

C&R NEWS

Counseling & Rehabilitation Program Newsletter

(Red brick pathways leading to a metal and brick gate. Behind the gate lie trees and a red brick building)

Student Orientation – Creating Connections



On Friday, August 15, 2025, the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program hosted its annual **New and Returning Student Orientation** event here on campus at the USC School of Medicine – Columbia. The full-day event brought together faculty, staff, students and alumni for a comprehensive introduction to academic resources, professional development opportunities, and community-building experiences.

The day began with a **Welcome and Program Overview** session, where faculty and adjunct instructors joined students to highlight the Counseling & Rehabilitation Learning Community.

From there, programming branched into parallel sessions tailored for new and returning students.

- **New students** attended an orientation hosted by SOM Student Services, with presentations from university partners and key personnel. This session ensured that students starting in Spring and Fall 2025 received a well-rounded introduction to the many support systems available throughout their academic journey.
- **Returning students** took part in sessions focused on academic progression, including pre-practicum information, a practicum and internship panel, a comprehensive exam overview, and licensure preparation.

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(Students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Save the Date

September 2nd, 2025:
Equip Game Night for Youth
with Disabilities

September 18th-19th, 2025:
Addiction Professionals
Conference [RSVP HERE](#)

September 25th, 2025:
Lunch and Learn - [RSVP HERE](#)

October 21st, 2025:
Lunch and Learn

October 24th, 2025:
Speaker Series

October 25th, 2025:
Learning Community Saturday

Dec 13th - Jan 3rd, 2025:
ARCA Jingle Run 5K

CHECK OUT OUR SOCIALS



Student Orientation – Creating Connections

Following a **networking lunch**, the afternoon program emphasized peer-to-peer learning and alumni engagement.

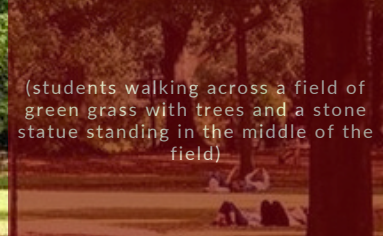
Later sessions brought the entire learning community together. Faculty facilitated a **Personal and Professional Development workshop**, covering counselor dispositions, ethical obligations, professional planning, netiquette, and the evolving role of tools like AI in counseling practice. Students then engaged in a **Reflecting Team Activity**, a therapeutic exercise emphasizing cooperation, transparency, and meaning-making within the counseling process.

The day concluded with a **Learning Community Forum: Strategies for Success and Evaluations**, where students and faculty reflected on shared goals and planned for the year ahead.

This annual orientation not only equips students with knowledge and resources but also fosters a spirit of collaboration and mutual support—a hallmark of the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program.

Student Quotes from Orientation

“I was so nervous going into orientation, mostly worried about not knowing anyone. Luckily, I immediately met a kind soul who helped me find the building and even explained how to get to class when it was raining. Then, I was forced to socialize and get out of my comfort zone, which was a HUGE blessing because now I already have people to lean on throughout this program. The orientation was incredibly insightful and answered every question I had going into the program. Hearing from the students who had already been going through the program was such a great opportunity as well, and everyone I met made the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program a welcoming community. All I kept thinking is how I can't wait to be a part of the family and help nervous students, like me, in the upcoming years.” -
Olivia Curry, first year C&R Student



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Student Orientation – Creating Connections

“As a returning student at this year’s orientation I saw so many new faces upon arrival and felt glad that the program was growing in size! Compared to the last orientation I attended, I think this one fostered a more interpersonal experience as we were encouraged to network throughout the day. It was helpful to attend the sessions presenting information regarding upcoming experiences such as the panel of students currently in practicum, faculty discussing the comprehensive exam and licensure, as well as the panel of alumni. My favorite part of the day was the individual group session as it was an opportunity to share thoughts with new and returning students.” – **Tessa Newson, second year C&R Student**



Julia Moro presents her Portfolio



The second year students discuss their experiences.



The new CRSA board Introduces themselves.

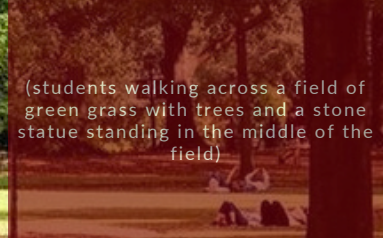
Counseling and Rehabilitation Program Joins the Ollie Johnson Memorial Annual Health Fair

The C&R Program proudly participated in the Ollie Johnson Memorial Annual Health Fair, an event dedicated to promoting community wellness, education, and access to health resources.

Faculty, students, and staff from the program hosted an interactive table, engaging attendees with information about counseling and rehabilitation services while also showcasing innovative tools like virtual reality technology used in therapeutic and educational settings. Visitors of all ages (including Dean Harmon) had the chance to try out VR headsets, sparking curiosity and meaningful conversations about the future of mental health and rehabilitation practices.



Faculty and students assisting in virtual reality.



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)



Dr. Stackhouse speaks with President Amiridis, Dean Harmon and Rep. Clyburn at the Ollie Johnson Health Fair.

The fair provided an opportunity for the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program to connect with the community, demonstrate its commitment to wellness and accessibility, and inspire the next generation of health professionals. Program representatives also shared resources on academic opportunities at USC, highlighting pathways for those interested in pursuing a career in counseling and rehabilitation.

The event not only honored the memory of Ollie Johnson but also reaffirmed the School of Medicine's mission to serve both its students and the broader community through education, advocacy, and innovation.

PAALS Mobility Dog Training Fundraiser

My friends and family call me Kaylyn. I am a graduate student at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. I use a wheelchair full time due to a spinal cord injury that occurred when I was much younger. Despite the use of a chair, I strive to be as independent as possible, and I love experiencing new things! I work hard to reach my goals, some of which include disability advocacy, challenging negative stigmas towards the disabled community, spreading education on working with people with disabilities, and much more! My hobbies include reading, kayaking, traveling, thrift shopping and hanging out with my friends or boyfriend.

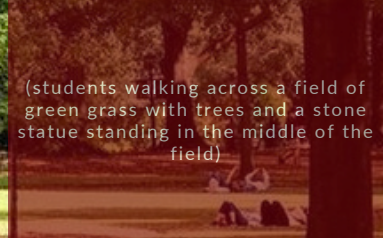


Kaylyn smiles with a service dog.

Receiving a service dog will not only assist me with confidence while facing real world challenges, but it will also lessen the burden of having mobility limitations. A dog can pick up items I have dropped (which is typically my phone), open doors when my hands are full, flip light switches and even assist me with taking off my jacket. Having the extra companion of a dog eases the anxieties that can come with being a person with a disability, as well as using their skills to help me eliminate barriers and be physically successful in everyday life.

To donate to this fundraising event, just follow the link!





(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Mike Walsh Appointed to PRA Certification Commission

The C&R Program is proud to announce that Dr. Mike Walsh has been appointed to the Certification Commission for Psychiatric Rehabilitation (PRA Certification Commission), the standard-setting body responsible for credentialing programs in the field of psychiatric rehabilitation.

Commissioners, who serve a four-year term with the possibility of reappointment for a maximum of ten years, represent a diverse group of stakeholders including Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioners (CPRPs), recipients of services, family members, professionals from related helping fields, and public mental health administrators.

Dr. Walsh's appointment reflects not only his deep commitment to advancing the field of psychiatric rehabilitation but also the excellence of the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program at USC. His leadership and contributions will help guide national standards, support practitioners, and ultimately improve outcomes for individuals and families in recovery.

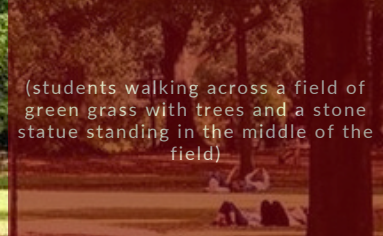
The School of Medicine congratulates Dr. Walsh on this significant achievement and looks forward to the impact his service will have both within our program and across the broader psychiatric rehabilitation community.



Congratulations to Dr. Mike Walsh!



Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association Graphic.



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Student Spotlight: Aileen Welch Named Secretary for the South Carolina Association of the Deaf

Please join us in congratulating Counseling and Rehabilitation student, Aileen Welch on her recent nomination as Secretary of the Board of Directors for the South Carolina Association of the Deaf for the 2025-2027 term! Aileen Pagán-Welch (Chapin, SC) is a Bronx native with roots in Utuado, Puerto Rico. She is a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology and is currently enrolled at the University of SC in the Rehabilitation and Counseling graduate school program.



Congratulations to Aileen Welch!

Married to her college sweetheart since 1997, she is the mother of two CODA's and one HOH child. Aileen is currently employed as the Regional Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf with the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department. This is her second time serving on the SCAD board, and she feels honored to be a part of the Deaf community in South Carolina.

Kerry Lachance Awarded the Title of Clinical Professor Emerita

The Counseling and Rehabilitation Program would like to recognize its former Program Director, Dr. Kerry Lachance, on receiving the prestigious title of Clinical Professor Emerita. This honor is awarded by the university to faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional service, leadership, and commitment to their field, their students, and the broader university community.



Dr. Kerry Lachance



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Lachance provided visionary leadership that helped shape the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program into the thriving academic community it is today. Her dedication to mentoring students, advancing clinical training, and fostering a culture of excellence in psychiatric rehabilitation has left an indelible mark on both the program and the profession.

I joined the faculty of the rehabilitation counseling program in the USC School of Medicine in 2005 and knew immediately that I had come home. The program's philosophy and values were in place long before I arrived and I did my best to honor and continue its traditions while simultaneously looking ahead. My heart is filled with gratitude for beloved colleagues and amazing students. Truly, the years at the USC School of Medicine were the highlight of my career. I look forward to supporting the remarkable C & R program as it continues to grow. ~ Kerry Lachance

I can't think of anyone better than Dr. Lachance to be recognized for her years of teaching, service, and leadership! I cherish her mentorship and hope to live up to her example. After all, she's left quite an indelible mark on our students, colleagues, and the profession. ~ Dr. S-B

The designation of Clinical Professor Emerita reflects the university's deep appreciation for her many contributions and her lasting legacy. It also serves as an inspiration for current and future students and faculty in the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program, reminding us all of the profound impact that dedicated educators and leaders can have.

BlackBoard: Did You Know?

Did you know that [BlackBoard's Rehabilitation Counseling Learning Community tab](#) contains an entire section devoted to the Portfolio Process?

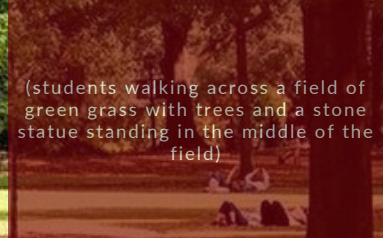


Blackboard

The Portfolio process is for your personal and professional development. While there is no set format for Portfolio and the process is not graded,

Portfolio is a required part of the program and leads directly to your practicum and internship experiences. Most students find it helpful to use a notebook format (electric or hard copy) to collect essays, notes, and other items generated through this process.

By using the link above, you can navigate to the Portfolio Process Handbook which was designed to aid you as a step by step guide and source of information for all things portfolio related. By utilizing the Portfolio Process Handbook, you'll be able to stay on top of your goals and reflections each semester so that you can reflect periodically on your experiences, learning, and overall development.



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Join our Colleagues in Alabama for 7th Annual VIRTUAL Addiction Professional Conference



7th Annual Addiction Professionals Conference

Addiction Across the Lifespan: Ethical Practice, Emerging Challenges, and Effective Interventions

September 18-19, 2025 · Montgomery, AL

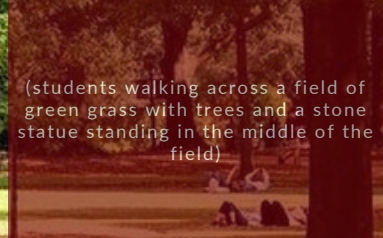
Objectives

- Explain the manifestations, risk factors, and impacts of addiction across different developmental stages, including adolescence, adulthood, and old age.
- Describe how cultural beliefs, norms and social structures influence an individual's vulnerability to addiction and their help-seeking behaviors.
- Identify key ethical principles and dilemmas relevant to addiction treatment, such as patient autonomy, confidentiality, and informed consent.





[Click here to register](#)



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Master of Arts In
Counseling and Rehabilitation Program is pleased to offer

Trauma Informed Care in Addiction Counseling

This presentation explores the critical role of trauma-informed care in addiction treatment. Audrey Phillips , LPC, CS, MAC, CTICP, will be presenting Trauma Informed Care in Addiction Counseling on September 25, 2025. Drawing on SAMHSA's principles, this presentation outlines strategies for creating supportive environments, preventing re-traumatization, and improving treatment outcomes.

Upon completion, participants will be able to:

- Explain the connection between trauma and substance use disorders.
- Identify and describe the principles of trauma informed care.
- Identify strategies for creating a safe, supportive, and empowering treatment environment.
- Apply trauma informed strategies within treatment methods.
- Assess how trauma-informed care improves treatment outcomes.
- Recognize the risk of re-traumatization in traditional treatment.
- Describe how the integration of trauma informed care in addiction treatment promotes recovery sustainment.

When: September 25th, 2025 / 12:00pm-1:00pm Eastern Time

Where: ***The event offers virtual attendance only***



**Audrey Phillips , LPC,
CS, MAC, CTICP**

A virtual log on link will be sent to all who RSVP for the program one day prior to the event.

[Click here to register.](#) Registration closes on September 24th at 11:00am. In order to receive CE credits for program attendance, participants must sign in using the provided link during the presentation, stay for the entire duration of the presentation and complete a virtual program evaluation following the presentation. No partial credit is offered for this event.

Continuing Education Credit Available: 1 NBCC credit hour



University of South Carolina School of Medicine Master of Arts in Counseling and Rehabilitation Program has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 3089. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. University of South Carolina School of Medicine Master of Arts in Counseling and Rehabilitation Program is solely responsible for all aspects of the program.

If you need special accommodations or have questions, please contact us.

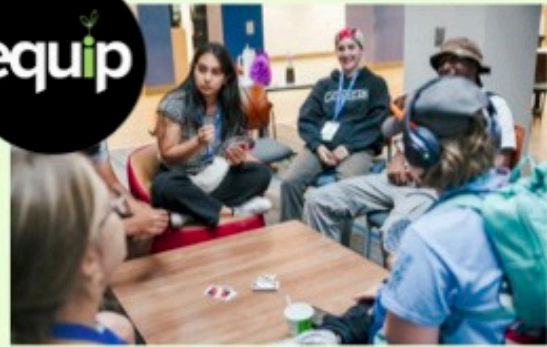
rehab@uscmcd.sc.edu or (803) 216-3690
6311 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29209
SC.edu



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Equip Game Night at Firefly Games

GAME



**Equip is hosting a
Dungeons and Dragons
night at Firefly Toys and
Gaming!**

**DnD supplies will be
provided. It's free to play!**



**736 St Andrews Rd
Columbia, SC**

**9/2/2025
6 to 8 pm**



**Youth with
disabilities,
ages 13 to 28**

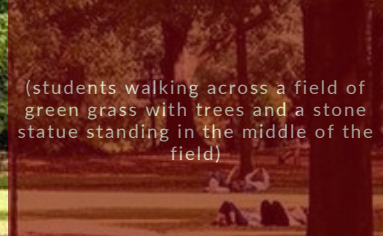


NIGHT



REGISTER NOW

<https://form.jotform.com/231865149028056>



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Save the Date for ARCA's Jingle Run 5K

ARCA
AMERICAN REHABILITATION
COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

JINGLE RUN, WALK, & ROLL VIRTUAL 5K

ARCA SPONSORED FUNDRAISER

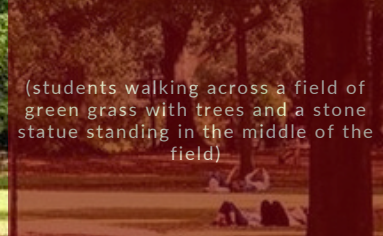
SAVE THE DATE

Virtual 5K runs from
December 13-January 3
Registration Opens **Ocotober 20**

\$30
Registration
per person

**Proceeds go to ARCA's Maki Fund and
to support ARCA student members.**

INDIVIDUALS & TEAMS WELCOME!



(students walking across a field of green grass with trees and a stone statue standing in the middle of the field)

Wellness Corner

Starting a new semester of graduate school is an exciting opportunity for growth, but it can also feel overwhelming as responsibilities pile up. Prioritizing wellness—through practices like setting realistic goals, maintaining healthy routines, and carving out time for rest—can make the transition smoother. Balancing academic demands with self-care not only supports mental and physical health but also fosters resilience, focus, and long-term success throughout the semester.



Get ready to study! A white table is filled with pencils, notebooks, a set of headphones, and a cup of coffee.

Writing Tip: Citing Electronic Sources

Some electronic citations necessitate the use of brackets. APA style dictates that brackets should directly surround their content without spaces (e.g., [bracketed content] should look like this). When possible, include the year, month, and date in references. If the month and date are not available, use the year of publication. Additionally, APA 7th edition no longer requires the use of “Retrieved from” before URLs or DOIs; special exceptions, however, are made for resources that are unarchived. Including the retrieval date for these sources indicates to readers that the version of the work they retrieve may be different than what was originally used.



Lucy the Dachshund poses with her favorite toy.

Pet of the Month

Meet Lucy (Moo moo)! She'll be 5 in September and is the sassiest, sweetest dachshund of them all. Her favorite things to do are play fetch with her birthday cake toy, demand her mandatory cheese tax, and snuggle with her people. She's the bestest girl! – **C&R Student, Leah Limbaugh Kettering**

Show us your pet by filling out the form below:

Pet of the Month

Save the Date

9/2 - Equip Game Night for Youth with Disabilities

9/18-19 - 7th Annual Addiction Professionals
Conference hosted by Alabama State University
RSVP HERE

9/25 - Lunch and Learn - Trauma-Informed Care in
Addiction Counseling
RSVP HERE

10/21 - Lunch and Learn - Strength in Systems:
Counseling Within a Collaborative Care Model with
Prisma Health

10/24 - Professional Speaker Series

10/25 - Learning Community Saturday Event

12/13-1/3- ARCA Jingle Run 5K