

# The Helping Professions

Your Host:

Valerie Lemmon

Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology, Philadelphia College of  
Osteopathic Medicine

M.S. in Clinical Psychology, Millersville University

B.A. in Psychology, Gettysburg College

# On the Panel

---

- ◉ Chuck Jantzi
  - ◉ Psy.D. in clinical psychology, Wright State University
  - ◉ M.A. in clinical psychology, University of Dayton
  - ◉ B.A. in psychology, Cedarville College
- 
- ◉ Paul Johns
  - ◉ Ph.D. student at Liberty University
  - ◉ M.A. in marriage and family therapy, Bethel Seminary
  - ◉ B.A. in human development family science, Messiah College
- 
- ◉ Charles Seitz
  - ◉ Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision, Regent University
  - ◉ M.S.W. in social work, University of Maryland School of Social Work
  - ◉ B.S.W. in social work, University of Maryland



# Topic 1

---

- The general philosophy or history of the disciplines

## Topic 2

---

- The general expectations regarding the prerequisites for graduate school



## Topic 3

---

- The typical kinds of courses or curriculum one might find in graduate school



# Topic 4

---

- The general licensure requirements



## Topic 5

---

- ◉ The general types of jobs one could get with a graduate degree

## Topic 6

---

- ◉ The general types of jobs one could get without a graduate degree



# Good Stuff from Joy Fea

---

- ◉ TW Ponessa
- ◉ Coby Family Services
- ◉ Pennsylvania Counseling Services
- ◉ Community Service Group
- ◉ Hoffman Homes
- ◉ Keystone Children and Family Services
- ◉ Lutheran Social Services of SC PA
- ◉ Adams Hanover
  
- ◉ <http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/psychology/>
- ◉
- ◉ Also, I love this document on the Internship center website: [http://www.messiah.edu/documents/internship\\_center/Web-Positions-CentralPA.pdf](http://www.messiah.edu/documents/internship_center/Web-Positions-CentralPA.pdf)

# Topic 7

---

- ◉ Why a student might chose a particular path in the helping professions,
  - Secular versus Christian higher education
  - Secular versus integrated versus Christian helping profession



# A Graduate of Messiah College's M.A. in CMH Counseling Program

---

- After earning my BA in Psychology from Messiah I chose to attend Shippensburg University for my Master's in School Counseling, mainly because of financial costs. I attended a few classes my first week and quickly knew it was not a fit. I was at such a time in my life where I felt I needed a spiritual perspective on a mostly secular profession. This feeling was so strong that I quickly applied to Messiah for grad school even though it cost substantially more. I also felt I had mentors at Messiah who would support me on this difficult journey. Messiah is my academic home and I felt a closeness to the profs and the mission of the school. When I look at my student loans, I frequently question my decision, but I always come back to the thought that I might not have finished my degree or gotten the position I have now if I hadn't returned.
- 
- After I returned to Messiah, I changed my track of study from school to mental health. I believe I was reading the textbook from Lifespan Development and got this overwhelming sense that I could make a greater difference in people's lives if I pursued the mental health degree. So, looking back on my decisions, I suppose they all have a bent towards the intuitive and not so much the logical. Everyone makes decisions based upon their own worldview and what is important to them. A piece of advise on finding the way: identify what is important to you, talk it out with advisors/mentors, and try the things you think you like because sometimes they are different than how you imagine them to be. Good luck finding your way and God bless.



# A Current Loyola Maryland M.S. in Pastoral Counseling Student

---

- When I graduated from Messiah, I knew that I wanted to continue to the Masters level and become a licensed counselor. I believe that when I work with someone in a counseling relationship that God is involved in that process, so I wanted to go to a school that acknowledged that. At Loyola University Maryland's Pastoral Counseling Program, I immediately felt right at home in the climate of their department- it was ecumenical and diverse with an intense clinical internship program and classes that treated God and religion as a core part of the human process rather than a bible verse to be shared. I would encourage graduating seniors to explore with an open mind what's out there while still holding true to what fits with your long term goals. Opportunity is the name of the game, look for a place that will help you stretch and grow, while developing the strengths and interests you already have.



# A Current Loyola Maryland M.A. in Counseling Student

---

- Choosing a grad program is like deciding on a new restaurant (albeit a very important one). When it comes down to actually picking one, there is always a bit of a risk. In the end you pick one because the menu doesn't have what you are not interested in but also has enough of what you could envision ordering. For me, Loyola's Counseling Psychology program didn't offer what I didn't want; it wasn't research focused and it wasn't clinical. Now if you are like me, you might know that you don't like a few things but you are having trouble honing in on exactly what you want to do with your career. The program I'm in is a good fit for me in terms of opening doors I *might* like to pursue. It qualifies me for licensure, it is in a city with a lot of networking opportunities, it is reputable, it is broad enough to help me explore my interests and it makes me more marketable to a variety of different employers. Other programs set you up for something specific like pastoral counseling or attending a doctoral program. These possibilities are still on the table for me. But because I was unsure about them during my graduate school search, I chose a program that afforded me the largest number of appealing options.



# A current student in the Messiah College's M.A. in MCF Counseling Program

---

- I've realized on my journey through life, that God has a way of showing you His desire, for your life, in ways that you are only aware of after you take the time to reflect. Little did I know that my desire to counsel would begin with me becoming a licensed cosmetologist and working in a hair salon. For hours, I would hear the dysfunction and pain that many of the clients were enduring in their personal and professional life and I felt that there had to be something else that I could do. But I felt that I was in the career that I had always dreamed of having and there wasn't anything else for me to do. Years went by and through prayer and many conversations with my husband, I decided to go back to school and receive my degree. The God-journey planted me in a daycare; a place that I originally had no desire to become a participant, but it was here that I saw first-hand, how the decisions of parents, guardians, and family members effect everyone. God showed me here that in order for the next generations of families to be healthy, individuals needed to be healed and have guidance, which would increase the health in their relationships as couples, marriages, and families. What I thought was just me wanting to "help", was God's way of beginning to harvest the seed that He placed inside of me, before I was even born, while allowing me to take a little peak. Some people may not understand why you feel the desire or the call to minister to people through counseling, but God knows. Jeremiah 29: 11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (New Living Translation, 2007). His plans for our future will always be better than what we plan for ourselves! Walk in his ways and you won't ever be disappointed. Be Blessed.



# A current student in the Messiah College's M.A. in School Counseling Program

---

- As a teacher working with special education and alternative education students, I have found that many of my students have needs and significant barriers unrelated to education. The School Counseling program will provide me with the skills necessary to support these and all students as they work through their life barriers so they can focus on learning. Many students come to school with worries and problems that impede learning, as well as mental health concerns and drug issues. I believe the school counseling track will provide me with the skills and training I will need to support and guide these students on their journey through their school experience. Additionally, as my children struggled with their father's fight against cancer, the school counselor in our elementary program was my youngest son's lifeline during this time. Although often they work behind the scenes in many situations, school counselors are instrumental in the school environment and have the potential to touch hundreds of lives every day.



# A graduate student in an MSW Program

---

- The reason I chose to pursue a Master's in social work after graduating with my Bachelor's degree in psychology is twofold. First, I chose this major with an end goal in mind. I would like to live and practice in the state of New York, and the MSW is a very highly respected and well-known degree there. By what many professionals in various positions have told me, following the clinical track of an MSW program will better prepare me for counseling than the current counseling programs in New York. This past year, I have also had the experience of working at a drug and alcohol rehab for adolescents as an Assistant Counselor. My experiences there broadened my horizons regarding work opportunities and what I would enjoy doing for a living. While my goal is still private practice, a Master's degree in social work will provide me more opportunities for jobs in different settings in New York.



# Questions?

---

● ???????