of the Social Media Task Force, with its focus on Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram to highlight the work and concomitant value of MPCAC. MPCAC contributes to master's education and training in counseling and psychology overall and to the individual programs, as they work to achieve the high quality MPCAC Standards. As noted in last year's Annual Report, this organizational structure has allowed the Board members to become more focused on accreditation decisions and policy-making, and the Central Office (paid staff) has been invested in the operations of MPCAC as an organization with an Executive Director and Accreditation Coordinator.

The Board meets quarterly in March, June, September, and December. At these meetings, the Board reviews, discusses, and makes decisions regarding accreditation and re-accreditation for qualified program applicants. These accreditation decisions are based on the recommendations of the Committee on Accreditation (CoA) (Genelle Sawyer, Chair, Eric Chen, Maureen Keeshin, Jane Stafford, Chris Walter, and Linda Bacheller 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 to the Central Office by the identified Site Visitors and two CoA reviewers.

The EC Committee (Maureen Keeshin, Board Chair, Genelle Sawyer, CoA Chair, Pat O'Connor, Executive Director (ED), and Mark Kenney, Accreditation Coordinator (AC), met twice a month during this year to keep abreast of the status of applications, to monitor the work of soliciting, training, and assigning the site visitors, and to identify and develop policy recommendations and address procedural issues that emerge. Relevant issues become part of the next Board agenda for discussion and resolution. The Finance Committee met quarterly this year, under the guidance of Board members Stephanie Szymczyk, as chair of the committee with Brooks Wright, Board member and MPCAC Treasurer, Mark Kenney, and Pat O'Connor.

Several major tasks were undertaken during this year. First, implementation of the new Board structure was fully completed, part of the aforementioned shift from a working to a policy and governing Board. As of July 1, 2024, 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 related to significant changes at her institution, and from the MPCAC Board. The work of that position has since shifted to the Central Office,

which, currently, includes the ED and the AC. Details of these Board committees are described in the nearly completely revised *Policies and Procedures Manual*, which was available in August 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](http://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 edits which were completed by August 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. CHEA regularly offers webinars and MPCAC staff typically take advantage of these opportunities. In December 2024, MPCAC submitted an interim report; the Committee on Recognition requested more information about MPCAC's use of probation in its accreditation process, due in a report to the CoR December 1, 2025.

## 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 2024, and virtually in March 2025. The ED continues to participate on 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 South Carolina but did organize MPCAC's involvement as a sponsor. Dr. Genelle Sawyer attended as the MPCAC representative. 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 reaccreditation 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 per site visit fee of \$1,000. The virtual site visit continues for programs seeking reaccreditation, eliminating all onsite costs for the applicant programs. However, since fall 2023, MPCAC conducts in-person site visits for new program applicants and virtual site visits for program seeking re-accreditation, with onsite and virtual visits alternating after that. 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 2024-2025, data from six programs indicated the potential for performance issues. Each program 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 appropriate increases. 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

Maureen Keeshin (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 and Mark Kenney as the Accreditation Coordinator. Jane Stafford, 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 2024-2025 year: Linda Bacheller (Barry University) and Apoorvee Sawhney (University of Denver).

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

## Current Status of Accreditations

As of June 2025, 64 applied Masters programs from 56 institutions across 24 States were accredited by MPCAC. In 2024-2025, 6 programs were newly accredited and 2 received re-accreditation. As of June 2025, 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, 2025

#### [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

#### [Ball State University](#)

M.A. Counseling: Clinical Mental Health Counseling concentration  
Muncie, Indiana 47306  
Accreditation: Sep 2024 – Sep 2032

[Ball State University](#)

Dual Program: Masters in Social Psychology & Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Muncie, Indiana 47306  
Accreditation: Sep 2024 – Sep 2032

[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

[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 2032

[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

[Teachers College, Columbia University](#)

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

[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 2033

[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 2033

[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 2033

[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 – Dec 2032

[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 2025, the balance was \$176,363.31.

## **2024-2025 MPCAC Board Membership**

Maureen Keeshin, Chair

Genelle Sawyer, Chair, Committee on Accreditation

Chris Walter, Secretary

Brooks Wright, Public Member & Treasurer

Linda Bacheller

Eric Chen

Maureen Keeshin

Apoorvee Sawhney

Jane Stafford

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

Maureen Keeshin, Psy.D.  
MPCAC Chair

April 2026