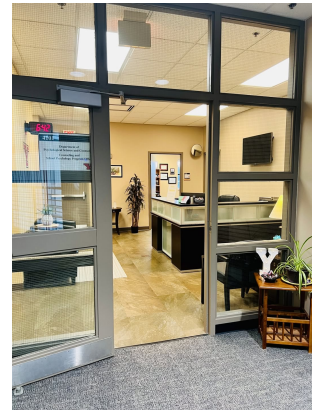


Counseling Program (M.S.Ed.)

Youngstown State University
Department of Psychological Sciences and Counseling
Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Science & Education



**Annual Report
2023-2024**

Submitted by Dr. Jake J. Protivnak, Counseling Program Director

YSU Counseling Program
Department of Psychological Sciences & Counseling
2023-2024 Annual Report
Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Summer 2024

The Counseling Program is located in the Department of Psychological Sciences and Counseling in the Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education (BCLASSE). The Counseling Program has four CACREP-accredited program tracks to prepare students for careers as professional clinical mental health counselors, school counselors, addiction counselors, college counselors and student affairs professionals.

Mission:

The Counseling Program equips students with knowledge and skills in specialized areas of counseling. Through innovative teaching, clinical supervision, a year-long community field experience and meeting CACREP-accreditation standards, we develop graduates to serve as counselors and related-professionals in addiction counseling, clinical mental health counseling, school counseling, college counseling and student affairs settings.

Vision:

Through teaching, scholarship, and service, the Counseling Program faculty envisions becoming a nationally renowned leader in the development of highly skilled counselors and related professionals that meet the needs of communities in Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. We aspire to cultivate graduates who provide evidenced based interventions to help individuals achieve their fullest potential.

Academic Focus:

Practical experiential activities are required of students to demonstrate skills from each course and the graduate program culminates with a yearlong 750-hour practicum/internship in the community. The Counseling Program continues to remain committed to its stated mission through ongoing accreditations by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The Counseling Program has full approval by the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapists Board, Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board, and the Ohio Department of Education. The Counseling Program engages in ongoing program development based on accrediting bodies' and licensure boards' developments and recommendations.

Student Centered:

Counseling faculty provide a learning climate that is open, accepting, intellectually honest, and professionally challenging for students. Program faculty directly advise and mentor students, to enhance students' learning experiences, to serve the community, the counseling profession, and consumers of counseling services. The Counseling Program manages a Community Counseling Clinic in which students are required to provide a semester of counseling to a variety of individuals in the community. The YSU Counseling Program maintains a chapter of the International Honor Society for Counselors (Chi Sigma Iota), and another student organization (SALSA) Student Affairs Leadership Support Association that provide additional opportunities for student engagement, professional development, community service, leadership, and recognition. Six Counseling Program scholarships are available for students as well as several Graduate Assistantships. Counseling faculty consistently receive strong teaching evaluations (and other awards recognizing teaching excellence). Current students/alumni often refer friends and family to the Counseling Program because of their positive experience.

Regional / State / National Needs:

There is a strong market demand for counselors as evidenced by an approximately 100% hiring rate of our Counseling Program graduates by community mental health centers, addiction counseling agencies, private practices, schools, and colleges who are actively seeking positions. Within the tri-state area, YSU is the only Counseling Program that offers four CACREP accredited program tracks (i.e., Addiction Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, College Counseling & Student Affairs). Remarkably, many of our Counseling Program interns are hired by their agency before they graduate. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), there continues to be a strong need for licensed professional clinical counselors, licensed school counselors, licensed/certified chemical dependency counselors, student affairs professionals, and workers in community and social service organizations. The Counseling field is expected to grow “much faster than average” for all occupations.

Community Impact:

2200+ master’s students have graduated from the Counseling Program since its inception in 1968. The Counseling Program maintains strong partnerships in high need urban and rural areas for field-based training resulting in strong connections with alumni, program supervisors, agencies, schools and community leaders. The Counseling Program has a history of a strong service to our community through the field placements of our interns, services delivered by our Community Counseling Clinic, and several contracts for Graduate Assistants working in local school districts and colleges. Each year, Counseling Program interns provide in sum an excess of 20,000 hours of counseling, advising, programming, and other duties to the community. Faculty also engage in the community through their collaborative participation in grants, research, program evaluation, and service on advisory boards for community agencies and our student organizations provide several hours of community service.

Highlights:

The Counseling Program faculty has consistently high research productivity, strong teaching evaluations, and service involvement on-campus, in the community, and within the profession (e.g., faculty and alumni have served as officers of national and state Counseling organizations). The Counseling Program was a recent recipient of the Outstanding Counselor Education Program Award from the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES). Alumni serve as practitioners, supervisors and administrators in counseling agencies, schools and universities in Northeast Ohio, Western Pennsylvania and across the nation. Most graduates pursue employment in the field of counseling and student affairs, however some chose to use their Counseling degree in other areas (e.g., current Mayor of the City of Youngstown, Jamael Tito Brown, is a program graduate). The Counseling Program has been a program of distinction at YSU due to the productivity of faculty and success of our alumni.

Counseling Program Descriptive Information

Counseling Program Leadership for 2023-2024:

- Graduate Program Director – Dr. Jake Protivnak
- Program Coordinators
 - Addiction / Clinical Mental Health Counseling – Dr. Victoria Kress
 - College Counseling & Student Affairs – Dr. Kristin Bruns
 - School Counseling – Dr. Emily Herman McMillan
- CACREP Coordinator – Dr. Victoria Kress

- Community Counseling Clinic Director – Dr. Victoria Kress
- Assessment Coordinator – Dr. Emily Herman McMillan
- Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) Coordinator – Dr. Jake Protivnak
- Student Organization Faculty Advisors:
 - Chi Sigma Iota, Eta Chapter – Dr. Jake Protivnak
 - SALSA – Dr. Kristin Bruns

Counseling Faculty Teaching in 2023-2024:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| • Christine Andujar | • Dr. Victoria Kress |
| • Dr. Kristin Bruns | • Anne Lally |
| • Angie Cameron | • Danielle Matos |
| • Dr. Justin Edwards | • R. J. Markowitz |
| • Tysa Egleton | • Alexis McAndrews |
| • Meghan Fawcett | • Jessica McRoberts |
| • Rick Fawcett | • Dr. Kenneth Miller |
| • Hillary Furhman | • Dr. Jake Protivnak |
| • Mykka Gabriel | • Sonya Thompkins |
| • Daniela Ghizzoni | • Dominic Venetti |
| • Dr. Emily Herman-McMillan | • Diana Wolf |
| • Carmella Hill | • Chris Yannon |
| • Joshua Hill | • Dr. Jen Yensel |
| • Erin Hungerman | • Kelly Younkins |
| • Jim Hyland | |
| • Alison Kaufman | |

New Faculty/Staff Hired in 2023-2024:

- Janette Koewacich, Department Academic Operations Specialist, effective September 2023
- Mykka Gabriel, Part-Time Counseling Faculty (doctoral intern), effective Fall 2023
- Alexis McAndrews, Part-Time Counseling Faculty, effective Spring 2024
- Christine Andujar, Part-Time Counseling Faculty, effective Spring 2024
- Kelly Younkins, Part-Time Counseling Faculty, effective Spring 2024

Departures of Faculty/Staff in 2023-2024:

- Dr. Kristin Bruns, Associate Professor and College Counseling & Student Affairs Program Coordinator (Core Faculty) resigned in August 2023.
- Dr. Emily Herman McMillan, Lecturer and School Counseling Program Coordinator (Core Faculty) resigned in August 2023.
- Amalia Kostantas, Dept. Admin. Assistant, transferred to YSU Penguin Service Center effective June 30, 2023.

Doctoral Intern (hired as PT Faculty) in 2023-2024:

- Mykka Gabriel, Counselor Education Doctoral Student at Kent State University

Counseling Program Facilities:

- Program Office (4th Floor Beeghly Hall)
- Faculty Offices & Classrooms (4th & 3rd Floor Beeghly Hall)
- Community Counseling Clinic (3rd Floor Beeghly Hall)

Counseling Program Online Information:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ysucoun>
- Twitter/X - https://twitter.com/ysu_coun
- Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/ysu_coun/
- Linked In - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/youngstown-state-university-counseling-program/>
- YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/@ysu_coun
- Website - <https://ysu.edu/academics/beeghly-college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/counseling-msed>
- YSU Graduate Catalog - <https://catalog.ysu.edu/graduate/graduate-programs/master-science-education-counseling/>

Counseling Program Assessment/Outcomes:

- Assessment Report - <https://ysu.edu/academics/beeghly-college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/counseling-msed>
- Student Outcomes - <https://ysu.edu/academics/beeghly-college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/counseling-msed>

Counseling Program Documents / Data:

- Physical files – 4th floor storage room, 3rd Floor storage closets
- Digital files – YSU Teams/One Drive (CACREP; Counseling Program, etc.)

Counseling Program Modifications or Substantial Changes in 2023-2024:

- Effective in the letter dated Aug. 7, 2023 - All four Counseling Program options (i.e., Addiction Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, College Counseling & Student Affairs, and School Counseling) were reaccredited through October 31, 2031.

Faculty Productivity in 2023-2024:

Review faculty pages which include a list of awards, intellectual contributions, professional service, and public service.

- Dr. Kristin Bruns - <https://ysu.edu/people/kristin-bruns>
- Dr. Emily Herman McMillan - <https://ysu.edu/people/emily-herman-mcmillan>
- Dr. Victoria Kress - <https://ysu.edu/people/victoria-kress>
- Dr. Kenneth Miller - <https://ysu.edu/people/kenneth-miller>
- Dr. Jake Protivnak - <https://ysu.edu/people/jake-protivnak>

Community Involvement:

- The **Counseling Program** and Eta Chapter CSI hosted a panel of YSU Counseling Program Alumni (i.e., Alex BuCher, Jessica Oates, Daniella Ghizzoni, Gloris Griffin, Carmella Hill, Kristyn Wolf) who discussed and answered questions regarding their experiences in the counseling profession in April 2024.
- **Community Advisory Board Members** from Addiction Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, and College Counseling & Student Affairs areas met in Beeghly Hall to connect with each other in April 2024. The faculty met in small groups with advisory board members by program area to learn how we can continue to adapt our Counseling Program to produce highly knowledgeable and skilled graduates to meet the needs of area agencies, schools, and institutions.

- **Counseling Program** had a table at the 1st annual Mental Health & Wellness Expo in May 2024 and at YSU Wellfest in October 2023.
- **Dr. Jake Protivnak** spoke at the YSU Physical Therapy ‘Walk with a Doc’ event at Southern Park Mall for Mental Health Awareness month - advocating to end stigma, engage in treatment, and extend support for individuals in the community in May 2024.

Student Honors & Awards - Examples

Student Recognition:

Counseling students and faculty were recognized that the Annual Student Awards banquet sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs, Student Activities, and Student Government Association (SGA) on Thursday, April 25, 2024 in Kilcawley Center.

- **Jordan Record**, College Counseling and Student Affairs program student, received the Edna K. McDonald Cultural Awareness Award recognizing an outstanding individual who has made a lasting contribution to encouraging and increasing awareness of cultural diversity.
- **William Horn**, Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling program student received the Martin T. "Marty" Manning Award, established by the SGA, is in honor of the late Dr. Marty Manning. The award is in recognition of the superior student mentoring.

Recipients of the 2024 Counseling Program Scholarships:

- Shaiyla Hakeem - Dr. Robert A. DiGiulio Scholarship
- Ronald Haines - Harvey Neal Kretzer Memorial Scholarship
- Dustin Lindeman - Dr. Lawrence DiRusso Scholarship in Counseling
- Nyasia Lewis - Dr. Lawrence DiRusso Scholarship in Counseling
- Aastha Singh - Charles H. Whitman Student Services Graduate Scholarship
- Gwen West - Catherine Wrynn and Kenneth P. Baker Graduate Scholarship

A combined \$26,370.37 in scholarship dollars were awarded to the Counseling Program students in 2024 through the six designated Counseling Program scholarships.

Students Inductions into Honor Society (Chi Sigma Iota):

32 Counseling Program graduate students inducted into Eta Chapter, Chi Sigma Iota, on Thursday, April 25th at the 39th Annual Induction Ceremony at YSU. Dr. Louisa Foss Kelly, President of Chi Sigma Iota-International and Professor in Counseling at Southern Connecticut State University was the special guest speaker.

The following students were inducted into the Counseling Honor Society: Lauren Batcho, Danielle Chasser, Olivia Ciminero, William Clark, Jeffrey Cosola, Senecca Fuller, Julia Getsy, Joel Gillespie, Megan Grams, Ara-Leah Hammann, Shaylyn Hawthorne, Amelina Herman, Alexandria Kriech, Dustin Lindeman, Tori Meloni, Macy Metzger, Heaven Miller, Hasim Muhammad, Tayrn Patterson, Jordan Record, Nathan Ritch, Katarina Rodriques, Amber Rothwell, Gabriella Sammarone, Kristin Shelley, Aastha Singh, Karah Taylor, A’Sha Thomas, Ashley Wagner, Adrian Waldron, Shelby Wellington, and Jay Young

Gabby Chapman, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program student, received the Eta Chapter CSI Outstanding Master's Student Award, and Jessica Oates, YSU Counseling Program Alumni (2006) and Owner of Insight Clinical Counseling and Wellness, received the Eta Chapter CSI Outstanding Practitioner Award. The new 2024-2025 Eta Chapter CSI Officers inducted were: President, William Horn; Vice-President, Karah Taylor; Secretary, Danielle Chasser; and Treasurer, Gabby Sammarone.

CSI focuses on increasing the knowledge/skills of Counseling students, recognizing outstanding achievement and advocating for the Counseling Profession. With highly skilled graduates and a strong profession, we can serve the needs of our communities. For more information about Chi Sigma Iota - contact, Eta Chapter President, William Horn wthorn@student.yzu.edu, Chapter Faculty Advisor, Dr. Jake Protivnak at jjprotivnak@yzu.edu or review the CSI website at www.csi-net.org

Eta Chapter, CSI Officers for 2023-2024:

President – Emily Stran
Vice-President – Emma Forner
Treasurer – Julia Carson
Secretary – William Horn

Eta Chapter, CSI Officers for 2024-2025:

President – William Horn
Vice-President – Kara Taylor
Treasurer – Gabby Sammarone
Secretary – Danielle Chasser

Student Affairs Leadership Support Association (SALSA):

A student organization with a focus on issue and events applicable to graduate students within the College Counseling and Student Affairs counseling program track.

SALSA Officers for 2023-2024:

- President – Erin Urbaniak
- Vice President: Veronica Erjavec
- Treasurer: Jordan Record
- Secretary: Aaron Scott

SALSA Officers for 2024-2025:

- President – Erin Urbaniak
- Vice President: Joel Straley
- Treasurer: Jordan Record
- Secretary: Oliver Roose

Counseling Program Graduates in 2023-2024

Summer 2024 - 18 Counseling Programs students received their master's degrees.

- Makayla Arcuragi
- Jasmine Black
- Sabastian Brown
- Julia Carson
- Marissa Cashbaugh
- Gabrielle Chapman
- Joaunn Egawa
- Quinlan Ferrier
- Emma Forner

- Julia Getsy
- Justine Knauf
- Jake Rubin
- Kiah Sartain
- Sharon Singletary
- Emily Stran
- Gina Tucker
- Benjamin Unger
- Maria Zinger

Spring 2024 - 9 Counseling Programs students received their master's degrees.

- Chase Chapman
- Veronica Erjavec
- Amelina Herman
- Denise Kuhlman
- Molly Leonard
- Alexis Levonayk
- Aaron Scott
- Beverly VanDyke
- Heather Willems

Fall 2023 - 9 Counseling Programs students received their master's degrees.

- Shae Cochran
- Hailie Durst
- Cassandra Frawley
- Courtney Lymber
- Karissa McIlltrot
- Riley Saunders
- Reanna Torres
- Shawna Umbrazun
- JoAnn Villanueva

Summer 2023 - 21 Counseling Programs students received their master's degrees.

- Lindsey Bates
- Michelle Carroll
- Anne D'Apolito
- Morgan Fisher
- Amy Friend
- Christina Gregory
- Alecia Hetrick
- Samantha Johnson
- Cierra Jones
- Deidre Kilpatrick
- Austin Klingensmith
- Lauren McFadden
- Shavone Palmer

- Madison Plesea
- Alexa Reider
- Amanda Salfatinos-Barger
- Bailey Salman
- Kyle Shaffer
- Lindsay Sinkovich
- Christina VacLav
- Mikayla Williams

Community Partnerships in 2023-2024 (examples)

Addiction Counseling & Clinical Mental Health Counseling (field placement sites)

- Akron Children’s Hospital
- Alta Behavioral Healthcare Group
- Applewood
- Cadence Care Network
- Child Guidance and Family Solutions
- Churchill Counseling
- Circle Health Services
- Community Counseling Center of Mercer County
- Compass Family and Community Services
- Comprehensive Behavioral Health
- Comprehensive Psychiatry
- Greentree Counseling Center
- Family and Community Services
- Human Services Center
- I Am Boundless
- Insight Clinical Counseling and Wellness
- Leading Lantern
- Mahoning County Juvenile Court
- Natura
- Ohio Mentor
- Preferred Care
- PsyCare
- Sharon Regional Medical Center
- Stepping Stones
- The Centers
- Travco
- Valley Counseling Services
- Youth Intensive Services
- Youngstown State University – Student Counseling Services

College Counseling & Student Affairs (field placement sites)

- American Scholar Group
- Youngstown State University

School Counseling (field placement sites)

- Champion
- Girard
- Jackson Milton
- Liberty High School
- Mahoning County Career & Technical Center
- Solon High School
- Warren City School District
- Western Reserve
- Youngstown City School District