



**Counselor Education Department,
including School Counseling (SCH) and Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC)
2024-2025**

Report submitted by:

List the names of those completing the report and/or subsections

Dr. Heather Robertson, Department Chair

Dr. James Bethea, CMHC Coordinator

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Table of Contents

Section 1: Department Highlights	Page 2
Section 2: Department and/or Program Data and Analysis	Page 4
Table 1. Enrollments in Counselor Education Programs	
Table 2. Fall 2024 Student Demographics	
Section 3: Teaching and Learning Culture	Page 6
Section 4: Faculty & Intellectual Culture	Page 7
Section 5: Program/Departmental Achievements	Page 13
Table 3. CPCE Passing Rates, Entering Cohorts 2020 - 2023	
Table 4. Counselor Education Employment Rates	
Table 5. CMHC Field Placement Sites (F24, Sp25, Sm25)	
Table 6. School Counseling Placement Sites (F24 & Sp25)	
Section 6: SMART Goals for the Next Year	Page 15
Table 7. Summary of Course 2024-2025 Evaluation Data	

Section 1: Department Highlights

The Counselor Education department continued to thrive during the 2024-2025 academic year. Highlights from the academic year include New Faculty Hires, Partnerships, Faculty Recognition, and Student/Alumni Success.

New Faculty Hires: The department welcomed two additional new faculty members, Dr. Leo Gonzlaez and Dr. Zoya McCants. Both Dr. Gonzalez and McCants came to St. John's with prior Counselor Educator experience in both fulltime and adjunct roles. In addition, both bring expertise in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and practice. Dr. Gonzalez is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in New York and California, and Dr. McCants is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The addition of these new faculty members brought the overall counselor education department faculty up to nine – indicating a 50% increase in faculty from the six fulltime faculty that had been in place for over a decade. These new faculty, along with the addition of Drs. Spellman and Jalilzadeh in fall of 2023, demonstrate the School of Education's commitment to the Counselor Education programs and our CACREP accreditation.

Partnerships: 2024-2025 was a rich year for partnerships. The department completed our second year in a partnership program with New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH), through their "Mental Health Counseling Student Program for Evidence Based Practice." This partnership continues to be managed by Dr. Bethea and allows selected students who intern in an OMH facility to receive specialized training and a \$4K stipend. We have been invited again to participate in 2025-2026 and we continue our "Fast-track" CMHC program to support this effort. This grant brings approximately \$34K annually to our students and department.

The CMHC program engaged in an additional partnership with the Audacia Foundation, through the NYS Clinical Practical Training (CPT) program. Through this partnership, 14 CMHC students were each eligible to receive up to \$72K in tuition assistance, in exchange for working for three years post-graduation for an organization that serves at least 30% Medicaid and Medicare populations. This partnership not only supports our students financial and employment goals but aligns with our Vincentian mission of serving those in need by supporting the mental health needs of lower income individuals. This partnership will bring approximately \$1M in total tuition assistance to selected students.

Finally, we developed a partnership program with St. Francis College, specifically within their undergraduate psychology and undergraduate education programs. Through this partnership, students can take up to 18 credits of pre-approved graduate coursework at St. Francis College, which could be transferred as advanced standing credit to either the MSED in CMHC or the MSED in School Counseling. This program is scheduled to go into effect beginning in the fall of 2025.

Faculty Recognition: Faculty continue to engage in research, scholarship, and service which earns them both university and national recognition. While a complete listing of faculty accomplishments for 2024-2025 are included in Section 4, below is a highlight of selected items.

- Dr. Ming-hui Li completed a Fulbright research project in Tawain, where he conducted research from November of 2024 through August of 2025.
- Dr. Zoya McCants was recognized in June of 2025 with the Linda Seligman Counselor Educator of the Year Award from the American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA).
- Dr. Cicco was recognized by St. John's University with the Faculty Leadership and Service Award
- Dr. Bethea was recognized by St. John's University with Excellence in Inclusive Service and Outreach

- Dr. Zoya McCants was elected to serve as President-Elect-Elect for the North Atlantic Region of Counselor Education and Supervision (NARACES)
- Dr. Cicco was recognized at the Leaders in Education Awards Dinner (LEAD)
- Dr. Heather Robertson was recognized by St. John's University with the Values and Inclusion Program (VIP) Award

On a sad note, the Counselor Education department lost a long-time faculty member in April of 2025. Dr. Robert Eschenauer, Associate Professor and former department chair, passed away following a long illness. The department is making plans to commemorate Dr. E, as he was affectionately known, in the 2025-2026 academic year. His impact on the department was great, and he will be missed by many.

Student/Alumni Success. Student outcome and employment rates are detailed in Section 5. However, several student and alumni outcomes are notable.

- CMHC alumnus, Dr. Tyce Nadrich, was recognized at the Leaders in Education Awards Dinner (LEAD) for his contributions to Counselor Education
- SCH alumnus, Andrew Nasser, was recognized at the Leaders in Education Awards Dinner (LEAD) for his contributions to School Counseling
- Michelle Schwab, CMHC MSED student, presented her research at the American Counseling Association (ACA) National Conference in Orlando, Florida in March of 2025
- Litika Sharma, CMHC MSED student, presented her research at the American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA) in June of 2025

Section 2: Department and/or Program Data and Analysis

A. Mission and Organization:

The mission of the Counselor Education department states:

“The mission of the Department of Counselor Education at St. John’s University is to prepare motivated, competent, culturally literate, and ethical counselors whose Vincentian inspired work will help them meet the demands of a rapidly changing society. Our students will receive quality clinical and academic experiences that will foster advocacy and research skills. Our unified and dedicated faculty will utilize the latest technology, evidenced based research, and the current Council on the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) accreditation standards to inform our teaching.”

The department is organized into two programs: School Counseling (SCH, Q campus), and Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC, Q campus) offering a MSED in both programs. The MSED in SCH also has an option of adding on a bilingual extension (BIL). Our Staten Island (SI) School Counseling program closed in spring of 2023. The department also offers two Advanced Certificates: Adv Cert in CMHC on the Queens Campus and the Adv Cert in SCH BRIDGE online. Currently all programs, except the Adv Cert SCH BRIDGE, are offered in-person although all have online courses.

B. Program Data:

Describe the enrollment, programmatic, and demographic trends in your program over the last three years. If possible, please present this data in table form categorized by program and demographics. Additionally, if appropriate include other tables/charts to present potential trends. You are welcome to use any additional data (certification exams, program level assessments, course grade, etc.) that is vital for your program.

a. Based on the data provided please discuss trends in the enrollment data.

Prior to fall of 2024, enrollment data for Adv Certificate programs was included in MSED data. As of fall 2024, data from MSED and Adv Cert programs have been separated. Significant Outcomes for 2024-2025 are outlined in Table 1.

- Overall department enrollments remained steady from 2023 to 2024.
- Based on the new separation of data (e.g., MSED and Adv Cert) it is difficult to ascertain changes among the CMHC and SCH enrollments although enrollments appear to have decreased slightly in both programs from 2023 to 2024 (e.g., CMHC total students – 101 in F23 and 97 in F24; SCH total students – 26 in F23 and 25 in F24).
- While not indicated in the enrollment numbers snapshot from fall 2024 below, two advanced certificate school counseling bridge students started the program in January of 2025 bringing the total school counseling numbers to 27.

Table 1. Enrollments in Counselor Education Programs

Program	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
MSED/SCH – Q	25	25	28	25	24
MSED/BIL – Q	5	2	1	1	1
MSED SCH – SI	13	6	6	-	-
MSED CMHC - Q	65	63	81	101	97
ADVCERT/SCHB	-	-	-	-	0
ADVCERT/CMHC	-	-	-	-	4
Totals	108	96	116	127	126

- b. Describe efforts made in the recruitment of students from diverse and underrepresented groups.
- c. Describe efforts to retain students from diverse and underrepresented groups.

While we are not reporting on specific efforts to recruit and retain diverse students per the September 2025 CACREP notice, demographic characteristics of our student body are reflected in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Fall 2024 Student Demographics

Program	Male	Female	Nonbinary*	Non-white/ Hispanic	White/Non- Hispanic
MSED/SCH – Q (n = 24)	2 (8%)	22 (91%)		14 (58%)	10 (42%)
MSED CMHC – Q (n = 97)	15 (15%)	82 (85%)		63 (65%)	34 (35%)
MSED/SCH/BIL – Q (n = 1)		1 (100%)		1 (100%)	
ADVCERT/CMHC – Q (n = 4)	1 (25%)	3 (75%)		1 (25%)	3 (75%)
ADVCERT/SCHB – O (n = 0)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	18 (14%)	108 (86%)		79 (63%)	47 (37%)

*presently unable to receive reports on this data

Section 3: Teaching and Learning Culture

Please describe any specific curriculum or teaching initiatives related to the categories below.

A. New courses approved or curricular changes in the current year (please provide a justification)

Significant Outcomes for 2024-2025

- The first offering of EDU 6652, Clinical Diagnosis in Counseling, was taught in the fall of 2024. This course was developed and approved in the 2023-2024 year in order to effectively address the role of mental health counselors and clinical diagnosis, in response to new NYS regulations.
- Received approval at Graduate Council in fall of 2024 for elective, *EDU 6653 - Integrating Sexuality in to Counseling Practice*.
- A 2023-2024 effort to redesign our core curriculum offerings (e.g., core classes in person by full-time faculty, front loading all CPCE/core classes within the first 12 months of the program) proved to be effective as evidenced by improved CPCE scores.

B. Programmatic accomplishments, highlights, or accolades.

Significant Outcomes 2024-2025

- The department launched our first Comprehensive Program Evaluation and Student Assessment Plan. While procedures and policies were in place previously, this document is the first *written* comprehensive plan that addressed both program evaluation and student assessment. The plan will be continually evaluated at departmental assessment retreats.
- The department launched our first Counselor Education Department Assessment Retreat in May of 2024. This event will be held two times per year to review program assessment data and create action plans. Assessment Retreats will be held in May and December.
- Completing our second year in NYS OMH "Mental Health Counseling Student Program for Evidence Based Practice" program and were invited to participate again in 2025-2026.
- Completing our second MSED CMHC "fast-track" cohort in summer 2025, and recruiting our 3rd fast-track cohort in the spring of 2025.
- Two new, full-time, tenure-track faculty members, Drs. Gonzalez and McCants, began teaching in the counselor education department.
- Created new partnerships with St. Francis College and the Audacia Foundation.
- Multiple faculty and students recognized as highlighted on page 2.

C. Courses or programs discontinued in the current year (please provide a justification).

N/A: No counseling programs were discontinued in the 2024-2025 academic year.

D. Based on the data gathered, are there programs that should be re-evaluated to determine if it currently meets market demands? If so, what will be the steps taken next year to evaluate the program? (Please include data with the justification statement)

Significant Outcomes for 2024-2025

- We submitted a proposal to the Dean's office to transition our Advanced Certificate in CMHC from an on-campus program to an online program. Since there was a hold on any new programs, we are waiting to hear as to if this request will be submitted to Albany for review.
- We began working with the office of Online Learning in the summer of 2025 to develop an online MSED in School Counseling that would be approximately 80% asynchronous. Course development is scheduled to begin in fall of 2025, with a projected launch date of fall 2026.

Section 4: Faculty & Intellectual Culture

A. Faculty Demographics

Please provide data on:

- the number of Full-time Faculty associated with the program or department: 8
- the number of adjuncts faculty associated with program or department: 8
- Percentage of non-tenured full-time faculty within the FT faculty group: 50%
- Percentage of BIPOC faculty across Full-Time Faculty (not reported)
- Percentage of BIPOC Adjunct Faculty (not reported)

B. Faculty Accomplishments (September 2024 – August 2025)

B.a. Grants and Partnerships

Dr. Bethea and Dr. Robertson

- Continued partnership with NYS Office of Mental Health for the “Mental Health Counseling Student Program for Evidence Based Practice” during the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Launched partnership with the Audacia Foundation for Clinical Practice Training, for students in the MSED in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Dr. Robertson

- Launched a partnership with St. Francis College for undergraduate students in Psychology and Education to bring graduate credits in to MSED in School or Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Dr. Li

Completed Fulbright Research award between November 2024 and August 2025.

B.b. Publications, Presentations, & Awards

Publications

Dr. Bethea

Bethea, J. S. (2025). A lesson plan for teaching; “Observing the impact of technology across the lifespan.” In H. C. Robertson, *Integrating telemental health practice into counselor education training*. American Counseling Association - Chapter: Book.

Bethea, J. S. (2025). A lesson plan for teaching: “Exploring values in career decision making via TMH”. In H. C. Robertson, *Integrating telemental health practice into counselor education training*. American Counseling Association - Chapter: Book

Robertson, H. C., & Bethea, J. S. (2025). Strategies to help veterans who are making the change from military to civilian life. *American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA) The Advocate Magazine*, 48(1), 15-18.

Dr. Cicco

Cicco, G. (2025). A lesson plan for teaching “Research and Program Evaluation.” In H. C. Robertson, *Integrating telemental health practice into counselor education training*. American Counseling Association.

Cicco, G. (2025). A lesson plan for teaching “School Counseling.” In H. C. Robertson, *Integrating*

telemental health practice into counselor education training. American Counseling Association.

Cicco, G. (2025). Gina Cicco (Collected Works, Ch. 2). In L. Cappiello (Ed.), *Poetry, Prose, and Short Stories* (1st ed., pp. 27-82). BookMark Shoppe.

Cicco, G. (2024). Preventing teacher and counselor burnout: Self-care in training programs. *i-manager's Journal of Educational Technology*, 21(2), 1-8.

Dr. Gonzalez

Gonzalez, L. Jr., & McCalla, D. (2025). Counselor-in-training perceptions of generative AI in counselor education. *Journal of Counselor Preparation and Supervision*.

Rensi, M., Ni, C. F., **Gonzalez**, L. Jr., Barta, M., Dykeman, C., & Geisler, J. (2025). Evaluating generative AI for depression diagnosis: Implications for counselor education and supervision. *Journal of Technology in Counselor Education and Supervision*, 6(1), Article 8. <https://doi.org/10.61888/2692-4129.1130>

Gonzalez, L. Jr. (2025). A lesson plan for teaching "Online assessment of addiction disorders." In H. C. Robertson (Ed.), *Integrating telemental health practice into counselor education training*. American Counseling Association.

Dr. Jalilzadeh

Jalilzadeh, N. (2025). A lesson plan for teaching "Integrating AI in Counseling Research: Utilizing ChatGPT for Literature Review and Research Question Development". In H. C. Robertson, *Integrating telemental health practice into counselor education training*. American Counseling Association.

Jalilzadeh, N. (2025). A lesson plan for teaching "Developing Informed Consent for Online Groups Utilizing ChatGPT". In H. C. Robertson, *Integrating telemental health practice into counselor education training*. American Counseling Association.

Jalilzadeh, N. (2025). A chapter on "Training on Compassionate Inquiry". In Bill Owenby & Katherine Campbell (Eds), *The Encyclopedia of Mental Health Trainings, Certifications, and Credentials*. Arizona: ONBLLC Publishing.

Jalilzadeh, N. (2025). A chapter on "Training on Polyvagal Theory". In Bill Owenby & Katherine Campbell (Eds), *The Encyclopedia of Mental Health Trainings, Certifications, and Credentials*. Arizona: ONBLLC Publishing.

Dr. Li

Li, M. -H. (2025). A lesson plan for teaching "Multicultural counseling in a digital world". In H. C. Robertson, *Integrating telemental health practice into counselor education training*. American Counseling Association.

Li, M. -H. (2025). A lesson plan for teaching "Application of smart phone apps to counseling practice". In H. C. Robertson, *Integrating telemental health practice into counselor education training*. American Counseling Association.

Dr. McCants

McCants, Z. (2024). *Soul in Bloom Wellness Workbook*. Bookbaby Publishers

Dr. Spellman

Spellman, Q. (2025). Sample lesson: Preparing for online group attacks. In H. C. Robertson (Ed), *Integrating Telemental Health Practice into Counselor Education Training* (pp. 108-111). American Counseling Association.

Dr. Robertson

Robertson, H. C. (2025). *Integrating telemental health practice into counselor education training*. American Counseling Association. ISBN: 9781556204173.

<https://www.counseling.org/publications/aca-books/view/integrating-telemental-health-practice-into-counselor-education-training>

Robertson, H. C., & Bethea, J. S. (2025). Strategies to help veterans who are making the change from military to civilian life. *American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA) The Advocate Magazine*, 48(1), 15-18.

Conference Presentations

Dr. Cicco

NARACES 2024 Conference, North Atlantic Region Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, New Jersey. Poster Presentation, "Teaching Research for Counselors-in-Training: Best Practices."

Teacher Resilience Conference, Wagner College, New York (October 2024), "Supporting Pre-Service and Novice Teachers: Lessons on Self-Care."

Dr. Gonzalez

Jalilzadeh, N., **Gonzalez, L.**, McCants, Z. (2025, July 3rd). Voices for Equity: Shaping Education Through an Advocacy Lens [Live Educational Session]. ACEI Summer Conference, St. John's University, Queens, NY

Jalilzadeh, N., & **Gonzalez, L. Jr.** (2025, April 11–12). *Voices for equity: Shaping counselor education through an advocacy lens*. Education session presented at the Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) Conference (Regional), San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Ferrese, S., & **Gonzalez, L. Jr.** (2024, October 24–26). *Lyricism and linguistics: Bringing "street cred" to counseling*. Education session presented at the Western Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (WACES) Conference (Regional), Tucson, AZ.

Dr. Jalilzadeh

Jalilzadeh, N., Gonzalez, L., McCants, Z. (2025, July 3rd). Voices for Equity: Shaping Education Through an Advocacy Lens [Live Educational Session]. ACEI Summer Conference, St. John's University, Queens, NY.

Jalilzadeh, N., Rodriguez, C., Romano, C., Balin, E. (2025 April 12th). Beyond Invisibility: Social Justice and Advocacy for MENA Identities Through an Intersectionality Lens [Live Educational Session]. Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Jalilzadeh, N., Gonzalez, L. (2025, April 11th). Voices for Equity: Shaping Counselor Education Through an Advocacy Lens [Live Educational Session]. Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Sharma, L., **Jalilzadeh, N.** (2025, April 9th). The Interwoven Threads of Child Mental Health: Unraveling the Impact of Parenting, Gender, and Birth Order [Poster Presentation]. 2025 Student Research Conference, St. John's University, Queens, NY.

Robertson, H., **Jalilzadeh, N.** (2025, April 5th). Understanding Digisexuality, Technology, and AI in Sex Positive Counseling Content [Live Workshop]. American Counseling Association – New York 2025 Annual Conference: *The Use of AI in Counseling*, Molloy University, Hempstead, NY.

Atiyeh, S., **Jalilzadeh, N.** (2024, Dec 4). Exploring Identity: Culturally Responsive Counseling Practice with MENA American Communities [Live Virtual Education Session]. National Board of Certified Counselors, NBCC's annual international virtual conference: *Mental Health Connections: Fostering Community: Propelling Peace*.

Haas, J., Ghoston, M. C., Randall Reyes, J. E., Hyun, J., **Jalilzadeh, N.**, Banko, A., Eskridge, B., Calder, C. (2024, Nov 7) Navigating Inclusive Andragogy in Counselor Education and Supervision [Live Pre-conference Session]. American Counselor Education and Supervision South Atlantic Region (SACES), Dallas, TX.

Jalilzadeh, N. (2024, Sep 29). Becoming a Mental Health Counselor, Permanently or Temporarily: [Live Workshop]. American Counselor Education and Supervision North Atlantic Region (NARACES), Atlantic City, NJ.

Dr. Li

Li, M.-H. (April 23, 2025). Beyond Neuroticism: A Resilience Development Approach to Improving Life Satisfaction. Presented at the conference of the 2025 American Educational Research Association (Division E: Counseling & Human Development), Denver, CO (Virtual Conference).

Li, M. -H. (July 7, 2025). Exploring Relationships Among Mental Health Variables in Rural Taiwanese High School Students: A Pilot Study. Presented at the 2025 Conference on Mental Health and Internet Technology Applications for Children and Adolescents in Remote Areas of Taiwan, Taitung, Taiwan.

Dr. McCants

2025, July. Jalilzadeh, N., Gonzalez, L., **McCants, Z.** Voices for Equity: Shaping Education Through an Advocacy Lens [Live Educational Session]. ACEI Summer Conference, St. John's University, Queens, NY.

2025, April. American Educational Research Association (AERA). An In-depth Exploration of Black Maternal Mental Health: A narrative research approach to medical apartheid.

2024, November. National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME). Navigating the Impacts of Race-Related Stressors on BIPOC Youth: Overcoming Psychological and Academic Barriers

2024, November. National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME). Decolonizing Counselor Education: Fostering Social Justice and Equity Through an Exploration of the Social

Dr. Spellman

11/13/2024 – 11/17/2024, National Association for Multicultural Education (Anaheim, CA), *Decolonizing Counselor Education: Fostering Social Justice and Equity Through an Exploration of the Social*

Determinants.

11/13/2024 – 11/17/2024, National Association for Multicultural Education (Anaheim, CA), *Navigating the Impacts of Race-Related Stressors on BIPOC Youth: Overcoming Psychological and Academic Barriers.*

Dr. Robertson

Robertson, H. C. (2025, August). American Counseling Association (ACA) Professional Development Webinar: *Using Narrative Therapy, Spirituality, and Peer Approaches in Treating Veteran Substance Use Disorders.*

Trainor, J., Locherie, J., & Robertson, H. C. (2025, June). Association of Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities, Jamaica, NY. Presentation: *Promoting Affordable Learning Materials as Vincentian Social Action.*

Robertson, H. C. (2025, June). National Career Development Association (NCDA), Atlanta, GA. Presentation: *Integrating Distance Counseling and Telemental Health Content in Career Development Masters Courses.*

Robertson, H. C. (2025, June). National Career Development Association (NCDA), Atlanta, GA. Roundtable: *Examining the Skills Win Program in Alignment with ASCA and NACE Standards*

Robertson, H. C. (2025, April). American Counseling Association of New York (ACA-NY) Conference, Rockville Center, NY. Keynote speaker, *From Talk to Tech: The changing landscape of the counseling profession.*

Robertson, H. C., & Jalilzadeh, J. (2025, April). American Counseling Association of New York (ACA-NY) Conference, Rockville Center, NY. Presentation: *Understanding Digisexuality, Technology, and AI in Sex Positive Counseling Content.*

Robertson, H. C. (2025, March). American Counseling Association (ACA). Orlando, FL. ACA Book Author Presentation: *Integrating Telemental Health Practice into Counselor Education Training*

Robertson, H. C. (2024, October). New York State Mental Health Counseling Association (NYMHCA). Virtual Workshop. Presentation: *Success Strategies for Counseling Students: Academic and Professional Growth.*

Awards/Recognition

Dr. Bethea: St. John's University with Excellence in Inclusive Service and Outreach

Dr. Cicco

- St. John's University with the Faculty Leadership and Service Award
- Leaders in Education Awards Dinner (LEAD)

Dr. McCants

- President-Elect-Elect for the North Atlantic Region of Counselor Education and Supervision (NARACES)
- Linda Seligman Counselor Educator of the Year Award from the American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA).

Dr. Robertson

- St. John's University with the Values and Inclusion Program (VIP) Award

- Sigma Tau Upsilon CSI Chapter, Program Dedication and Student Inspiration Award

C. **Faculty Tenure/Promotion.** List faculty tenured and/or promoted this year and indicate the action

N/A – no faculty promoted or tenured during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Section 5: Program/Departmental Achievements

Please provide 2 -3 departmental achievements and include supporting evidence where applicable.

Significant Outcomes

CPCE Score Improvement

Department data indicated a decline in CPCE passing rates following COVID-19. We implemented programmatic changes, including, all core classes taught by fulltime faculty, front loading CPCE courses in front of program, and utilizing CPCE prep and practice materials throughout core classes. The result was a return to improved passing rates on the CPCE as outlined in **Table 3**

Table 3. CPCE Passing Rates, Entering Cohorts 2020 - 2023

Cohort	Total # Test Takers	Pass	Fail	Pass Rate
Incoming F2020 (test 2021-2022)	34	32	2	94%
Incoming F2021 (test 2022-2023)	31	21	10	68%
Incoming F2022 (test 2023-2024)	54	38	16	70%
Incoming F2023 (test 2024-2025)	35	32	3	91%

Employment Rates

Table 4 outlines employment data for the 2024-2025 academic year that was provided to the department by the SJU Career Center in December of 2025. Data reflects employment rates for graduates from January to May of 2025.

Table 4. Counselor Education Employment Rates (Source: SJU Career Center)

<i>The School of Education</i>					
Major: Queens Campus	Population	Reachable	Response	Response Rate	Placement Rate
Clinical Mental Health Counsel	31	30	23	77%	87%
School Counselor	6	3	2	67%	100%

Fieldwork Placement Settings

Tables 5 and 6 outline our Internship Placement locations for the 2023-2024 academic year. Student field placement sites (practicum, internship 1, and internship 2) represent a broad range of K-12 settings (e.g., public, private, Catholic, charter, ES, MS, and HS) and mental health settings (e.g., community agency, nonprofit, private practice, etc.).

Table 5. CMHC Field Placement Sites (F24, Sp25, Sm25)

ACMH	Aristotle Biofeedback Service	Balance Mental Health Counseling	BeWELL Psychotherapy
Breakthrough Mental Health Counseling	Catholic Charities	CEC (formerly Charles Evans Center)	Chinese American Sunshine House
Cognitive Therapy of Staten Island	Cornerstone	CSEDNY	Expressive Connections Mental Health Counseling
Footprints Mental Health Counseling	Fortune Society	Gateway Counseling Center	GoodWill PROS Rebound
Growth and Transitions Counseling	Growth and Transitions Counseling	Jamron Counseling	Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD)
Mercy Hospital Behavioral Health Clinic	Michelle Silver Lining	Mindful Insights	My Therapy Matters
Neuropsychological and Psychological Evaluations LLC	New Path Treatment Center	New York Counseling for Change	New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center (NYPCC)
Next Level Mental Health Counseling	Phidaly Counseling	Queens Centers for Progress/	Queens Counseling Services
Realization Center	Rego Park Counseling Center	Safe Passage	SCO Family of Services
Seafeld Mineola	Serenity Zone	The Child Center of NY	The Dorm
The New Hope Mental Health Counseling Services	The Renfrew Center	Emma Bowen Community Service Center	WellLife Network
Westchester Jewish Community Services	YMCA Counseling Service		

Table 6. School Counseling Placement Sites (F24 & Sp25)

Abigail Adams Elementary PS 131	Archbishop Molloy High School	Baldwin Middle School	Benjamin N. Cardozo High School
Cambridge Family School 24Q068	Dream Charter School	Edward R. Byrnes Middle School 101	Elmont Memorial High School
Francis Lewis High School	Great Neck South High School	J.H.S. 185 Edward Bleeker	John S. Hobart Elementary School
Maspeth High School	New Prep Middle School	Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School	P.S. 57-Hubert H. Humphrey
P.S. 58 -- The School of Heroes	P.S. 91- The Richard Arkwright School	Port Richmond High School	PS/ MS 124Q - Osmond A. Church
Sacred Heart Academy	Tottenville High School	Young Adult Borough Center (YABC) @ John Adams High School	I. S. 93 Ridgewood
John Adams High School			

Section 6. SMART Goals for the Next Year

Based on the data gathered for your program, please provide 4-5 SMART goal(s) for the upcoming academic year. The following table serves as a guide. Please make sure one of your SMART goals support each of the following areas:

- Recruitment and Retention of students
- Academic success of students

Overview

- The following goals were identified at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year and have been examined each year and captured in Weave.
- Outcomes for these goals are outlined below utilizing data from 2024-2025
- Goals for the 2025-2026 academic year are addressed below and will be examined at our annual assessment retreats.

Goal 1: Recruit, Support, and Retain. The Counselor Education department will recruit and support new students for our programs and retain those students through graduation.

1.1) The Counselor Education Department will admit a consistent class of 50 new students each fall that maintain high quality academic standards (~20-25 CMHC and ~20-25 SCH)

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 1.1 CMHC, 36 new students started in the CMHC program in the fall of 2024. **Goal met.**
- 1.1 SCH, six students started in the SCH program in fall of 2024. **Goal unmet.**

1.2) The Counselor Education Department will support and retain 80% of students who enter the program from admission to graduation.

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 1.2 CMHC, two students did not persist from fall 2024 to fall 2025, making the current retention for the fall 2024 CMHC cohort 94%. The **goal is currently met for CMHC** and will be re-evaluated through graduation.
- 1.2 SCH, one student did not persist from fall 2024 to fall 2025, making the current retention for the fall 2024 SCH cohort 83%. The **goal is currently met for SCH** and will be re-evaluated through graduation.

Goal 2: Academic Excellence: The Counselor Education department will achieve excellence in our teaching and instruction, while simultaneously supporting students' academic success.

2.1) The Counselor Education department will consistently maintain a semester average of 4.0 or higher on a 1 – 5 scale for student evaluations of instruction, including feedback from fulltime and adjunct faculty evaluations, as indicated by departmental summaries received by the chair from IR each semester.

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 2.1, Using summary course evaluation data, the counselor education department course evaluations Table 7 outlines the summary course evaluation data from both the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025, including response rates, and a comparison to 2023-2024 data. Overall evaluation rates improved and averaged 4.0. While not connected to a department goal, response rates improved for fall, but declined for spring. **Goal met.**

Table 7. Summary of Course 2024-2025 Evaluation Data

Semester	# of Courses	Average Response Rate (Target > 75%)	Average Rating (-Q1) (Target > 4.0)	2023-2024 Rating (Response Rate)
Fall 2024	23	75.5%	4.39	4.33 (62.6%)
Spring 2025	19	54.4%	4.42	4.11 (56.7%)
Total	42	66.15%	4.40	

2.2) Based on students' first 12 credits of instruction, at least 90% of new students will be eligible to join our chapter of Chi Sigma Iota based on academic achievements and professional demeanor, as measured by Registrar Report for CSI invitation and faculty review 1x per year.

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 2.2, 100% of Counseling students from the fall 2024 cohort were eligible to join CSI indicating a 3.5 GPA or higher. **Goal met.**

Goal 3: Professional Counselor Competence: St. John's University Counseling students will gain sufficient professional knowledge to be competent in the counseling field as measured by external evaluations.

3.1) Ninety percent (90%) of Counseling students will pass the Counseling Professional Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) on their first attempt, as required for graduation, based on aggregate data provided two times per year by Center for Counselor Education (CCE)

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 3.1, In the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025, 35 total students from the fall 2023 cohort took the CPCE. Of those students 32 passed (91%) and three failed/required a retake (9%). **Goal met.**

3.2) Of the Counseling students who elect to take the National Counselor Exam (NCE), 90% of students will pass the exam, based on aggregate data provided two times per year by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 3.2, two students took the NCE in 2024-2025, with one passing score and one failing score, indicating a pass rate of 50%. **Goal unmet.**

3.3) Graduates seeking licensing in NYS must take and pass the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Exam (NCMHCE). Target will be to increase baseline test outcomes and/or maintain/exceed a 2/3 pass rate (e.g., 66-67%).

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 3.3, In December of 2025, the department received passing rates for the year 2024. That data indicated that 26 St. John's graduates took the NCMHCE in 2024 and 19 passed, indicating a passing rate of 73%. As stated in earlier reports, the department receives aggregate data and is unable to ascertain as to which of the 26 test-takers were new or repeat exams. **Goal met.**

A new goal will be added in the 2025-2026 academic year focused on School Counselor Content Specialty Test (CST) results.

Goal 4: Counselor Employability: St. John's University graduates will be competitive for the job market as professional Counselors.

4.1) Eighty percent (80%) of School Counseling graduates will be employed in a counseling related position within six months following graduation as reported by the annual SJU Career Center follow-up survey.

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 4.1 SCH, Career Center data reported 100% employment rates as of December 2025. **Goal met.**

4.2) Eighty percent (80%) of Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduates will be employed in a counseling related position within six months following graduation as reported by the annual SJU Career Center follow-up survey.

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 4.2, CMHC, Career Center data reported 87% employment rates as of December 2025. **Goal met.**

Goal 5: Promote Diversity within the Counseling Profession: The Counselor Education department will seek to enroll, support, and retain diverse students to address the need for diverse counseling professionals within the field.

5.1) The Counselor Education department strive for increased gender representation within the program, specifically representation of male and non-binary students, as indicated by annual IR enrollment reports.

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 5.1, the Counselor Education department continues to be overwhelmingly female (86%) compared to male (14%).

5.2) The Counselor Education department will strive for increased racial and ethnic representation within the program, specifically increased representation of BIPOC in all programs, with particular focus on our School Counselor programs.

Outcomes for 2024-2025

- 5.2, The majority of students in the Counselor Education department continues identify as non-white/Hispanic (63%) compared to white/non-Hispanic (37%).

Plans to Address Unmet Needs

- Weave Goal 1.1. SCH Enrollments: Strategies to increase SCH enrollment include promoting the Adv Cert Bridge and launching the new online school program.
- Weave 3.2: NCE scores. Part of problem is small # of students who take NCE. We may need to revisit the wording of this goal since 90% assume at least 10 students take the exam. This will be addressed with the SOE Director of Assessment.
- In 2025-2026, we need to add a Weave 3.4 on NYS School Counselor CST

Goals for 2025-2026

The Dean identified the following strategic priorities for the 2025-2026 academic year: 1) Student Enrollment, Retention, and Advising, 2) Accreditation and Assessment, 3) Research and Scholarship, 4) Online Learning Strategy, 5) Operational Efficiency and Academic Program Review, and 6) Artificial

Intelligence.

The department will continue to assess and measure data on Goals 1 – 5 outlined above, while addressing the Dean’s Strategic Priorities through the efforts outlined below.

1. **Student Enrollment, Retention, and Advising:** Significant efforts are being made to address enrollment in our School Counseling programs. Currently our Advanced Certificate School Counseling bridge program supplements our low MSED School Counseling enrollment. We continue to advertise for the School Counseling Bridge Adv. Cert, and document outcomes in this area under Goal 1 (above and in Weave).
2. **Accreditation and Assessment:** The department submitted their Self-Study Report (SSR) to CACREP in September of 2025. Much of the 2025-2026 academic year will be spent reviewing the report and preparing for the CACREP May letter, addendum, and fall 2026 visit. As stated, we will continue our twice annual Assessment Retreats to evaluate program and student data.
3. **Research and Scholarship:** Faculty continue to conduct research and scholarship in a variety of areas. This area is particularly vital to the success of our new, tenure-track faculty members. Faculty academic accomplishments will be outlined in Section 4 of the 2025-2026 annual report, and are also announced on our department LinkedIn page:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/counselor-education-st-john-s-university-school-of-education/>
4. **Online Learning Strategy:** We have begun working with the office of Online Learning on the development of an online School Counseling masters degree, scheduled to launch in fall 2026.
5. **Operational Efficiency and Academic Program Review:** We continue to monitor our programs for efficiency and market value. While our CMHC program enrollments are robust, our SCH MSED program has suffered declining enrollment. This deficit is addressed through Adv Cert School Counseling Bridge enrollment and the potential online School Program. We are also exploring the transition of our Adv Cert in CMHC from an on-campus program to an online modality to meet market demand.
6. **Artificial Intelligence.** Faculty continue to integrate artificial intelligence into their teaching and research. Artificial intelligence statements and policies have been added to several syllabi. Dr. Gonzalez had led several of these initiatives, embedding AI in his teaching and publishing several articles on the subject. St. John’s University recently announced and AI fellowship, for which Dr. Gonzalez applied. Other faculty, such as Dr. Robertson and Dr. Jalilzadeh, have integrated AI into their teaching, research, and scholarship.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather C. Robertson, Ph.D.
12/07/2025