Youngstown State University

Counseling Program (M.S.Ed.)

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

Addiction Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, College Counseling & Student Affairs; and
School Counseling (CACREP-Accredited Graduate Program Tracks)

Annual Review
2021-2022

Submitted by Dr. Jake J. Protivnak
Counseling Program Director
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 mission of the YSU Counseling Program is to educate students, and to help them develop into licensed professional counselors and related professionals who are sensitive to the impacts of human development, culture, and context upon students and consumers of counseling services - who are caring and compassionate counselors and people; who are self-reflective; who promote opportunity and social justice for the impoverished urban and rural populations; and, who are committed to empowering consumers of counseling services to thrive, and to 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 also another student organization (SALSA) Student Affairs Leadership Support Association that provide additional opportunities for student engagement, professional development, community service, leadership, and recognition. Four Counseling Program scholarships are available for students as well as a number of Graduate Assistants. 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 a 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 and 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:
Over 2100 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 a number of 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 a number of hours of community service each year.

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 have served as Presidents of 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:

- 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. Don Martin
- CACREP Coordinator – Dr. Victoria Kress
- Community Counseling Clinic Director – Dr. Victoria Kress
- Assessment Coordinator – Dr. Emily Herman McMillan
- Student Organization Advisors
  - Chi Sigma Iota, Eta Chapter – Dr. Jake Protivnak
  - SALSA – Dr. Kristin Bruns

Counseling Faculty (taught during 2021-2022):

- Kim Barrella
- Dr. Kristin Bruns
- Angie Cameron
- Dr. Justin Edwards
- Tysa Egleton
- Jim Evans
- Meghan Fawcett
- Rick Fawcett
- Hillary Furhman
- Daniela Ghizzoni
- Dr. Emily Herman-McMillan
- Mallory Hilinski
- Carmella Hill
- Jim Hyland
- Alison Kaufman
- Dr. Victoria Kress
- Anne Lally
- Stephanie Leonard
- Dr. Don Martin
- Danielle Matos
- Christy McAllister
- Jessica McRoberts
- Dr. Kenneth Miller
- Val Prevosnak
- Dr. Jake Protivnak
- Natalie Ricciutti
- Staci Tessmer
- Sonya Thompkins
- Stephanie Volpini-Hann
- Dr. Amy Williams
- Chelsey Zoldan

New Faculty/Staff for 2021-2022:

- Tysa Egleton, Part-Time Counseling Faculty, effective Fall 2021
- Amalia Kostantas, Dept. Admin. Assistant, effective July 1, 2021
- Dr. Emily Herman McMillan, Full-time Lecturer in Counseling (Core) effective Fall 2021.
- Mallory Hilinski, Part-Time Counseling Faculty, effective Fall 2021
- Erin Hungerman, Part-Time Counseling Faculty, effective Fall 2021
- Christie McAllister, Part-Time Counseling Faculty, effective Spring 2022
- Natalie Ricciutti, Part-Time Counseling Faculty, effective Spring 2022
Departures of Faculty/Staff in 2021-2022:
• Niki Cole, Dept. Admin. Assistant, transferred to another Department effective June 30, 2021.
• Jim Evans, Part-Time Counseling Faculty, retired from YSU in Dec. 2021.
• Dr. Natalie Ricciutti, Part-Time Counseling Faculty, accepted a full-time position at University of North Carolina - Charlotte.
• Dr. Amy Williams, Assistant Professor of Counseling (Core) resigned in Nov. 2021.

Selected 2022-2023 Applied for Doctoral Intern (hired as PT Faculty):
• Kübra Civan, Doctoral Student at Ohio 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 - https://twitter.com/ysu_coun
• Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/ysu_coun/
• Linked In - https://www.linkedin.com/company/youngstown-state-university-counseling-program/
• 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:
• Student Outcomes - https://ysu.edu/academics/beeghly-college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/counseling-msed
• Program Data (YSU Office of Institutional Research and Analytics) - https://ysu.edu/institutional-research-and-analytics/campus-facts

Counseling Program Documents / Data
• Physical files – 4th floor storage room, 3rd Floor storage closets
• Digital files – YSU Shared Drive (//bucket.ysu.local/Csesp_coun)
• Digital files – YSU Teams (CACREP; Counseling Program, etc.)

Counseling Program Modifications or Substantial Changes in 2020-2021:
• Adjusted the course delivery modality due to Covid-19 from online/hybrid back to in-person.
## Faculty Publications, Presentations, and Grants – Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salpietro, L., Clark, M., Kress, V. E., Laux, J., &amp; Walker, T. (2021). Remedial interventions to address receptivity to feedback in master’s-level counseling students. Counselor...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Kress</td>
<td>Dari, T., &amp; <strong>Kress, V. E.</strong> (2022). The DSM-5 and cultural humility: Implications for counselors. Presented at the annual Association for Humanistic Counseling Conference, Nashville, TN.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenter</td>
<td>Title and Abstract</td>
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<td>Name</td>
<td>Title</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Protivnak, J. J.</strong> (2022, April, 29th).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jake Protivnak</td>
<td><strong>Protivnak, J. J.</strong> (2022, April, 7th).</td>
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Student YSU Campus Wide Presentations – Office of Assessment

In collaboration with the Institute for Teaching and Learning, YSU graduate students in the College Counseling & Student Affairs program track have designed and implemented continuous improvement projects building on student data collected through the National Survey of Student Engagement & Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory. As the culminating activity of the work they have done, students publicly presented their data and fielding questions from campus stakeholders.


**Faculty Service Activities - Examples**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BCLASSE COLLEGE Level</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCLASSE Graduate Curriculum Committee</td>
<td>J. Protivnak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deans Advisory Committee (DAC)</td>
<td>J. Protivnak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Organization Advisors</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chi Sigma Iota Eta Advisor</td>
<td>J. Protivnak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALSA Advisor</td>
<td>K. Bruns</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YSU UNIVERSITY Level</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Research Council</td>
<td>K. Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Council</td>
<td>J. Protivnak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLC Criterion 4 – Assurance Argument</td>
<td>J. Protivnak (Co-Chair)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNSELING PROFESSION Level</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Counseling Association</td>
<td>V. Kress (Governing Council Representative; Fellows Committee; By-Laws Committee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association for Humanistic Counseling</td>
<td>V. Kress (Past-President; Sexual Assault Prevention Task Force; Nominations &amp; Elections Committee; Mentor; By-Laws Committee)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling</td>
<td>V. Kress (Emerging Leaders Program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association for Counselor Education &amp; Supervision</td>
<td>V. Kress (Co-Chair – Special Committee on State Branches; Budget &amp; Finance Committee)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association for Counselor Education &amp; Supervision</td>
<td>K. Bruns (Membership Committee Chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chi Sigma Iota - International</td>
<td>J. Protivnak (Mentor); V. Kress (Mentor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editorial Board – Academic Letters</td>
<td>K. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial Board – Counselor Education &amp; Supervision</td>
<td>V. Kress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editorial Board – Measurement &amp; Evaluation in Counseling and Development</td>
<td>K. Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editorial Board – Journal of Counselor Practice</td>
<td>J. Protivnak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editorial Board – Journal of Diversity in Higher Education</td>
<td>K. Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editorial Board – Journal of Mental Health Counseling</td>
<td>J. Protivnak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCACES (ACES Region)</td>
<td>V. Kress (President; Nominations &amp; Elections Committee Chair, Conference Planning Leader; By-Laws Committee)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCACES (ACES Region)</td>
<td>K. Bruns (Membership Committee Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio Association for Counselor Education &amp; Supervision (OACES)</td>
<td>K. Bruns (Awards Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio Counseling Association (ACA Branch)</td>
<td>S. Tessmer (President)</td>
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**COMMUNITY SERVICE – (example)**

- Counseling Program students and faculty (under the leadership of the Dr. Kristin Bruns, 'Bounce Back Better’ grant) partnered with departments across campus to support the mental health and wellness of YSU students through a variety of campus activities including Alcohol Screening Day, Depression Screening Day, Sexual Assault Awareness, Finals Week Support, Pal-entine's Day, Sip & Paint, Random Acts of Kindness, and a variety of other Wellness Focused Discussion Groups.

**Faculty / Student Honors & Awards - Examples**

**Faculty Recognition:**
- Kristin Bruns – Eta Chapter CSI, Outstanding Practitioner Award (2022)
- Chelsey Zoldan – Earned her Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of Akron (Dec. 2021)
- Erin Hungerman – Student Service Award for COVID Support Team, YSU Student Awards (2022)
- Victoria Kress – 2022 Thomas J. Sweeney Award for Visionary Leadership and Advocacy
- Victoria Kress – Distinguished Professor Award for Service (2022)
- Victoria Kress – Past President Award, Association for Humanistic Counseling (2022)
- Jake Protivnak – Alumni of the Month, Ohio University Patton College of Ed. (Feb. 2022)

**Student Recognition –**
- Allie Adler – Edna K. McDonald Cultural Awareness Award, 2022 YSU Student Awards
- Francesca Frazeskos – Student Service Award for COVID Support Team, 2022 YSU Student Awards
- Justina Gazso - Mental Health Awareness Art Contest 2021, YSU Student Counseling Services
- Justin Shaughnessy: Dr. Martin T. "Marty" Manning Award, 2022 YSU Student Awards
- Stephanie Waltman – Presidential Mentorship Committee, 2022 YSU Student Awards
Student Recipients of the 2022 Counseling Program Scholarships:
- Lindsay Sinkovich - Catherine & Kenneth Baker Scholarship
- Shaiyia Hakeem – Dr. Robert A. DiGiulio Scholarship
- Janeen Mack – Dr. Lawrence DiRusso Scholarship
- Christina Gregory – Harvey Neal Kretzer Memorial Scholarship
- Dean Moyer – Chuck H. Whitman Student Services Scholarship

Student Leadership
- Tiffany Spisak – BCLASSE student representative for the YSU Graduate Studies Committee and as a member of the YSU Graduate Dean’s Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) for 2021-2022. Tiffany will also serve on the Graduate Curriculum Committee (reviews/approves curriculum changes from College Graduate Committees) and the Grievance Committee (receives and renders decisions on grievances in accordance with established Student Grievance Procedure).
- Stephanie Waltman – YSU Presidential Mentor 2021-2022

Students Inductions into Honor Society (Chi Sigma Iota):

Counseling Program graduate students were inducted into Eta Chapter, Chi Sigma Iota on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at the 37th Annual Induction Ceremony in McKay Auditorium in Beeghly Hall. Ms. Carmella Hill, Director of Behavioral Health at Coleman Health Services and President of East Ohio Counseling Association was the special guest speaker. Congratulations to the following 30 graduate students inducted into the International Honor Society for Counselors:

- Baxter, Amber R. (Akron, OH)
- Carroll, Michelle (Youngstown, OH)
- Chapman, Chaste M. (Warren, OH)
- Clause, Frances J. (Youngstown, OH)
- Colligan, Gavin M. (Portville, NY)
- Durkin, Anthony T. (Warren, OH)
- Fisher, Morgan (Girard, OH)
- Grimes, Meredith (Vienna, OH)
- Hakeem, Shaiyia B. (Youngstown, OH)
- Hecht, Sophie M. (Canfield, OH)
- Johnson, Gryphon L. (Sharon, PA)
- Johnson, Samantha V. (McDonald, OH)
- Knickerbocker, Jessica A. (Youngstown, OH)
- Mack, Janeen (Youngstown, OH)
- McCurry, Rebecca (Hermitage, PA)
- McIlrhot, Karissa J. (Ellwood City, PA)
- Musgrove, Alexis D. (Warren, OH)
- Ramos, Carrie (Columbiana, OH)
- Reider, Alexa L. (New Castle, PA)
- Ross, Kendra (Hermitage, PA)
- Salafatinos-Barger, Amanda (Gurnee, IL)
Ash Edwards, College Counseling & Student Affairs program intern, received the Eta Chapter CSI Outstanding Master's Student Award, and Dr. Kristin Bruns, Associate Professor in Counseling / College Counseling & Student Affairs program coordinator, received the Eta Chapter CSI Outstanding Practitioner Award. Lindsay Sinkovich (pictured above) was recognized as the 1000th Eta Chapter CSI member inducted since the honor society chapter was formed at YSU in 1985.

Eta Chapter, CSI Officers for 2022-2023:
President – Morgan Fisher
Vice-President – Jessica Knickerbocker
Treasurer – Meredith Grimes
Secretary – Lindsay Sinkovich

SALSA Officer for 2022-2023:
• President – Sophie Hecht
• Vice President: Rebecca McCurry
• Treasurer: Christopher Santangelo
• Secretary: Samantha Johnson

**Counseling Program Graduates**

**Spring 2022** - 4 Counseling Programs students received their master’s degrees.
• Justina Gazso
• Jacob Giegel
• Kourtney Kubicina
• Ashley Zack

**Fall 2021** - 7 Counseling Programs students received their master’s degrees.
• Angela Austin
• Karlee Briceland
• Heidi Moser
• Dan Prince
• Breanna Smith
• Marisa Stephenson
• Shania Warren
Summer 2020 - 24 Counseling Programs students received their master’s degrees.

• Kelly Barley
• Gerald Bartlett
• Bridget Bobby
• Abbey Boggs
• Jessica Bonivich
• Taylor Brown
• Juliana Cario
• Matt DiMuzio
• Tracy Doughty
• Caleb Garvey
• Chelsea Glosser
• Francine Hazy
• Marcus Higgs
• Bridget Howells
• Angela Lindsay
• Stephanie McElrath
• Jenna Pavlansky
• Cara Raso
• Rolando Rojas
• Brenda Scott
• Cassandra Smith
• Bailey Varga
• Rachel Westgate
• Christopher Yannon

Community Partnerships in 2021-2022 (examples)

Addiction Counseling & Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Alta Care Group
Bethesda Lutheran Services
Cadence Care
Compass
Comprehensive Psychiatry Group
Greentree Counseling Center
Insight Clinical Counseling and Wellness
Meridian Healthcare
New Day Recovery
Ohio Guidestone
On Demand
PsyCare
Travco Behavioral Health
Valley Counseling
Youth Intensive Services
College Counseling & Student Affairs
Thiel College
University of Mount Union
Youngstown State University

School Counseling
Academy for Urban Scholars
Austintown Middle School
Boardman School District
Campbell Middle School
Case Elementary School (Sharon, PA)
Conneaut Area High School
East Liverpool School District
Harding Elementary School
Impact Academy
Jefferson Elementary School
Liberty High School
Western Reserve School District
Willard Elementary/Middle School
Youngstown City School District