

Erica Pearson, Ph.D., LPC, NCC  
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## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**, Counselor Education (CACREP Accredited), April 2019  
*Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI*  
Specializations in Trauma Counseling and Creative Therapeutic Approaches  
Summa Cum Laude

**Master of Arts (M.A.)**, Counseling (CACREP Accredited), April 2016  
*Oakland University, Rochester, MI*  
Specialization in Community Counseling  
Magna Cum Laude

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)**, Psychology, December 2011  
*Oakland University, Rochester, MI*  
Minors in Spanish Language and Sociology  
Cum Laude

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

**Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)**. Licensed by the State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. (License #6401015521); Licensed by the Oregon Board of Licensed Counselors and Therapists. (License #C5406)

**National Certified Counselor (NCC)**. Certified by the National Board for Certified Counselors. (Certification #745263)

**Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)**. Certified by the National Crime Victims Research & Treatment Center, *Medical University of South Carolina*.

**Certified Human-Animal Intervention Specialist (CHAIS)**. Certified by the Center for Human-Animal Interventions, *Oakland University*.

## WORK EXPERIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**Director of the Counseling Center**, June 2023-Present  
*Student Counseling Center, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI*

- Provide leadership and vision for the Counseling Center by creating a culture of high-quality care and continuous improvement
- Ensure efficient, equitable, and quality delivery of all clinical services, including individual and group counseling, referral, consultation, and crisis intervention; ensure delivery of evidenced-based, culturally sensitive services to students including trauma-informed therapy, race-based traumatic stress, and systems theory

- Develop and execute assessment tools for all student populations to implement culturally sensitive and appropriate strategies.
- Lead the development and revision of policies and procedures in adherence to federal, state, and professional associations guidelines and standards
- Manage the Counseling Center budget
- Oversee the coordination, consultation, and guidance for crisis/liaison services, including intervention and postvention services for emergencies and highly acute situations
- Oversee the electronic record system (Titanium), including maintaining the accurate collection of records and statistics to provide information for decision-making and feedback to staff and university partners and quality assurance of documentation.
- Foster strong professional relationships with local mental health providers for referral and networking
- Facilitate collaboration between the Counseling Center and other offices and departments across campus in order to strengthen the development and delivery of mental health services and prevention initiatives
- Develop and present workshops/programs on pertinent mental health topics to the campus community; develop culturally competent material, presentations, and student focused programs
- Advise Vice President for Student Development & Dean of Students on college needs regarding mental health matters
- Provide direct clinical service including individual and group counseling, assessment, crisis intervention, and consultation
- Supervise senior staff and doctoral interns
- Serve on the Vice President's senior leadership team

**Adjunct Faculty**, August 2021-August 2022

*Department of Psychology and Counselor Education, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI*

- Taught core courses in the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program
  - COU 502: Foundations of Clinical Mental Health Counseling (online)
  - COU 505: Theories of Counseling and Helping (hybrid online)
  - COU 601: Research Methods and Program Evaluation
  - COU 701: Advanced Techniques and Practicum
  - COU 702: Internship 1 in Clinical Counseling
  - COU 703: Internship 2 in Clinical Counseling
  - COU 706: Crisis Intervention and Trauma Counseling

**Director of Counseling, Health, and Wellness**, July 2020-October 2021

*Health and Wellness Center, Olivet College, Olivet, MI*

- Designed, established, and maintained an organizational structure to effectively accomplish counseling, health, and wellness department goals
- Recruited, hired, trained, supervised, and scheduled Health and Wellness staff and clinical interns; maintained site compliance and provided supervision for clinical interns; enforced professional and ethical standards
- Facilitated service provision of individual counseling, group counseling, and personal development for students

- Coordinated referrals of ongoing care for students with significant mental health issues to local community resources, following through to ensure service efficacy
- Actively assessed the needs of Olivet College students in order to provide intentional, data informed program interventions and educational opportunities to promote a culture of health and wellness
- Continually evaluated services offered, set objectives, measured effectiveness, appraised performance, and projected future departmental objectives
- Actively supported student health services by providing resources, scheduled events, and subject matter expertise
- Continually collaborated with other campus constituencies to provide programming, educational, and outreach opportunities for the campus community; provided leadership for mental health in the residence halls
- Integrated counseling, health, and wellness services and institutional training strategically to provide and support the needs of the faculty and staff within the college
- Led and served on college committees; participated in various cross-functional work groups chartered with the responsibility for various special projects intended to add value, increase efficiency, enhance effectiveness, and improve services of the college
- Managed situations involving various psychological, emotional, medical, or safety related emergencies or incidents; provided appropriate referrals as needed
- Established strong community partnerships in order to provide better services and opportunities for students
- Proposed and designed a Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling program following CACREP standards; compiled a Higher Learning Commission application for the program; assembled an advisory board for the development of the program
- Increased professional knowledge by reviewing current literature, conducting social research, and attending seminars and training workshops
- Participated in budget preparation and administration; prepared cost estimates for budget recommendations; submitted justifications for expenditure requests; monitored and controlled expenditures
- Designed and taught an original course on animal-assisted therapy for the Global Citizen Honors Program

**Temporary Senior Clinical Staff, September 2019-December 2019**

*Center for Student Health and Counseling, Portland State University, Portland, OR*

- Assessed and provided treatment to students presenting with a wide range of emotional and mental health problems in time limited and individual modalities
- Was an active member of the Counseling Services clinical team participating in team meetings, trainee case consultation group, peer supervision, and in-service training activities

**Personal Counseling Doctoral Assistant, September 2016-April 2019**

*Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, Western Michigan University*

- Assisted Western Michigan University students and community members with obtaining counseling services
- Conducted intake sessions with new clients seeking personal, couples, and family counseling
- Provided mental health counseling through individual modality

- Completed assessment to evaluate client's risk of harm to self and others
- Participated in weekly collaborative consultation with supervisor regarding client dispositions
- Oversaw and trained Master's- and Doctoral-level practicum students on the practice and policies of the clinic
- Provided orientation on software integral to training: electronic medical records (Titanium), online assessment tool (OQ Analyst) and electronic digital recording system (METI)
- Trained new Doctoral Assistants and front desk staff members
- Served in an administrative role with regard to METI, including regular management and system setup
- Assisted Clinic Director with administrative tasks
- Provided outreach to Western Michigan University students through classroom panels on mental health topics
- Conducted quarterly client file reviews

**Co-Instructor**, May 2018-June 2018

*CECP 6630: Family Interaction and Therapy, Western Michigan University*

- Worked with faculty member Dr. Alan Hovestadt
- Prepared lectures and led discussions on the topics of intergenerational, structural, systemic, and experiential family therapy
- Participated in twice-weekly collaborative consultation with instructor and other doctoral co-instructor regarding lesson plans
- Graded homework and papers

**Co-Instructor**, January 2018-April 2018

*SOC 4950: Social Justice Practicum, Western Michigan University*

- Worked with faculty member Dr. Angela Moe
- Assisted in curriculum development
- Prepared lectures and led discussions on the topics of power and privilege, trauma, and secondary traumatic stress
- Graded homework, papers, and class participation
- Facilitated service learning component of course by engaging in correspondence and site visits with community partners in Kalamazoo, MI

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, August 2013-December 2013

*SOC 104: Elements of Sociology, University of Kansas*

- Developed curriculum and led weekly discussion
- Guided class to engage in deep thinking
- Assigned and graded homework

**Teaching Assistant**, January 2011-April 2011

*PSY 251: Statistics and Research Design, Oakland University*

- Worked with Oakland University faculty member Dr. Raman
- Held twice-weekly office hours, conducted exam study sessions, taught various class periods

**Teaching Assistant**, May 2010-December 2010

*HC 100: Introduction to the Honors College, Oakland University*

- Worked with Honors College Interim Director Dr. Gary Shepherd
- Held weekly discussion sessions
- Planned and organized relevant on and off campus events and community service involvement
- Graded students' class assignments and evaluated students' participation in class

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

**Clinician/Supervisor**, February 2022-March 2023

*Great Lakes Psychology Group, Kalamazoo, MI*

- Deliver therapeutic counseling services to adults in person and via telehealth
- Perform biopsychosocial intake interview, facilitate weekly therapy sessions, and provide continuous treatment planning to ensure ethical and effective client services
- Maintain electronic client files and case documentation in compliance with state and federal standards

**Content Expert Consultant**, February 2022-August 2022

*Publicis Groupe, Chicago, IL*

- Collaborated with Conscious Mind to develop mental wellness content to employees at Leo Burnett Worldwide, Starcom, and Digitas
- Provided virtual presentations regarding mental health tailored to global advertising agency employees

**Mental Health Professional**, October 2019-July 2020

*Naphcare, Inc., Clackamas County Jail, Oregon City, OR*

- Performed and documented mental health evaluations, progress notes, individual counseling notes, and suicide watch notes in EMR system
- Facilitated client treatment to include admission and discharge from suicide precautions and administrative watch
- Demonstrated knowledge of the DSM-V criteria with appropriate intervention
- Relayed critical information and significant changes in client condition to custody staff
- Worked cohesively with the Health Services Administrator and psychiatric provider in the coordination of the mental health care delivery system
- Acted as content consultant to Jail Captain for the facility's suicide prevention campaign
- Provided telemental health counseling to inmates during COVID-19 pandemic

**Content Expert Consultant**, November 2019-March 2020

*Independent Consultation*

- Supervised one PsyD intern with placement in a correctional facility
- Provided feedback regarding client and animal welfare and management of therapy animal during group sessions
- Utilized supervision skills and interventions

**Healthy Living Skills Group Facilitator**, September 2018-May 2019

*Trauma Recovery Associates, Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program, Kalamazoo, MI*

- Provided group counseling to adult offenders in a residential community-based alternative to incarceration
- Conducted weekly group counseling sessions related to trauma recovery and coping skill development
- Addressed topics such as grounding, processing feelings, attachment ambivalence, cognitive distortions, locus of control shift, forgiveness, grief, and calming body stress responses
- Trained new group facilitators

**Animal-Assisted Therapy Provider**, August 2018-March 2019

*Alamo Nursing Home & CentraCare Health, Kalamazoo, MI*

- Worked with registered therapy dog, Noodles, as a treatment team for an individual with Alzheimer's disease on a biweekly basis
- Provided biweekly group services to nursing home residents

**Content Expert Supervisor**, May 2018

*Center for Human Animal Interventions, Oakland University*

- Supervised six students enrolled in the animal-assisted therapy weekend practicum course
- Provided feedback to students regarding basic counseling skills, client and animal welfare, and management of therapy animal during session
- Utilized supervision skills and interventions

**Doctoral Practicum Clinical Supervisor**, September 2017-December 2017

*Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, Western Michigan University*

- Co-led a Master's practicum section and provide individual supervision to the five students enrolled in course
- Assisted students develop and employ theoretical orientations
- Evaluated students regarding basic counseling skills, relationship and counseling process skills, multicultural focus, assessment and conceptualization skills, managing professional responsibilities, and professional and ethical behavior
- Cultivated a supervisory relationship
- Utilized supervision skills and interventions

**Doctoral Clinical Supervisor**, May 2017-August 2017

*Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, Western Michigan University*

- Supervised the counseling experience of one Master's practicum student with a focus on:
  - Ethical and legal considerations in counseling
  - Evaluation methods
  - Dynamics and processes of the supervisory relationship
  - Structuring supervision experiences
  - Supervision skills and interventions

**Mental Health Clinician**, April 2017-June 2018

*Behavioral Health Services, Kalamazoo County Jail, Kalamazoo, MI*

- Coordinated, planned, implemented, and facilitated addiction counseling programs for jail inmates
- Conducted initial assessment to determine eligibility for addictions treatment
- Provided twice-weekly individual and group counseling sessions related to addiction treatment needs
- Followed the evidence-based manualized treatment “Breaking the Cycle” that is supported by the Michigan Department of Corrections
- Maintained database of all clients currently enrolled in addiction counseling to track status in phases of addiction counseling program
- Coordinated services in the community for clients approaching release from incarceration

**Animal-Assisted Therapy Provider**, September 2016-September 2017

*Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital, Kalamazoo, MI*

- Worked with registered therapy dog, Noodles, as a treatment team for individuals with severe mental illness
- Provided biweekly individual and group services

**Doctoral Practicum Counselor**, September 2016-December 2016

*Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, Western Michigan University*

- Provided mental health counseling to adult clients through individual modality
- Created treatment plans based on case conceptualization
- Utilized narrative and person-centered interventions and techniques
- Developed humanistic and psychodynamic theoretical models for client growth

**Mental Health Professional**, July 2016-April 2017

*Correct Care Solutions, Macomb County Jail, Mt. Clemens, MI*

- Assessed psychiatric emergencies and provided crisis intervention to emotionally distressed and mentally ill inmates
- Conducted evaluations of inmates for the purpose of suicide intervention and prevention
- Coordinated inmate care with corrections staff to ensure inmates’ special needs were addressed
- Developed individualized treatment plans for psychiatric inmates who required intensive behavior management
- Promoted linkages with community mental health agencies, other support services, and families for continuum of care including discharge planning when indicated
- Attended departmental meetings and trainings

**Counseling Intern**, January 2016-April 2016

*Communicare Michigan, Rochester, MI*

- Provided counseling services to individuals with traumatic brain injuries
- Addressed co-occurring disorders such as Substance Use Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Depression, Anxiety, Anorexia, ADHD, and cognitive disorders
- Co-facilitated daily group therapy sessions
- Conducted weekly individual cognitive behavioral therapy sessions
- Utilized expressive therapy with non-communicative individuals

- Completed daily cognitive notes
- Administered, scored, and interpreted Quality of Life assessments

**Practicum Counselor**, August 2015-December 2015

*School of Education and Human Services Counseling Center, Oakland University*

- Provided mental health and career counseling to adolescent and adult clients through individual and couple modalities
- Administered client intakes and developed treatment plans based on case conceptualization and DSM V diagnoses
- Administered, scored, and interpreted various assessments such as the Beck Depression Inventory

**Pet Therapy Provider**, August 2015-August 2016

*St. Joseph's Partial Psychiatric Hospitalization Program, Pontiac, MI*

- Attended biweekly group therapy sessions with approved therapy-dog-in-training
- Facilitated social skill development in individuals with mental illness

**Animal-Assisted Intervention Co-Facilitator**, March 2011; March 2015-August 2015

*Children's Village Juvenile Detention Center, Pontiac, MI*

- Co-led an intervention program that couples incarcerated youth with dogs from local animal shelters in a positive, reward-based dog training and behavior modification multi-week workshop

**Child Protective Services Specialist**, November 2014-April 2015

*State of Michigan, Pontiac, MI*

- Provided casework services to dependent, neglected, abused, and delinquent children and youths, children with disabilities, socially and economically disadvantaged and dependent adult clients, and other individuals and families
- Determined the appropriate method and course of action and implemented service, treatment, and learning plans
- Prepared legal documents, forms, and petitions
- Testified in court on services rendered to children and families

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Doctoral Dissertation**, Defended March 2019

*A Case Study of a Jail Participating in an Animal-Assisted Crisis Response Program*

Chair: Jennifer Foster, Ph.D.

Committee Members: Angela Moe, Ph.D. and Alan Hovestadt, Ed.D.

**Pilot Study**, In Post-Data Collection Analysis

*Counselor Perspectives on Animal-Assisted Therapy as a Treatment for Offenders*

**Honors College Senior Thesis**, Accepted by Honors College September 2011

*American Values of Happiness: A Cross-Cultural Analysis with Spain*

Chair: Rebecca Malatesta, Ph.D.



**Research Apprentice**, January 2010-September 2011

Lakshmi Raman, Ph.D., Cognitive Development Laboratory

Andrea Kozak, Ph.D., Behavioral Medicine Laboratory

*Contributed to the following publications:*

Kozak, A. T., Davis, J., Brown, R., & Grabowski, M. (2017). Are overeating and food addiction related to distress tolerance? An examination of residents with obesity from a U.S. metropolitan area. *Obesity Research & Clinical Practice*, 11(3), 287-298.

doi:10.1016/j.orcp.2016.09.010

Raman, L. (2013). Children's and adults' understanding of the impact of nutrition on biological and psychological processes. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 32(1), 78-93.

doi:10.1111/bjdp.12024

Raman, L. (2011). Why do we eat? Children's and adults' understanding of why we eat different meals. *The Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 172(4), 401-413.

doi:10.1080/00221325.2010.550526

Raman, L. (2011). Does “yummy” food help you grow and avoid illness? Children's and adults' understanding of the effect of psychobiological labels on growth and illness. *Child Development Research*, 2011, 1-10. doi:10.1155/2011/638239

## PUBLICATIONS

### National Refereed

Schlau, E. (2017). Bring your dog to work day: What animal-assisted therapy is NOT. In *Ideas and research you can use: VISTAS 2017*. Retrieved from <http://www.counseling.org/knowledge-center/vistas>

### University

Schlau, E. (2019). *A case study of a jail participating in an animal-assisted crisis response program* (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dissertations/3408>

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

### International Refereed

Pearson, E. (2022, September). A Case Study of a Jail Participating in an Animal-Assisted Crisis Response Program. Presented at the *International Association of Human-Animal Associations Organizations Annual Conference*. Online.

### National Refereed

Anderson, M. L. & Schlau, E. (2017, October). Professional Identity Development: Challenges for Counselors Specializing in Animal Assisted Therapy. Presented at the *Association for Counselor Education and Supervision National Conference*. Chicago, IL.

Schlau, E. (2017, March). Take Your Dog to Work Day: What Animal Assisted Therapy is NOT. Presented at the *American Counseling Association National Conference*. San Francisco, CA.

### **National Invited**

Pearson, E. (2022, August). Crisis Mental Health. Presented at the *HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response Annual Training*. Kalamazoo, MI.

### **University Invited**

Pearson, E. (2022, October). My Research Journey. Psychology Capstone Course, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI.

Schlau, E. (2018, May). Understanding Canine Communication. Presented at the *Animal-Assisted Therapy Practicum*, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Schlau, E. (2011, December). American Values of Happiness: A Cross-Cultural Analysis with Spain. Presented at the *Honors College Research and Scholarship Day*, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Schlau, E. (2011, March). Introduction of the keynote speaker. Psi Chi of Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Schlau, E. (2010, December). Attachment Theory and its Relation to Animal-Assisted Therapy. Presented at the *Honors College Research and Scholarship Day*, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Schlau, E. (2010, November). Life of a Research Assistant. Psi Chi of Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Schlau, E. (2008, December). Bigotry in Shakespeare. Presented at the *Honors College Research and Scholarship Day*, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

### *National Service and Leadership*

**Journal Peer Reviewer**, Journal of Correctional Healthcare (August 2019-Present)

**Steering Committee Member**, Human-Animal Interaction in Counseling Interest Network of American Counseling Association (April 2017-September 2019)

**Chair**, Special Populations and Animal-Assisted Interventions, Human-Animal Interaction in Counseling Interest Network of American Counseling Association (April 2019-September 2019)

### *Local Service and Leadership*

**Co-Chair**, Research Subcommittee, Trauma Recovery Associates (April 2018-June 2019)

**Member**, Operational Planning and Programming Committee, Trauma Recovery Associates (April 2018-June 2019)

**Board Member**, Trauma Recovery Associates (April 2018-June 2019)

**Board Liaison**, Trauma Recovery Associates (July 2017-March 2018)

### *University Service and Leadership*

**Secretary and Treasurer**, Chi Sigma Iota, Mu Beta Chapter (May 2018-April 2019)

**Content Expert Reviewer**, The Hilltop Review of Western Michigan University (December 2016-April 2019)

**Treasurer**, Chi Sigma Iota, Theta Chapter (May 2015-April 2016)

**Treasurer**, Psi Chi (September 2010-September 2011)

**Board Liaison**, Psi Chi (January 2009-March 2010)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of College Counseling Center Directors  
American Counseling Association  
Association for Counselor Education and Supervision  
Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors  
Chi Sigma Iota  
Golden Key International Honour Society  
Human-Animal Interaction in Counseling Interest Network  
International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors  
North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision  
Therapy Dogs International  
Traumatology Interest Network  
Psi Chi

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Mu Beta Outstanding Doctoral Student Award (2019)  
Robert and Diane Betz Award for Doctoral Studies in Counselor Education and Counseling  
Psychology (2017)  
Graduated with Departmental Honors in Psychology (2011)  
Member of the Honors College (2008-2011)  
Oakland University Distinguished Scholar Award (2008-2011)

## GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate Student Research Grant, Western Michigan University (2018)  
Licensure and Certification Grant, Western Michigan University (2018)  
Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology Graduate Student Travel Fund,  
Western Michigan University (2017)  
Graduate Student Travel Grant, Western Michigan University (2017)  
Chi Sigma Iota Theta Chapter Board Member Travel Grant, Oakland University (2016)  
Helen Waddle Roofe Scholarship, University of Kansas (2013)  
Honors College Thesis Research and Travel Grant, Oakland University, (2011)  
Psychology Department Research Endowment Grant, Oakland University, (2011)  
The Donna and Walt Young Study Abroad Scholarship, Oakland University, (2010)

## SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Implicit Bias-Identity, Bias & Socialization (2022), Creating Fires for Justice, LLC.  
Telehealth for Mental Health Professionals (2020), Pesi, Inc.  
Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Cultural Competency for Clinicians (2018),  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Family and Child Abuse Prevention (2018), Kalamazoo, MI  
A Therapeutic Response to Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse & Neglect (2017), Trauma  
Recovery Associates, Kalamazoo, MI

Confidentiality of Substance Use Treatment Information (2017), Relias Learning, Webinar  
Human Trafficking: Warning Signs and Responding (2016), Kalamazoo, MI  
Best Practices in Animal-Assisted Therapy in Counseling: Provider Competence, Ethics, and  
Techniques (2015), Chi Sigma Iota, Webinar  
Child Welfare Training Institute (2015), Department of Health and Human Services, State of  
Michigan, Pontiac, MI