

M.A. IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING PROGRAM OUTCOMES

2024-2025

The M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program at Palo Alto University is proud to offer its CACREP-accredited degree and highlights its relevant emphasis areas and student outcomes.

Graduation and Completion Rates 2024-2025

- 163 students graduated from the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program in the 2024-2025 academic year.
- This number represents an 93.2% on-time completion rate based on an anticipated enrollment period of 2.5 years.

Licensure Exam Pass Rates

In the state of California, the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) requires two exams for licensure depending upon the type of license sought. Applicants seeking licensure as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) are required to take the California Law and Ethics exam and the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Exam (NCMHCE). The table below identifies the 2024-2025 pass rates for PAU graduates of the CMHC program seeking licensure as a (LPCC) in California.

		All PAU Test Takers			PAU FIRST TIME TEST TAKERS		
	Exam	Taking Exam	Passed	Pass percent	Taking Exam	Passed	Pass percent
2024 January To December	LPCC Law and Ethics	56	48	86%	50	44	88%
	NCMHCE	18	14	78%	16	13	81%

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For students seeking licensure as a Licensed Marriage and Family Counselor (LMFT), the BBS requires an emphasis in Marriage, Family, Couples and Child counseling and passing scores on two exams; the California Law and Ethics Exam and the LMFT Clinical Exam. The table below identifies the 2023-2024 pass rates for PAU graduates of the CMHC program seeking licensure as a LMFT in California.

		All PAU Test Takers			PAU FIRST TIME TEST TAKERS		
	Exam	Taking Exam	Passed	Pass percent	Taking Exam	Passed	Pass percent
2024 January to	LMFT Law and Ethics	122	102	84%	101	86	85%
2025 June	LMFT Clinical Exam	101	86	85%	83	78	94%

Starting in the Fall of 2020, Palo Alto University became a partnership school with the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) to be able to offer to currently enrolled students the opportunity to take two exams often used for license. Five students took the National Counselors Exam (NCE) in Spring 2025, all with a 100% pass rate.

Job Placement Rates

Two sources of data were used to identify job placement rates of CMHC graduates. The "future plans" survey is completed by all students at the time of graduation, and the "Alumni" survey is sent each Spring to all PAU alumni.

Based on the results of the Future Plans survey of all graduating counseling students (not disaggregated by emphasis area, N=131), 81 graduating students, or 62%, had secured employment at the time of graduation.

Based on the results of the 2023 Alumni Survey (n=34), 73% of respondents who graduated with a degree in CMHC reported they were employed either full time or part time. 2.44% were pursuing additional education. The majority of respondents (23%) indicated employment in nonprofit organizations.

When asked about setting for current employment, CMHC alumni identified numerous mental health settings including private practice, community agencies, correctional facilities, hospitals, private agencies, university settings, addiction/recovery settings, behavioral health centers, educational settings, and children services centers.