



Candidacy Requirements

Candidacy is the gatekeeping process by which the DOGC faculty determines student readiness for advancement from didactic coursework into clinical work. Students must register for Candidacy following successful completion of the CPY 5700 Practicum course. Candidacy is a “Pass/Fail” component of the CMHC degree. Students passing Candidacy can proceed into the final clinical phase of the CMHC program (Internship and Advanced Internship). Students who do not pass Candidacy cannot proceed into Internship and will be referred to the Student Professional Development Committee (SPDC). Students who fail Candidacy may reapply for Candidacy once they have been given approval by the SPDC. Students who fail Candidacy twice will be dismissed from the CMHC program.

A requirement of Candidacy is that each student must complete four counseling sessions with a licensed counselor. In keeping with the program philosophy, personal counseling is required to process personal issues that often surface as a result of self-reflection, increased self-awareness, transference-countertransference, and working with clients whose presenting problems or personal characteristics trigger students’ own issues. The Department of Graduate Counseling can help provide the student with a referral list of counselors in the Winona Lake area, or assist the student in evaluating their counseling options in their local community. The student should be aware that this component might involve an additional expense.