



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S

COLLEGE of HUMANITIES *and* SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTER *of*
CLINICAL MENTAL
HEALTH COUNSELING
CONVOCATION

84

TWENTY EIGHTH OF APRIL, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX



Clarke Building

Andrea and James Clarke Building

DUU

CB

MASTER OF CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Utah Valley University

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2:00 pm, Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Grand Ballroom, Sorensen Student Center

Introduction Carrie Merino, Ph.D.
CMHC Program Director

Welcoming Remarks Acacia Overono, Ph.D.
Department Chair, Psychology and Counseling

Reflecting on the Journey Kris Greer
CMHC Class of 2026

Looking Forward Camila Wilson
CMHC Class of 2026

CMHC Graduate Excellence Award Carrie Merino, Ph.D.

Presentation and Hooding of Graduates CMHC Faculty

Closing Remarks Steven C. Clark, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

A CMHC cohort photo, celebration, and reception for graduates and guests will immediately follow the ceremony in Center Stage.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

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DEAR 2026 GRADUATES OF THE CMHC PROGRAM,

Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone! As the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, I am honored to celebrate this moment with you and to recognize the dedication, hard work, and perseverance that has brought you to this day.

Through your coursework, clinical training, and community engagement, you have learned to listen deeply, think critically, respond ethically, and advocate for those whose voices are too often unheard. We live in a time when there is an increasing need for people with your skill set. I am deeply grateful for your dedication to this work and am excited about the impact that you will have on our community.

To the families, friends, supervisors, and supporters who have walked alongside these graduates – thank you for the essential role you have played in this achievement!

Class of 2026, you will always be part of the UVU and College of Humanities and Social Sciences community. I look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments and hope you will stay connected with the university and with each other.

Congratulations on your remarkable achievement. I wish you the best in your careers and in your personal lives.

Sincerely,

STEVEN C. CLARK, PH.D.

Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences



MESSAGE FROM THE CMHC FACULTY

DEAR GRADUATING COUNSELING STUDENTS,

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Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone in your academic and professional journey! Today, we celebrate your hard work, dedication, and the countless hours you have invested in becoming skilled and compassionate counselors.

Throughout your time in the program, you have demonstrated a deep commitment to understanding and supporting the mental health and well-being of others. You have honed your skills, engaged in meaningful discussions, and participated in hands-on experiences that have prepared you to make a positive impact on the lives of those you will serve.

As you step into your roles as professional counselors, remember the importance of empathy, active listening, and continuous learning. The field of counseling is ever evolving, and your willingness to grow and adapt will be key to your success. Trust in the knowledge and skills you have gained and never underestimate the power of your presence and support in the lives of your clients.

Congratulations once again on your graduation. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and look forward to hearing about the positive impact you will undoubtedly make in the world. Welcome to the Counseling Profession!

Warmest regards,

**CARRIE MERINO, PH.D., RUSS BAILEY, PH.D.,
JAMISON LAW, PH.D., PAIGE LOWE, PH.D.,
SHANTELE TJADEN, PH.D., AND ASHLEY
HANSEN, M.S.**



CMHC FACULTY AND STAFF

Carrie Merino, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor
CMHC Program Director*

Jamison Law, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor
Director of Clinical Education*

Russ Bailey, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor
CMHC Faculty*

Paige Lowe, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor
CMHC Faculty*

Shantelle Tjaden, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor
CMHC Faculty*

Ashley Hansen, M.S.

CMHC Program Manager

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

**The following individuals have earned or are completing a
Master of Clinical Mental Health Counseling:**

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Samantha Angelovich	Samantha Meyer
Ana Paula Bean	Makayla Moody
Kirstiann Bushman	Zoe Plaza
Kaha'i Fa'alafua	Janessa Ramsey
Kris Greer	Jacob Reese
Brooke Cook	Jason Robb
Nicholas Hesselgrave	Paul Seli
Lindsey Heyward	Hannah Stetler
Gennavieve Howard	Madison Thomas
Greyson Hunsaker	Logan Walker
Natasha Hutchings	Elisha Wallace
April Jensen	Matthew Ward
Sadie Jensen	Camila Wilson

WITH APPRECIATION

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program sincerely thanks the following community partners for supporting our students' learning and growth:

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Alliance Counseling Utah

Alpine Recovery Lodge

Arbor Counseling

Balance House

Beehive Mental Health

Brain Rehab Clinic

Brighton Recovery Center

Bristol Health

Cirque Lodge

Flourish Therapy

Igniting Change Counseling Center

Kensho Kai Wellness

Lighthouse Counseling

Meadowbrook Counseling

Merrill Gappmayer IHC

Mindset Family Therapy

Monarch Family Counseling

Mountain Ridge Behavioral Health Center

Nebo School District

New Roads Behavioral Health

Odyssey House of Utah

Olive View Therapy

Renova Wellness and Consulting

Sandstone Psychology

Sego Lily Counseling

The Heritage Community

The Refuge Utah

Trek Counseling

Tru Living Psychology

True Self Counseling

UVU Community Mental Health Clinic

Zest for Life Counseling





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