Student Handbook

Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (EDCM) Master's Program

Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Effective in Fall 2024

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Revised on 8/26/2024 by Ya-Wen Melissa Liang, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Certified Humanistic Sandtray Therapist

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Introduction to Clinical Mental Health Counseling

The Master of Science Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (EDCM) program offers students the opportunity to earn a degree that meets accreditation standards for the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the nation's foremost Counseling Accreditation agency. The 60-semester-hour degree with three choices of emphases in School Counseling, Rural Mental Health, and Sandtray Therapy serves the needs to provide graduates with the necessary coursework to become Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) in Texas and to promote academic excellence, scholarly research, and equality in professional counseling.

Program Mission

Our mission is to prepare competent counselors in the areas of professional counseling to work with culturally diverse populations and to provide these graduates with the educational and experiential tools to acquire positions in a wide variety of mental health settings. Our mission correlates with the University and Department's mission of "preparing competent counselors in the areas of professional counseling to work with culturally diverse populations and to provide these graduates with the experiential tools to acquire positions in a wide variety diverse populations and to provide these graduates with the experiential tools to acquire positions in a wide variety of mental health settings and global society."

Academic Unit

This program is housed in Rhode Hall of the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling within the College of Education and Human Performance on the Texas A&M University-Kingsville campus. The Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling Faculty office locates on the first floor of Rhode Hall in the area of the department office, Rhode Hall room #100.

Program Objectives

- (1) Professional Counseling: Foundations and Ethical Practice
- (2) Students demonstrate a strong identity and an understanding of ethical practice in clinical mental health, foundations, and history in professional counseling.
- (3) Professional Counseling: Contextual Dimensions
- (4) Students demonstrate an understanding of professional counseling contextual factors, including credentialing, cultural factors, and record keeping.
- (5) **Professional Counseling: Practice**
- (6) Students demonstrate an understanding of professional counseling practice, including theories, techniques, assessments, interventions, and advocacy in professional counseling.
- (7) Social and Cultural Diversity
- (8) Students demonstrate multicultural awareness, knowledge, and skills necessary for competency in working with a diverse population.
- (9) Human Growth and Development

- (10) Students are able to demonstrate an understanding of development across the lifespan and the impacts on normal and abnormal functioning.
- (11) Career Development
- (12) Students demonstrate understanding and application of career development theory to help individuals with career planning and decisions.
- (13) Counseling and Helping Relationships
- (14) Students demonstrate the knowledge and skills of theories and techniques necessary to engage in an effective and therapeutic helping relationship.
- (15) Group Counseling and Group Work
- (16) Students demonstrate competency in preparing and facilitating group counseling.
- (17) Assessment and Testing
- (18) Students demonstrate the ability to identify effective assessment strategies in order to facilitate treatment planning.
- (19) Research and Program Evaluation
- (20) Students demonstrate an understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods as well as program evaluation to inform evidence-based practice.

Admission Requirements

To be accepted into the program, the applicant must submit the following documents:

- A bachelor's degree
- A transcript with a minimum overall 3.0 GPA in undergraduate coursework
- A transcript with a minimum overall 3.0 GPA in graduate coursework for transfer students (a final course grade of B and above for transfer credits)
- A purpose statement
- A resume

The application must be made through ApplyTexas.org.

Transfer Credits

Our program accepts up to 15 hours of counseling credits from graduate-level transfer students if the final grade of the course is B and above. Students need to email the faculty advisor and/or program coordinator all the syllabi for the transfer credits for an evaluation. The faculty advisor will examine if the syllabi meet the CACREP standards.

Name & Position	Earn Degrees	Courses Taught in the Program	Research Interests/Specialty Areas
Steve Bain D.Min., LPC-S, NCC Professor	D.Min. in Counseling, Luther Rice College/Seminary in Lithonia, Georgia, 1992 M.S. in Counseling and Personnel Services,	Teaching full-time at TAMUK since 2009 •Community Rural Mental Health Counseling	 rural mental health graduate student success grief and loss

Counseling Program Faculty

Name & Position	Earn Degrees	Courses Taught in the	Research
		Program	Interests/Specialty
	Memphis State University,	 Leadership & Advocacy 	Areas •self-injury among
Graduation Coordinator		in Rural Communities	children and
	B.S. in History, University	 Group Counseling 	adolescents
Core Faculty	of North Alabama,	 Techniques Intro to Counseling & 	•psychological impact on
	Florence, 1985	Ethical Practice	weight management surgery clients and
Faculty Advisor		 Ethics & Legal Issues 	student retention
		• Field Practicum	factors
		 Research in Counseling Human Growth & 	
		Development	
		Career Counseling	
	Ph.D. in Counselor	 Crisis Counseling Teaching full-time at 	 rural mental health
Kristopher Garza	Education, Texas A&M	TAMUK since 2012	•counseling supervision
	University-Corpus Christi	Field Practicum	 first-generation college
Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC	(CACREP accredited program), 2015	•Internship	students • self-efficacy and
	1 0 //	Human Growth &	resilience among
Associate Professor	M.S., Counseling, Texas A&M University-Corpus	DevelopmentEthics and Legal Issues	adolescents and college
CACREP Liaison	Christi, 2012	• Career Counseling	students •retention factors in
	B.S. in Exercise Science,	Counseling Techniques	academia
Core Faculty	Texas A&M University-	 Group Counseling Counseling Techniques 	 stress management
	Kingsville, 2011	• Community Rural	 career counseling multicultural issues
Faculty Advisor		Mental Health	
		Counseling • Leadership & Advocacy	
		in Rural Communities	
		Research in Counseling	
		 Multicultural Counseling Marriage and Family 	
		Counseling	
	Ph.D. in Counselor	Teaching full-time at	acculturation
Ya-Wen Melissa Liang	Education, Sam Houston State University (CACREP	TAMUK since 2016	 supervision sandtray therapy
Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC,	accredited program),	 Theories of Counseling Basic Sandtray Therapy 	•holistic mental wellness
Certified Humanistic	2015	• Advanced Sandtray	•Asian populations
Sandtray Therapist	ME.d. in Counseling,	Therapy	 social justice minorities
, ,	University of North Texas (CACREP accredited	 Diagnosis and Psychopharmacology 	 cancer support
Associate Professor	program), 2010	• Marriage, Couple, and	•COVID-19 wellness
	B.A. in English Literature,	Family Counseling	 multicultural counseling correctional counseling
CMHC Program Coordinator	Providence University,	 Field Practicum Assessment in 	•rural mental health
	Taiwan, 1995	Counseling	• college student success
Chapter Faculty	Business Administration,	 Research in Counseling 	 counseling specialty includes: dual
Advisor (CFA) of the	ChihLee 5-Year-College, Taiwan, 1992		diagnoses, anger
Chi Sigma Iota (CSI)			management,

Name & Position	Earn Degrees	Courses Taught in the	Research
		Program	Interests/Specialty
for the Tay Alpha		 Introduction to 	Areas addictions,
for the Tau Alpha		Counseling and Ethical	relationships, co-
Kappa Chapter		Practice	dependent
Core Faculty		• Leadership and	relationships, work
coreradaty		Advocacy in Rural Communities	stress, adjustment issues, CPS care,
Faculty Advisor		Multicultural Counseling	adjudicated youth,
		Group Counseling	adolescents, anxiety,
		TechniquesEthics and Legal Issues	bipolar, depression, family/couple/marriage
		• Counseling Techniques	counseling, caregiver
		• Career Counseling	stress, acculturation,
			PTSD, Alzheimer's
			issues
	Ph.D. in Counselor	Teaching full-time at TAMUK since 2024 with	• supervision
Evelyne K. Fitzgerald	Education, Sam Houston State University (CACREP	3 years of full-time	 play therapy wellness and self-care
Ph.D., LPC-S, RPT-S,	accredited program),	teaching experience in	in the prevention of
LCDC	2013	the counseling program	vicarious trauma in
	M.Ed in Counseling, Sam	 Internship 	counselors-in-training
Clinical Assistant	Houston State University. 1997	Human Growth and Dovelopment	
Professor		Development • Introduction to	
	B.A. in Psychology, University of Houston,	Counseling and Ethical	
Practicum/Internship Coordinator	1992	Practice	
Coordinator		 Addictions Counseling 	
Core Faculty			
Faculty Advisor			
	Ph.D. in Counselor	Teaching full-time at	 non-traditional
Karen L Furgerson	Education, University of	TAMUK from 2000 to	students
-	Alabama, 1995	2024	•domestic violence
Ph.D., LPC-S, CSC	M.S. in Counseling and	 School Counseling 	 service-based learning multicultural counseling
Adiment Fearily	Guidance, Jacksonville	TechniquesProgram Development	
Adjunct Faculty	State University, 1988	for School Counselors	
	B.S. in Education, Jacksonville State	Multicultural Counseling	
	University, 1978	Research in Counseling	
		 Intro to Counseling & Ethical Practice 	
		• Theories of Counseling	
		 Counseling Techniques 	
		 Ethics & Legal Issues Abnormal Behavior 	
		Group Counseling	
		•Assessment	

Name & Position	Earn Degrees	Courses Taught in the	Research
	Latti Degrees	Program	Interests/Specialty Areas
		 Human Growth & Development Career Counseling Field Practicum Crisis Counseling 	
Mary Nichter Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT-S, CSC Adjunct Faculty	 Ph.D. in Marriage & Family Therapy, Texas Woman's University, 1992 M.S., Counseling and Guidance, University of Houston Clear Lake City, 1982 B.S. in Elementary and Early Childhood Education, minor in Special Education, University of Houston - University Park, 1975 General Studies, San Jacinto Jr. College 1972 	Teaching as adjunct faculty at TAMUK since 2024 with 20+ years of full-time teaching experience in counseling programs • Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling • Intro to Counseling and Ethical Practice	 strengths-based counseling positive psvchology and strengths-based supervision marriage & family therapy
Kimberly McGough Ph.D., LPC, CSC Adjunct Faculty	 Ph.D. in Counselor Education, Sam Houston State University (CACREP accredited program), 2015 M.S. in Education (School Counseling), University of Houston Clear Lake, Houston, 2003 B.A. in History, University of Houston, 1996 	Teaching as adjunct faculty at TAMUK since 2024 with 8 years of full- time teaching experience in the counseling program • Field Practicum for School Counselors	 suicide prevention in schools at-risk student population academic success school counselors and practitioners supervision counseling assessment and self-awareness online education
Lorena Albarran- RosenBaum Ph.D., LPC-S Adjunct Faculty	Ph.D. in Counselor Education, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (CACREP accredited program), 2015 M.S. Counseling, Texas A&M University- Kingsville, 2012 B.S. in Exercise Science, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 2011	Teaching as adjunct faculty at TAMUK since 2015 • Field Practicum • Internship • Research in Counseling • Intro to Counseling & Ethical Practice • Theories of Counseling • Counseling Techniques • Ethics & Legal Issues • Abnormal Behavior • Group Counseling Techniques	 at-risk youth , adults, and rural communities motivational interviewing wellness retention and advocacy

Name & Position	Earn Degrees	Courses Taught in the Program	Research Interests/Specialty Areas
Cecilia Guyton EdD., LPC, LMHC-QS (FL)	Ed.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision, Argosy University (CACREP accredited program), 2016	 Assessment in Counseling Human Growth & Development Community Rural Mental Health Counseling Leadership & Advocacy in Rural Communities Career Counseling Crisis Counseling Addictions Counseling Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling Teaching as adjunct faculty at TAMUK since 2024 with 5 years of full- time teaching experience in the counseling programs 	 clinical supervision disabilities cultural competencies
Adjunct Faculty	M.A. in Professional Mental Health Counseling, Webster University, 2006 B.A. in Sociology, The University of Florida,	 Counseling Techniques 	
Linda Hart Ph.D., LPC-S, RPT-S, CSC Adjunct Faculty	2002 Ph.D. in Counselor Education, Sam Houston State University (CACREP accredited program), 2017 M.S. in Counseling, University of Houston Clear Lake, 2009 B.S. in Behavioral Science/Psychology, University of Houston Clear Lake, 2004	Teaching as adjunct faculty at TAMUK since 2024 with 4 years of full- time teaching experience in the counseling program • Crisis Counseling • Abnormal Human Behavior • Addictions Counseling • Diagnosis and Psychopharmacology	 Crisis response counseling resilience of students affected by school shootings
Baylea Wagener Cramer Ph.D., LPC-S Adjunct Faculty	Ph.D. in Counselor Education, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (CACREP accredited program), 2018 M.S. Counseling and Guidance, Texas A&M	Teaching as adjunct faculty at TAMUK since 2020 • Counseling Techniques • Intro to Counseling & Ethical Practice • Internship • Field Practicum	 posttraumatic growth trauma complex trauma client outcome-based research practice-based evidence

Name & Position	Earn Degrees	Courses Taught in the Program	Research Interests/Specialty Areas
	University- Kingsville, 2014 B.A. in Psychology, University of Houston – Victoria, 2011	 Research in Counseling Group Counseling Techniques Substance Abuse Counseling 	
Jacquelyn Schuster Ph.D., LPC, CSC, NCC Adjunct Faculty	 Ph.D. in Counselor Education, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (CACREP accredited program), 2022 M.S. in Counseling, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (CACREP accredited program), 2018 B.S in Mathematics, University of Texas at Austin, 2011 	Teaching as adjunct faculty at TAMUK since 2024 • Human Growth and Development • Intro to Counseling and Ethical Practice • Internship	 advocacy for professional school counselors wellness, mindfulness, children and adolescents military-connected students
Audrey Zatopek PhD. LPC-S, LCDC, NCC Adjunct Faculty	Ph.D. in Counselor Education, Texas Tech University (CACREP), 2024 M.A. in Counseling, Houston Graduate School of Theology, 2015 B.A. in Psychology with a Minor in Spanish, University of Texas at Austin, 2013	Teaching as adjunct faculty at TAMUK since 2024 •Career Counseling •Research in Counseling •Assessment in Counseling	 addictions counselor education trauma and dissociation, and co- and multi-morbidity counseling specialty includes: addictions and substance abuse, Christian counseling, chronic illness and pain, mood disorders, phase of life issues, psychosis, suicide, self-harm ideation, trauma, abuse, and dissociation

Degree Plan

M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (EDCM) Degree Plan

Department of Educational Leadership & Counseling, Texas A&M University

– Kingsville

Clinical Mental Health Counseling (60 Hours, CACREP-accredited)
 CMHC 60 Hours with School Counseling emphasis
 CMHC 60 Hours with Rural Mental Health emphasis

CMHC 60 Hours with Sandtray Therapy emphasis

	Revised Plan	🗆 Final Plan	Date:	
Name:	Student ID #			
Address:	City:		State:	Zip Code:
Phone (Home)	:	Work:		
Student Email		_	Personal Email:	_

MAJOR: Counseling Core (54 credit hours) and Elective Courses (6 credit hours)

Semester	Core Requirements (54 Hours, 18 courses)	Semester	Emphasis/Elective Courses (6 Hours, Only 2
Year		Year	elective courses are required)
			You are welcome to take over 2 electives.
			Summer Electives are 5 weeks in length.
			Spring & Fall Electives are 16 weeks in length.
	EDCG 5310 Intro to Counseling and Ethical Practice (3)		EDCG 5358 School Counseling Techniques -
			Summer only
	EDCG 5311 Theories of Counseling (3)		EDCG 5354 Program Development for
			School Counselors - Summer only
	EDCG 5339 Human Growth & Development (3)		EDCG 5360 Community/Rural Mental
	EDCG 5312 Counseling Techniques (3)		Health Counseling (RMH emphasis)
	EDCG 5315 Ethics and Legal Issues (3)		EDCG 5362 Leadership & Advocacy in
	EDCG 5324 Assessment in Counseling (3)		Rural Communities (RMH emphasis)
	EDCG 5347 Multicultural Counseling (3)		EDCG 5343 Basic Sandtray therapy (Sandtray
	EDCG 5323 Group Counseling Techniques		Therapy emphasis) - Summer I only
	EDCG 5329 Research in Counseling		EDCG 5344 Advanced Sandtray Therapy
	EDCG 5321 Abnormal Human Behavior (3)		(Sanstray Therapy emphasis) - Summer II only
	EDCG 5345 Diagnosis & Psychopharmacology (3)		EDCG 5341 Sp. Topics:
	EDCG 5357 Field Practicum for Counselors (3)		
	EDCG 5350 Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling (3)		EDCG 5341 Sp. Topics:
	EDCG 5355 Career Counseling (3)]	
	EDCG 5366 Internship I (3) Fall & Spring Only		
	EDCG 5322 Addictions Counseling (3)		
	EDCG 5364 Crisis Counseling (3)		
	EDCG 5368 Internship II (3) Fall & Spring Only		

Sixty (60) semester hours must be completed for LPC licensure. The student needs to submit page 5 of the Practicum Application form to the Practicum/Internship Coordinator to seek approval before enrolling in the Practicum class. The student needs to pass the comprehensive exam (offered during the semester of taking Practicum course) before graduation. If not passing, the student has the 2nd opportunity to pass it while taking Internship I and the 3rd opportunity to pass it while taking Internship II.

A master's degree student must complete all requirements within seven years of initial registration for that degree.

All work must be coordinated through the advisor.

All "I" grades must be removed within 12 months.

Independent Study requests must meet strict guidelines for approval.

Advisor's Signature

Student's Signature

Course Requirements and Prerequisites

Students are required to complete EDCG 5310 (Professional Development and Ethics) and EDCG 5311 (Theories of Counseling) in the first semester of the program.

Course		Prerequisites
EDCG 5323	Group Counseling Techniques	EDCG 5310, EDCG 5311, EDCG 5312
EDCG 5344	Advanced Sandtray Therapy	EDCG 5343 Basic Sandtray therapy
EDCG 5357	Practicum	Completion of at least 24 credit hours
EDCG 5366	Internship I	EDCG 5357 Practicum
EDCG 5368	Internship II	EDCG 5366 Internship I

Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disability. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early as possible in the term at (361) 593-3024. DRC is located in the Student Health and Wellness building at 1210 N. Retama St. Refer to the

https://www.tamuk.edu/dean/dean_files/studenthandbook.pdf

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to read, understand, and abide by the University's policy on Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Procedures. The policy is published in the *Student Handbook* <u>Policy</u>, <u>Rules and Procedures | Texas A&M University Kingsville (tamuk.edu)</u>.

Academic Misconduct

You are expected to adhere to the highest academic standards of behavior and personal conduct in this course and all other courses. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures. Make sure you are familiar with the *TAMUK Student Handbook* (https://www.tamuk.edu/dean/dean_files/studenthandbook.pdf), especially *Section 10: Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Procedures* and *Section 11: Nonacademic Misconduct Disciplinary Procedures*. You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Please make certain that you are familiar with the *TAMUK Student Handbook*, as students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to University disciplinary procedures. Forms of academic dishonesty include:

- 1. Cheating: deception in which the student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the professor on assignments or examinations.
- Aid of academic dishonesty: Intentionally facilitating any act of academic dishonesty. Tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
- 3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
- 4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation, and/or paraphrase of someone else's work, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism. Please be aware that the University subscribes to the Turnitin plagiarism detection service. Your paper may be submitted to this service at the discretion of the instructor.
- 5. Lying: deliberate falsification with the intent to deceive in written or verbal form as it applies to an academic submission.
- 6. Bribery: providing, offering or taking rewards in exchange for a grade, an assignment, or the aid of academic dishonesty.
- 7. Threat: an attempt to intimidate a student, staff or faculty member for the purpose of receiving an unearned grade or in an effort to prevent reporting of an Honor Code violation.

Please be aware that the University subscribes to the Turnitin plagiarism detection service. Your paper may be submitted to this service at the discretion of the instructor.

Other Forms of Academic Misconduct Included But Are Not Limited To:

- 1. Failure to follow published departmental guidelines, professor's syllabi, and other posted academic policies in place for the orderly and efficient instruction of classes, including laboratories, and use of academic resource or equipment.
- 2. Unauthorized possession of examinations, reserved library materials, laboratory materials or other course related materials.
- 3. Failure to follow the instructor or proctor's test-taking instructions, including but not limited to not setting aside notes, books or study guides while the test is in progress, failing to sit in designated locations and/or leaving the classroom/test site without permission during a test.
- 4. Prevention of the convening, continuation or orderly conduct of any class, lab or class activity. Engaging in conduct that interferes with or disrupts university teaching, research or class activities such as making loud and distracting noises, repeatedly answering cell phones/text messaging or allowing pagers to beep, exhibiting erratic or irrational behavior, persisting in speaking without being recognized, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom or test site without authorization, and making physical threats or verbal insults to the faculty member, or other students and staff.
- 5. Falsification of student transcript or other academic records; or unauthorized access to academic computer records.

- 6. Nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications of other university records.
- 7. Any action which may be deemed as unprofessional or inappropriate in the professional community of the discipline being studied.

Nonacademic Misconduct Disciplinary Procedures

An individual engaging in disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures. Ongoing behaviors or single behaviors considered distracting (e.g., coming late to class, performing a repetitive act that is annoying, sleeping or reading a newspaper in class, etc.) will be addressed by the faculty member initially either generally or individually. Cases in which such annoying behavior becomes excessive and the student refuses to respond to the faculty member's efforts can be referred to the Dean of Students. In the case of seriously disruptive behavior in a classroom, the instructor may first request compliance from the student and if it is not received, an instructor has the authority to ask the student to leave the classroom. If the student fails to leave after being directed to do so, assistance may be obtained from other university personnel, including the University Police Department. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior is subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students procedures to determine if the student should be allowed to return to the classroom.

Harassment and Discrimination

Texas A&M University-Kingsville does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, gender, gender identify or sexual orientation (or any other illegal basis) and investigative processes are available for any reports that indicate sexual harassment, sex-based misconduct, harassment, or discrimination may have occurred by a respondent that has enrolled at or is employed with the university. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking based on sex are types of sex discrimination. Such sexual misconduct is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. A person who believes they have been the victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking based on sex or unlawful discrimination of a protected class may pursue either the informal or the formal complaint resolution processes. Reports may be initiated with the Office of Compliance at (361) 593-4758, with the complainant's immediate supervisor, a department head, a supervisory employee, any faculty or staff, or the Dean of Students at (361) 593-3606. Regardless of who the incident is reported to, the Compliance Office will be notified of the report so that they can reach out to the complainant to discuss supportive measures and administrative processes that may be available.

Please note, all faculty and staff are mandated reporters, except for counselors at Student Health and Wellness. Counselors at Student Health and Wellness are confidential reporters and will not disclose any identifiable information regarding an incident that is made known to them. However, they may be able to provide information on where supportive measures can be obtained and administrative processes initiated. A mandated reporter (any faculty and staff) is required to report any incident that is made known to them, while they are working within their job description, to the Office of Compliance, Lewis Hall, Suite 130, 361-593-4758, <u>titleix@tamuk.edu</u>. This includes incidents that have occurred on or off-campus. For those who wish to remain anonymous and are not reporting a mandated report, anonymous reporting is available at <u>https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/19681/index.html</u>.

Six-drop Policy

The following provision does not apply to students with Texas public college or university credits prior to Fall 2007. The Texas Senate Bill 1231 specifies the number of course drops allowed to a student without penalty. After a student has dropped six courses, a grade of QF will normally be recorded for each subsequent drop. Additional information on Senate Bill 1231 is available at the Registrar's Office at (361) 593-2811 and at Academic Procedure: Drop Policy.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disability. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early as possible in the term at (361) 593-3024. DRC is located in the Student Health and Wellness building at 1210 N. Retama St.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Protocols

Please refer to the syllabus for "AI" writing tools.

Prohibited use of AI tools

Al tools (such as ChatGPT) are not permitted for any stage or phase of work in this particular class. If you use these tools, your actions will be considered a violation of the University's academic misconduct policy and may lead to disciplinary procedures.

Limited use of AI tools

During this class, there may be opportunities to make use of AI tools (such as ChatGPT). You will be informed as to when, where, and how these tools are permitted, along with guidance for attribution. Any use outside of this permission will be considered a violation of the University's academic misconduct policy and may lead to disciplinary procedures.

Broad use of AI tools

Al tools (such as ChatGPT) are welcome in this class, provided that you properly cite when and how you use the tool. Using an Al tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies

as a violation of the University's academic misconduct policy and may lead to disciplinary procedures.

Matriculation Requirements

Academic Standing Policy

A minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required in the approved degree plan for the graduate program or graduate certificate after Fall 2024. Grades of "*C*", "*D*", or "*F*" earned after Fall 2024 do not apply toward a graduate degree. A final course grade of "*C*" earned at TAMUK before Summer 2024 is accepted toward a graduate degree. Courses may be repeated for credit, in which case the last grade of the record is the official grade.

Grades

Only grades of "A" or "B" will be accepted toward this degree beginning Fall 2024. A final course grade of "C" earned at TAMUK before Summer 2024 is accepted toward a graduate degree. Candidates for the Master of Science degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling must earn a minimum of 60 semester credit hours and maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0. A grade point average of 3.0 or better on all graduate work on the approved degree plan, is required for graduation. If a course is retaken, the last grade will be counted toward graduation and computation of the overall grade point average. A course in which an "F" is received is considered a course completed and the course must be retaken at the same institution.

Comprehension Exam

Students must demonstrate proficiency in counseling knowledge by passing the comprehensive exam. Students must complete and pass the comprehensive exam before applying for graduation. Students are required to register and take the comprehensive exam during the semester that they take practicum and will have two more attempts to pass the exam during their internship I and II semesters. Registration instructions are sent out to all students taking practicum and those who need to retake the exam during their internships. The examination covers the following eight content areas corresponding to the associated courses in our program: 1) human growth and development-EDCG 5339, 2) social and cultural diversity-EDCG 5347, 3) helping relationships-EDCG 5311 & EDCG 5312, 4) group work-EDCG 5323, 5) career development-EDCG 5355, 6) assessment-EDCG 5324, 7) research and program evaluation-EDCG 5329, and 8) professional orientation and ethical practice-EDCG 5310 & EDCG 5315.

Course Longevity

A master's degree student must complete all requirements for each specific graduate degree within seven years of initial registration for that degree. Graduate credits older than those stipulated are not applicable toward a graduate degree without written approval from the Graduate Dean.

Repetition of a Course

If a student repeats a course that may not be taken for additional credit, it is the policy of the university to count as part of a student's cumulative grade point average only the last grade received in the course, whether passing or failing, other than a grade of *Q*. However, for purposes of grade point average calculation on coursework for graduation, grades stand as recorded unless the same course is repeated at this university.

Students who have received their first bachelor's degree cannot repeat courses that were used to earn the first degree for purposes of grade point average calculation.

It is the responsibility of the student, after repeating a course, to file a special request form in the Office of the Registrar, so that the adjustment in the grade point average, when applicable, can be entered on the permanent record.

Withdrawing from a Class

After mid-semester, dropping courses are not recommended unless there are extenuating circumstances. Your course instructor has the option of assigning you a "Q" or even an "F", so be sure that dropping the class is the best decision. In some cases, you may be able to obtain an "Incomplete" if some unexpected emergency or illness prevents you from completing the final requirements of the course, but you will have to complete those requirements soon thereafter.

Once you have made the decision to drop and have made arrangements with your course instructor, you will need to visit with your faculty advisor and complete a drop form. Both the course instructor and your faculty advisor will need to sign the form. The Office of the Registrar will then process your drop request.

Important Note: if you have obtained funding through the Financial Aid Department, and register for a class but then fail to attend, you will be "flagged" by the university and required to pay back your funding.

Withdrawing from the University

Sometimes life brings the unexpected. If it becomes necessary for you to drop all of your classes during the semester, you must notify the Office of the Registrar and process a Withdrawal Form. If the withdrawal is before the mid semester point, then you will automatically receive a grade of "Q" in each course. If you do not process the withdrawal, you will receive a grade of F in each course, so take the time to do it right. Those grades will follow you around forever.

Expectations of Students

A graduate student must exhibit a normal and reasonable rate of scholastic progress. If in the opinion of the student's committee and the graduate dean, the student has made an unsatisfactory rate of progress, the student may be dismissed from a specific program, even with a grade record that falls within guidelines.

Enrollment in this Master's degree of Science in CMHC program is limited to graduate students who are preparing for licensed Professional Counselors and/or School Counselors; thus, class participation is expected as just one component of professional responsibility. All students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. At all times, students are expected to demonstrate personal characteristics consistent with the characteristics of professional counselors and engage in ethical behavior as defined in the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics and Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors Rules.

As future counselors, students will always demonstrate their professionalism. If a student misses more than four classes of any courses, the student will automatically lose one letter final grade for the course. If students would like to appeal the loss of a letter grade, students must provide an explanation and proof associated with all absences and the case will be presented to the general faculty for consideration.

Students are expected to earn a grade of "B" or above after Fall 2024 and a grade of "C" or above before Summer 2024 to pass all 60 credit hours courses and achieve the academic requirements to earn a Master's degree of Science in CMHC. Students are expected to demonstrate an attitude of reflection and thoughtfulness about professional growth and instructions, including the following:

- 1. Students completing the program will demonstrate an understanding of students' development including diversity and student achievement.
 - a. Students will review and be able to classify, distinguish, explain, and demonstrate knowledge of diversity and multiculturalism.
 - b. Students will demonstrate an understanding of student development based on theoretical knowledge of development and counseling techniques.
- 2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of planning, implementing, and evaluating a developmental CMHC program as well as providing effective counseling services and student assessments.
- 3. Students will demonstrate competency in collaboration with parents, schools, and communities and applications of appropriate ethical standards and decision-making strategies
- 4. Students completing the program will demonstrate an understanding of and ability to evaluate research, critique research articles, and present research proposals.

Liability Awareness

Students taking clinical courses, such as but not limited to Group Counseling, Practicum, and Internship courses, as helping professionals must have their own adequate liability coverage for themselves during the training period. Texas A&M University Kingsville does not provide legal protection for students in the event of legal problems arising in the Group Counseling, Sandtray Therapy, Practicum, or Internship settings. Students must have a liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 incident/\$1,000,000 aggregate when taking group counseling, practicum, and internship courses. Students in training will choose their own insuring company. Sources that will ensure students include:

- ACA Insurance Trust, Inc. <u>www.hpso.com</u>
- Texas Counseling Association <u>www.txca.org</u>
- Healthcare Providers Service Organization (HPSO) www.hpso.com

Appropriate Dress and Conduct

Students in clinical classes, such as Group Counseling, Sandtray Therapy, Practicum, and Internship should dress appropriately at the counseling clinic, counseling center, and their sites while seeing clients. Students should use discretion in maintaining an appropriate dress.

Academic Appeal Policy

After being reported to the Registrar, grades other than "I" may not be changed unless an error has been made by the instructor. Students should review their end-of-semester final grades closely to ensure accuracy. If an error or discrepancy should occur, the student should contact the course instructor and the Office of the Registrar immediately for the resolution of the discrepancy. It is recommended that those changes occur no later than the beginning of the next semester. Under no circumstances will grades be changed after one calendar year. Additional information is available in Section 19: Final Grade Appeal Process of the TAMUK Student Handbook (https://www.tamuk.edu/dean/dean_files/studenthandbook.pdf).

Policies Retention, Remediation, and Dismissal from the Program

Retention and Remediation

The retention policy is consistent with institutional due process policies and the counseling profession's ethical codes and standards of practice. A student may be advised to consider another major at any point after achieving admission into the program based on the program faculty's assessment of the student's performance and/or professional performance and suitability for the counseling profession. Students must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average overall. All students who struggle with the above policy would meet with the course instructor and/or faculty advisor to discuss the procedure and policy. When students struggle to meet academic or skill development expectations, engage in unethical behavior or are involved in an unethical situation, the program has a number of options for responding to the situation. These include, but are not limited to: (a) the requirement of additional supervision before assigning a passing grade, (b) requiring an additional study of ethics, and/or other assignments deemed appropriate by the faculty, (c) placing the student on program probation, or, (d) in extreme instances, dismissal from a course and/or the program. University disciplinary proceedings will be in accordance with procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and our university policy. However, our goal is to make sure we provide adequate training and remediation (if necessary) in counseling skills and ethical understanding, not to punish students for making a mistake. Through the formal process of student evaluation, faculty might determine that additional support or disciplinary action is needed for a student to progress. If

this occurs, a written remediation plan is implemented. The remediation plan is coordinated by both the student's faculty advisor and course instructor and is developed in consultation with other faculty and, as appropriate, other clinical supervisors.

Probation and Dismissal

A graduate student who fails to achieve and maintain an overall 3.0 grade point average during any semester of enrollment will be placed on academic probation. A student who fails to achieve a 3.0 overall grade point average by the end of the next semester of enrollment will be placed on academic suspension. After the academic suspension is served, the student may not return to the program or may re-enroll only upon the approval of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Failure to achieve an overall 3.0 grade point average during any subsequent semester of enrollment will result in dismissal, and the student will not be allowed to pursue further study in the program. Courses taken from other institutions will not be transferable if taken during a period of suspension from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Students on academic suspension from another institution will not be admitted to Texas A&M University-Kingsville until their specific period of suspension expires. Students who fail to meet the professional expectations of the field for which they are preparing may be suspended from further study in that program by the department administering that program.

In addition to the appraisal of graduate student GAP, students' academic performance, ethical behaviors, counselor development, and clinical performance are assessed throughout courses in the Counseling program by the program faculty and site supervisor(s). The Counseling program faculty and site supervisor(s) serve as gatekeepers to ensure students' counseling competency for delivering professional counseling services and protecting client welfare. If any behaviors or dispositions hamper the student's academic performance, clinical skill development, or professional counselor identity, the assigned faculty advisor, course instructor, site supervisor, practicum/internship coordinator, or program coordinator can request to meet with the student to discuss dispositions. Faculty and/or the site supervisor are responsible for working with the student to facilitate a development plan to help the student overcome academic, clinical, or ethical challenges. The student and the faculty advisor, course instructor, site supervisor, practicum/internship coordinator, or program coordinator should both sign on the agreed development plan. Students are responsible for enhancing the area(s) of growth or conquering professional impairment within the agreed time frame.

Reinstatement

The graduate student who is dismissed for any reason may request reinstatement through the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The student will be screened by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies in consultation with the program coordinator from the academic area in which the student desires to study.

Graduation

Filing for Graduation

The candidate must file for graduation in the Office of the College of Graduate Studies. It is the student's responsibility to submit to the Office of the Registrar the proper documentation showing the completion. Graduate degree candidates must obtain clearance and complete a Degree Candidacy form at the Graduate Office. Clearance to graduate follows the recommendation by the official graduate coordinator/faculty advisor(s) and Department Chairperson to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Students may apply for candidacy with the graduate dean six months in advance of the day of graduation by presenting a signed, final degree plan.

Application and all required forms are posted on the College of Graduate Studies website: <u>Graduation Information | Texas A&M University Kingsville (tamuk.edu)</u>

A student must be in good standing with the College of Graduate Studies in order to complete graduation requirements within seven years of initial registration.

Steps for Completion of Graduation

<u>Step 1. Meet with your Program Faculty Advisor.</u> <u>https://www.tamuk.edu/education/departments/counseling/advising.html</u>

To ensure your success in meeting graduation requirements, you must meet with your advisor PRIOR to applying for graduation. If you are receiving two degrees from two different colleges, you must meet with both advisors.

Step 2. Application for Graduation

After reviewing your final degree plan with your faculty advisor, you may complete the online application for graduation. <u>Graduation Application Guide</u>

Step 3. Review Information

Review the information on your application regarding commencement.

- Need a Name Change? Contact the Office of the Registrar prior to the deadline.
- Need a Major, Minor, and/or Concentration Change? Contact your Advisor.
- Need a Diploma Address Update? Make changes via Blue and Gold through <u>JNET</u>.

Conditions Applicable to Graduate Degrees

Final Degree Plan

Once a final degree plan in Degree Works has been submitted to the Office of the Registrar for candidacy check-out, the final degree plan cannot be changed during the semester of candidacy without the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies' review and written permission.

Comprehensive Examination

Each graduate student must demonstrate proficiency in the major subject (and supporting field area if it includes nine semester hours or more) by passing the comprehensive exam approved by the appropriate graduate coordinator(s) and administered by the student's program committee. Students are encouraged to take their first comprehensive examination during their first semester of practicum class.

Application for Degree

Graduate degrees are conferred at the close of each regular semester and second summer session. Candidates for advanced degrees who expect to complete their work must first seek approval from their faculty academic adviser and then program coordinator to apply for graduation with the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, submit a final degree plan/transcript, and complete an application for candidacy in the Office of the Registrar. It is the student's responsibility to be informed and meet graduation deadlines which are published in the Academic Calendar in an earlier section of this Catalog and in the Class Schedule each semester. A student cannot graduate with an *I*, *S*, *U*, or *F* notation on their academic record in the last semester prior to graduation.

Commencement

The degree is conferred at the commencement following the fulfillment of all requirements. The candidate is expected to be present.

Credentialing

The introduction of procedures regarding credentialing is introduced in the practicum class and again in the internship I and II classes. A student who graduates from this program will be eligible to apply for an LPC Associate and/or School Counselor. In Texas, certification is required to counsel in the public school; licensure is required to counsel outside the public school or religious setting. The applicant with a criminal history who seeks professional credentials should contact the appropriate Board prior to enrollment in the program to determine eligibility for certification and/or licensure.

- The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) for School Counselors: <u>https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/leadership/state-board-for-educator-certification</u>
- Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors: <u>https://bhec.texas.gov/texas-state-board-of-examiners-of-professional-counselors/</u>
- National Board for Certified Counselors: <u>https://nbcc.org/</u>

LPC Associate and LPC

During the practicum and internship classes, students are introduced that a license is needed to work as a counselor in Texas. Licenses are granted by the State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors. To qualify to become a licensed professional counselor in Texas, the following must be met:

- An applicant must pass the National Counseling Exam (NCE) or National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Exam (NCMHCE)
 - <u>https://www.nbcc.org/exams/nce</u>
 - <u>https://www.nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce</u>
- An applicant must complete the Texas Jurisprudence Exam at https://www.dshs.texas.gov/counselor/lpc_jurisprudence.shtm
- An LPC Associate applicant must obtain a graduate degree in counseling from an accredited school meeting the credit limit.
- An LPC Associate must meet supervised clinical experience requirements of 3,000 hours of postgraduate professional counseling, 50% of which must involve direct client contacts. This must also include a minimum of four hours of supervision per month and be completed in not less than 18 months.

National Counselor Exam/National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Exam

Taking the NCE or NCMHCE is not required for graduation from our CMHC program. See a full list of study guide materials at <u>https://www.nbcc.org/exams/examprep</u> Both the NCE and NCMHCE cover the following content areas:

- Human growth and development
- Social and cultural diversity
- Helping relationships
- Group work
- Career development
- Assessment
- Research and program evaluation
- Professional orientation and ethical practice

Credentialing Endorsement Policy

Students in the Counseling program are responsible for presenting and preserving proof of clinical documentation including direct client hours, indirect hours, supervision hours, accumulated experiences, client contacts, professional services, liability insurance, site supervisor credentialing, site supervisor contact information, site supervisor training, and other required training. Students who offer telehealth counseling under the supervision of the site supervisor(s) are required to present and preserve proof of completion of telehealth services. Clinical documentation is required for all clinical courses such as group counseling, practicum, and internship courses. All direct client hours with the specified dates are required to be endorsed by the site supervisor(s) and the student. Faculty cannot verify clinical experience without clinical records. The TAMUK Counseling program is not responsible for keeping records of student clinical documentation beyond graduation except for verifying the official transcript. Students are responsible for maintaining proof of all clinical documentation beyond graduation to meet the state licensure application requirements or other jurisdictions.

Upon the request from the licensing board and written authorization from the student or graduate, the practicum/internship coordinator will verify the completion of training and required clinical hours. The clinical verification/endorsement letter/form will be signed by the practicum/internship coordinator and sent to the licensing board upon the request of the licensing board and written authorization from the student. Students can order the official transcript via the Office of the Registrar

[https://www.tamuk.edu/registrar/RGAD_RESOURCES/Transcripts.html].

Employment

Employment Endorsement Policy

Upon the request from the potential employer and written authorization from the student or graduate, the Counseling program faculty can provide recommendations or evaluations for student employment. Faculty can request students to provide related endorsement documentation such as resumes, clinical documentation, completion of training, etc. Faculty are not responsible for the validity of the student's resume. Faculty cannot verify clinical experience without clinical records. Faculty can verify degree completion, academic performance, counselor identity, ethical behavior, professionalism, multicultural competency, interpersonal communications, peer interactions, clinical skill development, etc.

Employment Opportunities for Graduates

During the practicum and internship classes, students are introduced to employment opportunities.

Opportunities for counseling graduates include, but are not limited to:

- Private Practice
- Clinical Mental Health
- Rural Mental Health
- School Counseling Settings
- Sandtray Therapy
- State and federal prisons
- Correctional facilities
- Texas MHMR
- Psychiatric Hospitals
- Community Agency
- Non-profit Organization
- Addiction Counseling
- Career Counseling
- Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling
- Student Affairs
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- Crisis Counseling

- Residential Advising
- Case Management
- Child Protective Services
- VA Medical Hospitals
- Outpatient Clinics.

Professional Information

Professional Counseling Organizations

Counseling students are encouraged to affiliate with professional counseling organizations including, but not limited to the American Counseling Association (ACA) and Texas Counseling Association to enhance professional growth. Some organizations are listed as follows:

National Level	State Level
American Counseling Association (ACA)	Texas Counseling Association (TCA)
www.counseling.org	www.txca.org
Association for Assessment and Research in	Texas Association for Assessment in
Counseling (AARC)	Counseling (TAAC)
http://aarc-counseling.org	www.txca.org/tca/TAAC Home.asp
Association for Child and Adolescent	Texas Association for Adult Development &
Counseling (ACAC)	Aging (TAADA)
www.acachild.com	www.txca.org/tca/TAADA Home.asp?SnID=1
	<u>962583625</u>
Association for Adult Development & Aging	Texas College Counseling Association (TCCA)
(AADA)	www.txca.org/tca/TCCA_HOME.asp?SnID=19
www.aadaweb.org	<u>62583625</u>
American College Counseling Association	Texas Association for Counselor Education &
(ACCA)	Supervision
www.collegecounseling.org	<pre>www.txca.org/tca/TACES Home.asp?SnID=1</pre>
	<u>962583625</u>
Military and Government Counseling	Texas Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Association (MGCA)	and Transgender Issues in Counseling
http://acegonline.org	(TALGTBIC)
	www.txca.org/tca/TALGBTIC Home.asp?SnID
	=1962583625
Association for Counselor Education	Texas Association for Multicultural
&Supervision (ACES)	Counseling and Development (TexAMCD
www.acesonline.net	www.txca.org/tca/TEXAMCD_Home.asp
Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and	Texas Mental Health Counselors Association
Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGTBIC)	(TMHCA)
www.agblic.org	www.txca.org/tca/TMHCA_Home.asp?SnID=
	<u>1962583625</u>
Association for Multicultural Counseling and	Texas School Counselor Association (TSCA)
Development (AMCD)	www.txca.org/tca/TSCA_Home.asp?SnID=19
www.amcdaca.org American Mental Health Counselors	62583625
	Texas Counseling Association for Humanistic
Association (AMHCA)	Education and Development (T-AHEAD)
www.amhca.org	www.txca.org/tca/TAHEAD.asp?SnID=196258 3625
	5025

American Rehabilitation Counseling	Texas Counselors for Social Justice (TCSJ)
Association (ARCA) <u>www.arcaweb.org</u>	www.txca.org/tca/TXCSJ Home.asp
American School Counselor Association	Texas Association of Marriage and Family
(ASCA)	Counselors (TAMFC)
www.schoolcounselor.org	www.txca.org/tca/TAMFC_Home.asp?SnID=1
	962583625
Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and	
Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC)	
www.aservic.org	
Association for Specialists in Group Work	
(ASGW) <u>www.asgw.org</u>	
Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC)	
http://afhc.camp9.org	
Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ)	
http://counselorsforsocialjustice.com	
International Association of Addictions and	
Offender Counselors <u>www.iaaoc.org</u>	
International Association of Marriage and	
Family Counselors <u>www.iamfc.com</u>	
National Career Development Association	
(NCDA) http://ncda.org	
National Employment Counseling Association	
(NECA) www.employmentcounseling.org	

Opportunities for Professional Involvement and Appropriate Activities

Chi Sigma Iota International (CSI): <u>www.csi-net.org</u>

National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC): <u>www.nbcc.org</u>

American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy (AAMFT): www.amft.org

Texas Association for Marriage & Family Therapy (TAMFT): <u>www.tamft.org</u>

Association for Play Therapy (APT): <u>www.a4pt.org</u>

Texas Association for Play Therapy (TAPT): <u>http://txapt.org</u>

American Association of Christian Counselors: <u>www.aacc.net</u>

American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists: www.aasect.org

American College Personnel Association (ACPA): <u>www.myacpa.org</u>

Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC): <u>http://www.naadac.org</u>

Texas Association of Addiction Professionals (TAAP): <u>http://www.taap.org</u>

Humanistic Sandtray Therapy Institute: <u>https://humanisticsandtray.com/</u>

Sandtray Therapy Institute: <u>http://www.sandtraytherapyinstitute.com</u>

Center for Play Therapy Summer Institute: <u>http://cpt.unt.edu/training/cpt-annual-</u> <u>conferences/cpt-summer-institute</u>