



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

School of Health Professions

Department of Clinical Counseling and Mental Health

Master of Science in Addiction Counseling

2023-2024 Annual Report

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) requires that programs make certain information publicly available each year.

This report was generated using data and information from Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024. MSAC is an abbreviation for “Master of Science in Addiction Counseling”; NR = Not Reported.

Program completion rate is computed based on the retention of students during the specified academic year: (Current students + Graduates) / Total Students.

Employment rate indicates the proportion of students who secured employment within six months of graduation. The credentialing exam pass rate indicates the proportion of graduates who took and passed a counseling licensure or certification exam during the prior preceding academic year.

Past Year Student Data and Vital Statistics:

- Minimum number of semester credit hours required for the degree: 60
- Currently enrolled in MSAC: 46
- Graduates in 2023-2024: 15
- Program Completion/Retention Rate: 91.04%
- Employment Rate: 92.8% (Excludes Summer 2024 data)
- Credentialing Exam Pass Rate: 91.7%

Sources of Data

- Student performance on final practicum and internship ratings from faculty and site supervisors.
- Student performance on departmental comprehensive exam and specialty capstone from faculty and program director.
- Admissions, enrollment, and graduation data from 2023-2024 academic year.
- Follow-up surveys of graduates regarding employment.
- Professional Disposition Evaluations (PDE) conducted annually, as well as within clinical courses.

Program Objectives & Major Program Activities

The program faculty engaged in a number of counseling relevant activities during the 2023-2024 Academic year. The following are highlights of faculty engagement and accomplishments:

- The MSAC program had two currently enrolled students designated as Addiction Counseling Fellows through the National Board for Certified Counselors – Minority Fellowship Program.
- Dr. Townsend was selected to serve on the Governing Council of the American Counseling Association.
- Several MSAC students were able to participate in an intensive week-long experiential immersion at the Betty Ford Center, as part of an interprofessional university-wide collaborative.
- Dr. Sneed served as the Co-Editor in Chief for the *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*.
- During the summer of 2024, the MSAC program added a new faculty member, Dr. Michelle Shuler.
- The MSAC program faculty continued their collaboration with Dr. Sarah Wakefield in the Department of Psychiatry on several projects to support the counseling workforce and to enhance the Adolescent Substance Use programming in partnership with the Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT) program.

Program Modifications

The MSAC faculty utilize the results of our program evaluations to address the CACREP standards. This evaluation process utilizes institutional data, program data, including alumni, clinical supervisors and employers, and data that documents students' professional dispositions. The MSAC faculty utilize the results of our program evaluations to make continual efforts to enhancement the quality of the program. The following items describe recent changes and planned improvements based on our the MSAC program evaluation:

- Over the current year, the MSAC program identified difficulty tracking mechanisms for students who had grades of Incomplete, or those that took a leave of absence. To address this, the program redesigned our tracking protocols and retention/remediation procedures to benefit students and enhance degree planning workflow efficiencies.
- The MSAC program plans to develop and expand opportunities for program students to engage in clinical activities within the department's clinic.
- The program also is preparing to conduct a mid-cycle self-review regarding the CACREP 2024 standards.

MSAC Program Evaluation Findings

SLO 1: Knowledge of Addiction Counseling:

MSAC students will develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to practice as qualified addiction counselors in a wide variety of contexts.

- Measure 1: Departmental Comprehensive Exam
 - Target: It is expected that 75% of students pass the counseling core domains with a score of 70% or higher on the comprehensive exam on their first attempt. Students are also required to complete this exam as a graduation requirement.
 - Findings: 100% of students that took the exam (n = 13) passed and the average score was 85.46%.
- Measure 2: Professional Disposition Evaluation
 - Target: MSAC students will pass, with a score of 3 out of 5 across all 9 categories on the Professional Disposition Evaluation (PDE) prior to graduating from the program.

Scoring a 3 indicates that the student is developing toward competency, and is meeting the expectations of an addiction counseling student.

- Findings: 100% of current MSAC students were evaluated in the past academic year and scored a 3 or greater across all 9 domains on the PDE.

SLO 2: Ethical and Cross-Cultural Practice:

MSAC students will develop the ability to implement culturally responsive and ethically sound counseling practices throughout their careers.

- Measure 1: Multicultural Competency
 - Target: 90% of MSAC students will pass, with a score of 3 or higher (out of 5) in the area of Multicultural Competency.
 - Findings: 100% of current MSAC students were evaluated in the past academic year and scored a 3 or greater for Multicultural Competency.
- Measure 2: Professional Ethics
 - Target: 90% of MSAC students will pass, with a score of 3 or higher (out of 5) in the area of Professional Ethics.
 - Findings: 100% of eligible students who completed clinicals during the 2023-2024 academic year had a mean score of 3 or higher.
- Measure 6: Exit Survey
 - Target: The MSAC graduates will report scores higher than 4.0 (out of 5) on the School of Health Professions Exit Survey. The MSAC program utilizes this survey to gauge program effectiveness from the perspective of graduates.
 - Finding: The MSAC program received a rating of 4.95 for the past academic year, indicating graduate satisfaction and that the program performed well preparing students for clinical experiences and/or employment after graduation.

SLO 3: Evidence-Based Practice

MSAC students will demonstrate evidence-based addiction counseling practices in clinical training settings.

- Measure 1: Supervisory Clinical Evaluation
 - Target: 75% of eligible MSAC students will pass, with a score of 3 or higher (on a scale from 1 to 5), in the area of Professional Issues.
 - Findings: 100% of eligible students who completed clinicals (n = 15) during the 2023-2024 academic year had a mean score of 3 or higher. The average was 4.33.
- Measure 2: Interprofessional Experience within Counseling Practicum
 - Target: 75% of MSAC students will pass, with a score of 80% or higher.
 - Findings: 91% of MSAC surpassed this benchmark, with the average score of 90.3%.

Summary:

Overall, the MSAC program was successful during the 2023-2024 academic cycle. This cycle represented the seventh full year for the MSAC program. Our next cohort reached the clinical rotation stage and the program continues to grow. We have a total of 46 students specializing in addiction counseling. The MSAC program contributed to the overall mission of TTUHSC in several ways. First, we provided innovative training opportunities designed to positively impact the health of people struggling with addiction and behavioral health. Also, for the fourth consecutive year we assisted the Office of Interprofessional Education to provide meaningful experiences to all TTUHSC students

through faculty volunteerism and Dr. Sneed served as a keynote speaker for a university-wide event focused on reducing stigma towards substance use in clinical encounters.

Regarding research and clinical services our faculty continued their efforts in partnership with the Department of Psychiatry focused on Adolescent Substance Use programming. The project expanded in the past year to include specialized services focused on local school districts. This project was conducted in collaboration through the Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHATT) program.

The MSAC faculty continue to present at regional, state and national conference and publish in respected journals. The MSAC faculty were involved in several funded grant applications, published 6 articles, and delivered multiple conference presentations. Our faculty also contributed to several institutional committees and workgroups aimed at advancing growth and innovation across the mental and behavioral health fields.