

Leo Gonzalez Jr., Ph.D., LMHC, LPCC, NCC

Email: gonzall1@stjohns.edu

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy- Counseling (Concentration: Counselor Education) 06/2024

Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon (CACREP Accredited)

Dissertation Title: *Examining the Psycholinguistic Features of Hip-Hop Lyrics*

(Chair: Cass Dykeman, Ph.D.)

Master of Science of Education- Clinical Mental Health Counseling 05/2016

St. John's University, Queens, New York (CACREP Accredited)

Bachelor of Arts- Psychology 05/2013

St. John's University, Queens, New York

Minor: *Public Administration*

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) 2020-Present

New York State #010964

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) 2023-Present

California #14590

National Certified Counselor (NCC) 2020-Present

National Board for Certified Counselors #1273906

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Tenure Track 08/2024-Present

St. John's University, Queens, New York

- Teaching clinical mental health counseling courses to master's students in counselor education.
- Developing and delivering course content that was engaging, interactive, and met the learning objectives of the course(s).
- Providing regular feedback to students on their coursework and progress in the course, and holding virtual office hours to support and guide students.
- Advising graduate students on academic progression, research interests, and professional development opportunities.

Adjunct Instructor 08/2022-08/2024

St. John's University, Queens, New York

- Taught *Practicum, Internship in Clinical Mental Health Counseling* (EDU 6310, EDU 6311, and EDU 6312), and *Case Conceptualization, Treatment Planning, and Pharmacology* (EDU 6270) courses to master's students in counselor education.
- Provided developmentally focused group supervision to students in EDU 6310, EDU 6311, and 6312
- Developed and delivered course content that was engaging, interactive, and met the learning objectives of the course(s).

- Provided regular feedback to students on their coursework and progress in the course and held virtual office hours to support and guide students.

Adjunct Faculty

CUNY York College- SEEK Program

01/2017-12/2021

- Taught *SEEK Counseling Seminar*, (SKCS 102, SKCS 103, SKCS 110) courses to undergraduate students in the SEEK program at York College.
- Facilitated academic workshops on study skills, time-management, and other appropriate topics.
- Developed and delivered course content that was engaging, interactive, and met the learning objectives of the course(s).
- Provided regular feedback to students on their coursework and progress in the course and held virtual office hours to support and guide students.
- Advised 100+ undergraduate students' caseload, providing holistic academic, emotional, and social support to promote retention and student success.

Description of Courses Taught**EDU 6127 Introduction to Counseling**

(Fall 2025)

This course is designed for the beginner level of school and mental health counseling. It will provide students with knowledge, perspectives, and an introduction to the skills necessary for effective practice as a culturally competent counselor. Students will be introduced to the essential concept of successful counseling by learning about the interaction of ethical and legal standards and practices, technology, current research, and best practices.

EDU 6206 Psychosocial Development: Across the Lifespan

(Summer 2025)

This course provides an overview of human growth and development, across the lifespan. This course focuses on the psychosocial factors involved in understanding individuals across the lifespan, in various cultures, including: current understanding about neurobiological behaviors, models of psychopathology and resilience as well as their relationship with positive development and mental health.

EDU 6270 Case Conceptualization, Treatment Planning, and Pharmacology

(Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2025)

This seminar course in mental health counseling will develop advanced interviewing skills and techniques necessary for differential diagnosis, case conceptualization, and treatment planning using the DSM 5, as well as for maintaining and terminating the psychotherapeutic relationship. The appropriateness of consultation and collaboration with other mental health providers will be discussed. In addition, the basic classifications, indications, and contraindications of commonly prescribed psychopharmacological medications will be studied, along with a discussion of the need for appropriate referrals for medication evaluations.

EDU 6301 Career Development

(Spring 2025)

This course will enable students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and intervene in other individual's career development as well as understand the variables influencing their own career path. Interrelationship among lifestyle, work place, and career planning are explored. Career development theories, occupational, educational and personal/ social information sources and delivery systems, and organization of career development programs are studied.

EDU 6310 Practicum in Mental Health Counseling

(Fall 2023)

This course consists of placement in an approved clinical setting (hospital, outpatient clinic, etc.) for a minimum of 100 hours during which the student will engage in a minimum of 40 hours of direct service with clients and the remaining hours performing indirect services under the supervision of an approved site supervisor. The practicum experience provides students with the opportunity to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical experience and to apply particular treatment approaches specific to client populations. In addition to the on-site supervision, students will participate in a weekly on-campus seminar in which group supervision will be provided. A comprehensive case study is required as part of this course.

EDU 6311 Internship in Mental Health Counseling I

(Summer 2023)

This course consists of placement in an approved clinical setting (hospital, outpatient clinic, etc.) for a minimum of 300 hours during which the student will engage in a minimum of 120 hours of direct service with clients and the remaining hours performing indirect services under the supervision of an approved site supervisor. The internship experience is the second field experience for students and provides them with additional opportunities to enhance their clinical interviewing and assessment skills, individual and group counseling skills, and consultation skills under the supervision of an approved supervisor. In addition to the on-site supervision, students will participate in a weekly on-campus seminar in which group supervision will be provided. A comprehensive case study is required as part of this course.

EDU 6312 Internship in Mental Health Counseling II

(Fall, 2022, Fall 2023, Summer 2024)

This course consists of placement in an approved clinical setting (hospital, outpatient clinic, etc.) for a minimum of 300 hours during which the student will engage in a minimum of 120 hours of direct service with clients and the remaining hours performing indirect services under the supervision of an approved site supervisor. The internship experience is the third field experience for students and provides them with additional opportunities to enhance their clinical interviewing and assessment skills, individual and group counseling skills, and consultation skills under the supervision of an approved supervisor. In addition to the on-site supervision, students will participate in a weekly on-campus seminar in which group supervision will be provided. During the on-campus seminar topics on counselor wellness will also be explored. A comprehensive case study is required as part of this course.

SKCS 102 Psychological, Social and Academic Development

(Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)

A forum for students to discuss a variety of topics related to their college roles and responsibilities, including personal development, interpersonal relationships, academic demands, career choices, and college resources.

SKCS 103 Developing Self-Awareness for Academic Success

(Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020)

This course incorporates an interdisciplinary perspective which will provide students the opportunity to develop deeper insight into personal and social issues that impact their academic success. The topics covered include personal development, interpersonal relationships, and career choices as they pertain to students' roles and responsibilities.

SKCS 110 Developing Coping Strategies for Academic Success

(Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021)

An examination of human behavior as it relates to developing the appropriate coping strategies, learning techniques and study skills needed to promote academic success.

SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Faculty Supervisor

Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Summer 2023

St. John's University

- Provided direct oversight and guidance to 10-12 clinical mental health counseling students during their clinical internships in approved clinical settings, including hospitals and outpatient clinics.
- Provided developmentally focused group supervision to practicum and internship clinical mental health counseling students.
- Communicated and collaborated with site supervisors to enhance supervisee's learning experiences.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Mental Health Counselor, Private Practice

01/2021–Present

Leo Gonzalez Jr., Brooklyn, New York

Providing short and long-term counseling to individuals, couples, and families addressing such issues as anxiety, depression, trauma, substance use, and relationships. Completing client-centered, strengths-based, culturally competent, and individualized intakes and assessments. Providing comprehensive case management services, including creating treatment plans and connecting clients and families to appropriate resources. Guiding clients in effective therapeutic exercises integrated from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)

Student Support Specialist- Counselor

08/2015–12/2021

CUNY York College- SEEK Program

Provided counseling to 100-120 students covering academic, social, career, and related issues, and making appropriate referrals as needed. Facilitated SEEK first-year seminar course. Developed learning outcomes and activities to create a successful Peer Mentoring Program. Determined areas of need, developed and facilitated orientation programs, seminars, student workshops, and other activities. Developed academic interventions related to student academic status and success. Reported on activities and outcomes, and assisted with report writing and data-collection. Collaborated with academic and student support departments to ensure students utilized available services and programming. Recruited, interviewed, and trained potential peer-mentors. Promoted and marketed peer-mentoring program to SEEK students. Developed ongoing trainings and provided ongoing support for peer mentors. Tracked mentee participation, engagement, and success in college life.

Mental Health Counselor, Private Practice

07/2019–01/2021

Growth and Transitions, PLLC, Queens, New York

Provided short and long-term counseling to individuals, couples, and families addressing such issues as anxiety, depression, trauma, substance use, relationships. Completed client-centered, strengths-based, culturally competent, and individualized intakes and assessments. Provided comprehensive case management services, including creating treatment plans and connecting clients and families to appropriate resources. Guided clients in effective therapeutic exercises integrated from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)

Addiction Counselor

05/2016–08/2019

Western Queens Recovery Services, Queens, New York

Provided individual counseling, group counseling, and crisis intervention services to individuals and families addressing issues related to substance use and various mental health disorders. Completed required documentation efficiently, including progress notes, treatment plans, treatment plan reviews, biopsychosocial, weekly and monthly progress reports, and discharge documentation. Contributed to

Gonzalez Jr., L., & McCalla, D. (2025). *Counselor-in-training perceptions of artificial intelligence: Implications for counselor education. Journal of Counselor Preparation and Supervision, 19(3), 1–14.* <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/jcps/vol19/iss3/9>

weekly treatment team case conferences collaborating with colleagues to ensure the strongest treatment plan for each patient.

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND SCHOLARLY PRODUCTIVITY

BOOK CHAPTERS

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.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Renwick, A. S., **Gonzalez, L. Jr.**, Silber, C. L., Mullen, A., Dykeman, C., Stewart, A., Ross, J. C., & Geisler, J. (2025). The emotional landscape of aviation pilots: Analysis of online professional forums using natural language processing. *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research, 34(3)*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.58940/2329-258X.2132>

Gonzalez, L. Jr., & McCalla, D. (2025). Counselor-in-training perceptions of artificial intelligence: Implications for counselor education. *Journal of Counselor Preparation and Supervision, 19(3)*, 1–14. <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/jcps/vol19/iss3/9>

Gonzalez, L. Jr., & Dollarhide, L. (2025). Artificial intelligence as a systemic force in mental health: An ecological framework for ethical and multilevel integration. *International Journal of Systemic Therapy*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2692398X.2025.2549605>

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>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Smith, D., Gonzalez, L. Jr., Malik, T., Ni, C. F., Silber, C., Jaeger, S., & Dykeman, C. (under review). *Digital sanctuaries: Emotion and sentiment analyses of transgender online communities discussing suicide*. Manuscript under review at *Sexes*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Gonzalez, L. Jr. (in preparation). Teaching AI Literacy in Counselor Education: A Pre/Post Study of an AI Literacy Intervention

Gonzalez, L. Jr. (in preparation). Toward a Framework for AI Literacy in Counselor Education: Conceptual Foundations, Pedagogical Implications, and Ethical Integration.

Gonzalez, L. Jr. (faculty advisor). (in preparation). Barriers to leadership for marginalized students in counselor education: A qualitative analysis of student reflections. Manuscript in preparation with graduate student collaborators.

Gonzalez, L. Jr. (faculty mentor). (in preparation). Misdiagnosed and overlooked: Topic modeling of gendered ADHD narratives in Reddit communities. Manuscript in preparation with graduate student as part of an independent study project.

PRESENTATIONS

*Kaur, N., *Kaur, H., **Gonzalez, L. Jr.** (2025, October 17). *Wellness Through a Spiritual Lens: Culturally Affirming Practices for Religious Clients*. [Poster Session]. Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors (ACES) Conference (National), Philadelphia, PA.

*Schwab, M. M., *Khan, M., **Gonzalez, L. Jr.** (2025, October 17). *Barriers to Leadership for Marginalized Counselors in Training: An Intersectional and Ecological Analysis*. [Poster Session]. Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors (ACES) Conference (National), Philadelphia, PA.

Gonzalez, L. Jr., Levy, I., Norris, J. (2025, October 17). *Integrating Hip Hop Pedagogy in Counseling Theories Courses*. [Educational Session]. Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors (ACES) Conference (National), Philadelphia, PA.

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

Ferrese, S., & **Gonzalez, L. Jr.** (2025, April 12). *Fighting the power: Social justice discourse in hip hop lyricism*. [Roundtable session]. Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) Conference (National), San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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

Ferrese, S., & **Gonzalez, L. Jr.** (2024, October 25). *Lyricism and Linguistics: Bringing 'Street Cred' to Counseling*. [Education session]. Western Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors (WACES) Conference (Regional), Tuscon, AZ.

Deeg-Davis, M., & **Gonzalez, L. Jr.** (2023, April). *What Counselors Need to Know About School Shooting Threat Assessment*. [Education session]. American Counseling Association (National) Conference, Toronto, CA.

Gonzalez, L. Jr., & Parawan, S. (2019, April). *Captivating Students: Utilizing Social Media In Higher Education*. Education session presented at the 15th Biennial Tri-State Consortium of Opportunity Programs in Higher Education Conference, Long Island, NY.

Note: * indicate student co-authors or co-presenters

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND GOVERNANCE

College

SOE Assessment Committee Member

2024–Present

Department

Chi Sigma Iota (Counseling Honor Society) Chapter Co-Faculty Advisor
Assessment Co-Liaison

2024–Present
2025–Present

Service to the Profession
Leadership/Committee Member

Association of Humanistic Counseling (AHC)

- Technology Committee, Member, September 2024-Present

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International

Chi Sigma Iota (CSI), International Counseling Honor Society

Omega Sigma Upsilon

National

American Counseling Association (ACA)

Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC)

Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES)

Association for Creativity in Counseling (ACC)

Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC)

Association for Multicultural Counseling & Development (AMCD)

Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ)

Regional

North Atlantic Region Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (NARACES)

Western Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (WACES)

Local

New York Mental Health Counselors Association (NYMHCA)