



12/5/2016

Bellevue University is proud to welcome you to our Master of Science in Clinical Counseling (MSCC) program! We are committed to providing you with excellence in education and getting you started on a fulfilling career as a clinical mental health counselor.

Additionally, we are excited to announce that we recently submitted our Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) application. CACREP is the organization that accredits counseling programs across the country. Should we obtain CACREP accreditation, it would mean that we meet very high standards in counselor training. Our application is the first step toward attaining CACREP accreditation for our program. The entire process of being reviewed, evaluated, and accredited can take two years or more. We are hopeful for a quick review and approval.

Additional information on accreditation

There are two different types of accreditation for higher education institutions – “institutional” and “specialized” or “programmatic.”

Bellevue University maintains institutional accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. Institutional accreditation applies to the entire institution and it is important because accreditation by the Commission and other nationally recognized agencies provides assurance to you and the public, that an organization has met the agency’s clearly stated requirements and criteria, and that there are reasonable grounds for believing that it will continue to meet them.

Specialized or programmatic accreditation normally applies to specific programs or departments within an institution to recognize particular aspects and quality of a specific academic field or program. Specialized accreditation is not a requirement for the MSCC program to operate or awarded degrees. Bellevue University’s MSCC program does not currently have specialized accreditation, but it is being pursued as explained above.

How does this affect you, as a new MSCC student?

You are included in our application for CACREP accreditation. Attending full-time in the MSCC program means that you will graduate in 10 quarters (about 2.5 years). If we obtain CACREP as a result of this June 2016 CACREP application, you will be included and will graduate from a CACREP accredited program. The primary benefit to you after graduation is that CACREP accreditation can make your state counseling licensure process flow more easily.

We are optimistic that our CACREP-aligned Master’s in Clinical Counseling program meets CACREP Clinical Mental Health Counseling Standards and that we have a high likelihood of success in obtaining

the accreditation. However, it is important to remember that specialized accreditation is not guaranteed, and therefore we cannot guarantee that you will graduate from a CACREP accredited program.

The MSCC degree from Bellevue University has consistently been found by state licensing agencies to be equivalent to a CACREP accredited Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree for counseling licensure purposes. This means that, when you apply for your state's counseling licensure, if your licensure law requires a CACREP CMHC degree or equivalent it is likely, based on past determinations, that you will meet that requirement. To prove equivalency, generally state licensure boards ask for copies of your course syllabi.

Counseling licensure differs state by state. This may be a good time to review your state's licensure requirements again. You can locate them on the American Counseling Association webpage:

<https://www.counseling.org/knowledge-center/licensure-requirements>

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Program Director, Dr. Barb Daubenspeck at Barb.Daubenspeck@Bellevue.edu or 402-557-7520.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barb Daubenspeck



Dr. Barb Daubenspeck, Ph.D.

Program Director and Associate Professor | Clinical Counseling

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