

STUDENT ADVISING - OVERVIEW

Student Advising is an essential part of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program (CMHC) program. Upon admissions into the CMHC program, the students are assigned to the CMHC Student Advisor. The first two years of the three-year program students will direct most questions and concerns to the CMHC Student Advisor. The third year of the CMHC Program, when a student enters Practicum and Internship, the student is assigned a Faculty Supervisor. This person will also be the Student Advisor.

The CMHC Faculty seek to model the tenants and mission of the program. In the same vein, the Student Advisor is a coach and advisor to assist a student in personal and professional development. The Student Advisor will assist in collaborating with the student and faculty to address student growing areas and any concerns from the faculty. The CMHC faculty expect that students meet a set of standards (see criteria below) and fulfill all aspects of the program to become a counselor.

The CMHC program of study is a three-year program that is taught year-round. The courses are mostly in the evenings for the first two years ([Time Expectations and Management Year 1 and 2](#)). The last full year of the program, Practicum and Internships, typically necessitates that the student develops a schedule that may include days and evenings ([Clinical Year Time Estimates and Obligations](#)). Wilmington University allows the student to complete the CMHC program in a 5-year period. The two additional years allows for life events or other issues that would require the student to extend the time it takes to complete the program. If the student has to take time off for any reason, the student works with the Student Advisor and develops a revised program of study.

It is important to note that the course work has prerequisites. The Advisor will assist with any revisions to the program of study in regards to these prerequisites. Additionally, because of the size of our program, courses are only offered once a year. Taking time off and returning to the CMHC program is dictated by when the courses are offered.

In addition, the CMHC program offers counseling through its EAP to help the student on a short-term basis and assist the student with referrals for a counselor for more long-term issues. Contact the student advisor for additional contact information. The university also assists students with referrals for counseling through their Student Services Center.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN STUDENT ADVISING?

The Student Advisor is available for most questions with respect to the program of study, that does not include questions about their class syllabus, assignments, or grades. These should be addressed with the course professor. However, the Student Advisor can, at times, direct a student to the right person to get the answer and assist the student in reviewing their goals for the program. The Student Advisor is a resource who can answer most questions, and direct students to all CMHC or University resources.

There are times when students may be asked to work with the Student Advisor on a particular growing area or concern that have been observed by their professors. The Professor in a particular class may discuss concerns with a student and may include it on the Student Evaluation form, which is filled out by the Professor after each class. These growing areas or concerns may involve meeting with the Student Advisor for additional support to resolve concerns and achieve student goals.

The CMHC Handbook refers to the Candidacy and Clinical Candidacy. In that section of the Handbook specific criteria is defined for a student to advance to full candidacy. Students are evaluated after their

first year (after 12 credits) and again after their second year. The first evaluation determines if the student meets the criteria to be passed into full candidacy. All students are accepted into the CMHC program on a provisional basis. Once the student completes 12 credits, their evaluations and academic program are evaluated by the Faculty and it is determined whether they are accepted into full candidacy. The second year the student is again evaluated, using the same criteria as used in the first year, to see if they meet the criteria to be passed into clinical candidacy which includes their Practicum and Internship year.

Students are evaluated on the following: (The following is paraphrased from pages 27-30 of the CMHC Handbook.)

Academic Performance – Each student is expected to maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in each course and may be required to retake courses as determined in candidacy review. A **B-** is considered FAILING and a student may have to retake the full course or have a directive study to remediate the grade. A **B-** can prohibit a student from advancing into candidacy or clinical candidacy.

Intrapersonal/ Interpersonal Skills and Personal Growth – Each student is expected to demonstrate effective intrapersonal/ interpersonal skills and a commitment to personal growth, both of which are considered requisite to the counseling field and include:

- Displays psychological insight and self-awareness
- Identifies and expresses feelings appropriately
- Demonstrates motivation and commitment to personal growth
- Capacity for self-reflection
- Copes effectively with stressors
- Demonstrates appropriate sensitivity and respect in peer interactions
- Displays appropriate decorum in interactions with instructor
- Maintains appropriate emotional boundaries with others
- Expresses feelings appropriately/ good communication skills
- Functions effectively with others
- Open and adaptable in relationships

Professional Attitudes and Skills: This is a professional program. Students should conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times with faculty, fellow students, college staff, and with the staff with whom they work in Practicum and Internship agencies. The use of profanity and other forms of socially inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. The CMHC Program expects proper regard for the professional status of faculty, supervisors, administrators, and fellow students. When conflicts arise, they should be handled with a professional demeanor that includes a respect for all parties involved. Professional behavior and decorum also includes that the student:

- Displays the interest, motivation, and commitment necessary to complete the education and training to become a professional counselor
- Demonstrates the attitudes, skills, demeanor, and maturity necessary to perform the duties of a professional counselor

- Displays professional conduct and behavior
- Is open to and responds well to feedback
- Ethical Behavior – Each student is expected to demonstrate awareness of and concern for the ethical standards of mental health and all other disciplines within the counseling field. Ethical behavior will be monitored and assessed in several venues throughout the student's academic career.

Students may be referred to the Student Advisor to address any of the areas that are listed above.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

The Student Advisor has an in-depth understanding of the University Resources available to the CMHC students. The library is a treasure of information including offering APA workshops and seminars. Students may be told by their Professor that they need to improve on their writing skills – the University has writing classes and tutors that are available.

The Student Success center and Student Services Center has many resources for students. If a student needs guidance with the either resource, the Advisor is willing to assist. The CMHC Faculty and Student Advisor will provide more information once a student is admitted into the program in their new Student Orientation day.