

VISION 2040: COUNSELING AND ASSESSMENT CLINIC

Vision Statement: The Counseling and Assessment Clinic (CAC) will be the premier provider of mental health services in the Brazos Valley, providing a comprehensive series of training experiences to doctoral students [**interns, and residents**] in health service psychology.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Counseling and Assessment Clinic (CAC) is to foster a community of wellness where individuals and families in the Brazos Valley can find compassionate support and professional guidance. We are committed to providing exceptional counseling and assessment services that empower personal growth, enhance mental health, and are based on scientifically validated evidence-based practices. As a center of learning and innovation, we are committed to nurturing the next generation of health service psychologists by providing a scope and sequence of supervised training experiences to bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students [**pre-doctoral psychology interns, and post-doctoral residents**]. Our dedication to excellence in research drives us to implement clinical protocols that facilitate the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, thus contributing to the advancement of effective mental health practices, ensuring our commitment to the betterment of society.

Goals for the CAC

By August 15, 2025:

Goal	Benefits to the Community	Benefits to Program Faculty	Benefits to Students
The CAC Director and graduate assistants will schedule time each week to work in-person in the CAC during daytime and evening hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clients will perceive that students in the CAC are working under the supervision of more experienced service providers/licensed professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The reputation of the health service psychology programs and program faculty will be elevated among local stakeholders as they are made aware that students have access to supervision from more experienced service providers/licensed professionals while they are working in the CAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will have access to someone in a supervisory role should they have a question or urgent need arise while working in the CAC.

By August 15, 2028:

Goal	Benefits to the Community	Benefits to Program Faculty	Benefits to Students
The Counseling and Assessment Clinic will be self-sustaining and able to operate with minimal support from the Department of Educational Psychology and College of Education and Human Development through financial support from the Texas A&M Foundation and contracts with University and local community partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CAC will remain affordable when compared with other local mental health providers.• The CAC will be an attractive service provider for clients across the socioeconomic spectrum.• The CAC will serve client populations identified as high need by the Brazos Valley Health Coalition (individuals who are incarcerated, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, individuals who identify as LGBT)• The CAC will serve special student populations at Texas A&M identified as high need (first generation students, students on academic probation, students with disabilities, student with significant mental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any profit accumulated in a fiscal year will be reinvested into the CAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will have the opportunity to work with clients from diverse backgrounds who present with a variety of presenting problems.• Contracts can cover the cost for the creation of additional graduate assistant positions.

	health history, students in crisis, students identifying as LGBT)		
<p>The Counseling and Assessment Clinic will be viewed by local stakeholders as a “legitimate mental health provider” operating in a manner that is consistent with other providers of mental health services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local health service providers, such as Baylor Scott & White, CHI Saint Joseph Health, and A&M Health Science Center will refer more patients to the CAC as we convey to them the impression that the CAC is committed to meeting the needs of the local community in a timely manner and to offering high quality training experiences to students working in the CAC. Offices within the University will refer more clients to us as they see that the CAC has the capacity and is committed to meeting the needs of students at Texas A&M. Local school districts and community agencies will refer more children and families to the CAC for individual and group therapy, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reputation of the health service psychology programs and program faculty will be elevated as local stakeholders see the CAC as a venue that has licensed psychologists who can address the needs of clients from diverse backgrounds with a variety of presenting problems supervising students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students working in the CAC will see clients from diverse backgrounds with a variety of presenting problems. Students working in the CAC will receive supervision from a licensed psychologist who can address the needs of clients from diverse backgrounds who present with a variety of presenting mental health concerns. While working in the CAC, students will have a caseload that will better prepare them for the experience they will have while completing external practica, internship, and post-doctoral training.

	parent training, couples therapy, and family therapy as they see that the CAC is committed to making it easy for those referred to start receiving services.		
The Counseling and Assessment Clinic will maintain a collaborative relationship with Technology Services in the School of Education and Human Development. In addition, the Counseling and Assessment Clinic will establish a partnership with Technology Services in the A&M Health Science Center to ensure our technology needs are met in a timely manner and services to our clients are not impacted by a technological malfunction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients and referral sources will receive documentation securely and in a timely manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program faculty will have access to fully functioning equipment and up-to-date software programs when conducting supervision in the CAC. • Program faculty will have secure options for communicating with supervisees and clients. • Program faculty will be able to request assistance from Technology Services in the A&M Health Science Center for issues that arise in the CAC that impact the provision of services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have secure options for communicating with supervisors and clients. • Students can send documents to and receive completed documents from clients securely and in a timely manner.
The Counseling and Assessment Clinic will maintain a collaborative relationship with the primary faculty of the doctoral programs at Texas A&M.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients will benefit from the conjoined expertise that faculty from the health service psychology programs will bring to the CAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opportunity for faculty from the health service psychology programs to interact with each other while working in the CAC will provide opportunities for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will benefit from the opportunity to collaborate and receive supervision from faculty members across the professional

		<p>professional growth and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reputation of the CAC will be elevated as local stakeholders become aware that more collaboration and sharing of expertise is occurring among the faculty from the health service psychology programs. 	<p>psychology programs at Texas A&M.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The morale of students working in the CAC will improve as they see program faculty actively engaged in the CAC.
The Counseling and Assessment Clinic will establish a summer undergraduate psychology internship program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program will expose undergraduate students at A&M to careers in professional psychology, pique their interest in becoming health service psychologists, and in the long term, help to address the shortage of mental health service providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty can network with aspiring health service psychologists and have undergraduate interns assist them with ongoing research projects. The undergraduate internship program will enhance the reputation of the professional psychology programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate students will have the opportunity to mentor undergraduate students and share information about the health service psychology programs. Undergraduate psychology interns can provide clerical assistance to graduate students working in the CAC, increasing their efficiency and productivity.

By August 15, 2030:

Goal	Benefits to the Community	Benefits to Program Faculty	Benefits to Students
The Counseling and Assessment Clinic will establish research protocols in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients will be evaluated using a standardized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With informed consent documents that meet all necessary requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be exposed to assessment and

the areas of both assessment and counseling.	<p>assessment protocol that will fully address the reason for referral and is based on current research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients will participate in a treatment plan that has been validated by current research or one that has been developed and is being validated by students and faculty working in the CAC. • Clients will serve as research participants on projects designed to inform and improve future practices in health service psychology. 	<p>and advanced approval of the CAC's assessment and therapy protocols from the IRB, faculty working in the CAC will have easy access to datasets that can be used for research.</p>	<p>counseling practices thoughtfully developed by the faculty and based on current research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have the opportunity to develop emerging treatments while working in the CAC and submit any resulting manuscripts for publication.
The Counseling and Assessment Clinic will be self-sustaining, with financial support derived from multiple sources, including external funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More clients from economically disadvantaged backgrounds can receive services in the CAC for significantly reduced fees. • Clients will be served in a setting that has access to the latest testing materials, treatment programs, and state-of-the art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any profit accumulated in a fiscal year will be reinvested into the CAC. • A portion of the profits will be reinvested into the doctoral programs in health service psychology based on the contribution made to the CAC by students in each respective program. • Faculty working in the CAC will have access to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have access to all the equipment and supplies needed to conduct the duties assigned to them while working in the CAC. • Funding can be used to support advanced training opportunities for students in the CAC.

	technology and equipment.	supplies, materials, and equipment that functions with few to no issues or glitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAC will be able to offer more graduate assistantships to fund more students in the health service psychology programs.
The Counseling and Assessment Clinic will maintain a collaborative relationship with the primary faculty of the doctoral programs at Texas A&M, but it will be fully staffed by clinical faculty whose primary role will be to serve as staff psychologists. Primary duties and responsibilities for staff psychologists will include providing psychological services to child and adult clients; leading training and didactics; supervising trainees working in the CAC; and maintaining an active line of research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More clients from the community can receive services through the CAC if it is fully staffed with staff psychologists. Staff psychologists will have the option to become paneled and bill insurance. Clients will receive services from students with the full understanding that the students are working under the supervision of a licensed psychologist and will have the opportunity to meet their supervisor while in the CAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty can continue to be involved in the CAC as desired but will no longer have the pressure currently placed on them for involvement in the CAC. Collaboration between program faculty and clinical faculty working in the CAC will ensure that an integration of science and practice continues to exist in the CAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will receive individual and group supervision, as well as direct in vivo supervision, from staff psychologists throughout their time working in the CAC. Student will have the opportunity to receive clinical training from clinical faculty who are fully invested in the CAC.
The Counseling and Assessment Clinic will create predoctoral internship and postdoctoral residency programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internship and residency programs will increase the CAC's capacity to train future health service psychologists and address the shortage of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interns and residents will have a research requirement as part of their training program and could fulfill that requirement by collaborating with faculty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students in the health psychology programs will be able to take courses taught by post-doctoral residents. Students working in the CAC will receive

	mental health providers.	<p>on current research projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents will have a teaching requirement as part of their training program and could fulfill that requirement by teaching a course for one of the health service psychology programs. 	<p>informal supervision from pre-doctoral interns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students working in the CAC will receive formal and informal supervision from post-doctoral residents.
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By August 15, 2035:

Goal	Benefits to the Community	Benefits to Program Faculty	Benefits to Students
The pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral residency at the CAC will be fully accredited by the American Psychological Association.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA accreditation will indicate to the public that the CAC provides services consistent with the standards of practice adopted by the profession. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reputation of the health service psychology programs will be elevated, providing recognition and prestige to program faculty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For students who, due to personal circumstances, must remain in the local area for internship and upon completing their degree, APA-accredited internship and post-doctoral residency programs will provide them the opportunity to complete training consistent with APA's training standards. Once APA-accreditation is obtained, the CAC can attract highly qualified applicants and make

			<p>selections on a competitive basis. Students working in the CAC will benefit from receiving improved quality informal and formal supervision from pre-doctoral interns and post-doctoral residents.</p>
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By August 15, 2040:

Goal	Benefits to the Community	Benefits to Program Faculty	Benefits to Students
<p>The Counseling and Assessment Clinic will provide students in the doctoral programs in health service psychology at Texas A&M with training experiences that make them highly competitive and sought after as applicants to the top 10 most competitive/prestigious APA-accredited internship sites in the country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients will receive counseling and assessment services from student therapists who are well trained and prepared to work in the most prestigious/highly regarded places of employment in the country upon graduation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reputation of the health service psychology programs and program faculty will be elevated as students consistently match at the most competitive/prestigious APA-accredited internship sites in the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being competitive for prestigious internships will significantly enhance the professional reputation of students in the doctoral programs in health service psychology. • Students who match with top internship programs are more sought after by employers, leading to better job prospects and career advancement opportunities.