



2024-2025 Annual Report

Prepared by Dr. Carrie Merino, Program Director, CMHC Program 6/15/2025

The 2024-2025 academic year was an exciting year of growth for the CMHC program at UVU. We welcomed a cohort of 29 new CMHC graduate students who will graduate in 2026. We also celebrated the graduation of our third cohort with 24 graduates!

Utah Valley University CMHC Program 2024-2025 Graduate Stats			
Number of Graduates	Pass Rates on Credentialing Exams	Completion Rate	Job Placement Rate
24	100% *Based on graduate self-report*	91%	100% *Hired before Graduation

We also successfully doubled our starting cohort size for Fall 2025 to 54 students! We are excited to grow and provide even more talented, skilled clinicians in the mental health field in our community.

Additional CMHC 2024-2025 Highlights

CMHC Accreditation

We successfully submitted a self-study for our accreditor, CACREP. We will host an on-campus accreditation site visit in early Fall 2025. We are looking forward to completing this rigorous process!

Program Evaluation

As part of our self-study, we continued to fine-tune our evaluation of the CMHC program, not only in meeting professional standards but also in meeting the needs of our communities. Below are several important milestones in this process:

- Creation of a CMHC Assessment Manual
- Launching of several evaluation surveys for students and stakeholders, such as an Advising Survey, an Alumni Survey, and a Site-Supervisor Survey

Curriculum

As a program, we continue to make important changes to curriculum, both with the addition of courses, streamlining those offered, and ensuring our graduates are prepared to excel as clinical mental health counselors. Below are some of these highlights:

- Creation of new Program Learning Outcomes for the CMHC Program (See Appendix A)
- Creation of Practicum Bootcamp experience for new Practicum Students
- Reorganized class sequencing
 - Ex: DSM Diagnosis to first semester, Career Counseling to final semester

Community Involvement

- Our CMHC graduating class provided over 5,000 hours of mental health services to the community!
- Dr. Carrie Merino will begin clinical assessments for diagnoses such as ADHD, Autism, etc. in the UVU Community Clinic in Fall 2025. This will provide an opportunity for students to learn to utilize these tools in their practice. A special thanks to the UVU GEL Grant program for funding the purchase of needed supplies!

Faculty

- We launched a successful new tenure-track faculty search. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Shantelle Tjaden to our CMHC Program in Fall of 2025.
- Dr. Russ Bailey successfully received tenure. Way to go Dr. Bailey!
- Dr. Carrie Merino and Dr. Jamison Law presented at the American Counseling Association's Annual Conference on Affective Group Learning
- Dr. Paige Lowe hosted a Play Therapy Conference on Campus for students and clinicians in the community
- Dr. Bailey has presented at several local conferences about inclusion and mental health, in addition to invited presentations on Common Factor Therapy.
- Dr. Merino will accompany two CMHC students in a presentation on assessing for autism spectrum disorders at the American Mental Health Counseling Association's Annual Conference in June 2025
- Dr. Paige Lowe received a \$10,000 UVU GEL grant for an ongoing project on play therapy in partnership with a Psychology Colleague. This endeavor will include additional training opportunities for CMHC students in play therapy.

Appendix A: New CMHC Program Learning Outcomes

- Develop a professional counselor identity that emphasizes wellness, interdisciplinary collaboration, and ongoing professional development.
- Implement safe, inclusive, and culturally responsive counseling services that respect and celebrate the uniqueness of all populations.
- Engage with self-exploration to understand how personal values and experiences influence professional counseling.
- Apply policy, ethical codes, and laws throughout the ethical decision-making process to ensure best practice.
- Evaluate counseling specific scholarly literature to inform practice.
- Establish intentional and collaborative counseling relationships with clients.
- Create theoretical case conceptualizations that inform counseling assessment, planning, and intervention.
- Utilize assessment tools for diagnosis, treatment planning, counseling outcomes, and program evaluation
- Employ a variety of therapeutic modalities, including interventions for individuals, groups, children, adolescents, couples, and families.