

Cristina M. González, LMHC, NCC, CRC

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ABOUT I am a licensed mental health counselor and a current doctoral student in Counseling & Counselor Education at the University of Florida. I also have a small private practice for gifted children and adults. My research interests include the under-identification of gifted children, the gifted identity and its impact on self-concept, and the role of professional counselors in identifying and treating gifted clients.

EDUCATION

Current Doctoral Student
Counseling and Counselor Education
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
Anticipated date of degree: December 2024

Master of Arts, December 2014
Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
With Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy
University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
GPA 4.0/4.0

Graduate Certificate, May 2014
Marriage and Family Therapy
University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
GPA 4.0/4.0

Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, May 2006
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, Florida
Honors College graduate
GPA 3.8/4.0

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAININGS

Licensed Mental Health Counselor #MH16016
Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling
Expiration: March 31, 2025

Nationally Certified Counselor #1126081
National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc.

Expiration: October 31, 2024

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor #119526

Committee on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification

Expiration: September 30, 2024

Qualified Supervisor

Mental Health Counseling/Marriage and Family Therapy

Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling

Florida Guardianship Examiner Training

Florida State Guardianship Association

Completed: January 2022

Florida Juvenile Forensic Examiner Training

University of South Florida Mental Health Law and Policy Department

Completed: August, 2015

Professional Certification in Trauma and Resilience: Level One

Florida State University

Completed: December, 2019 (currently working to complete Level Two)

Level 2 Criminal Background Clearance

Federal Bureau of Investigation/Florida Department of Law Enforcement

CLINICAL
EXPERIENCE

The Gifted Center, St. Petersburg, Florida: October 2015 – present

Owner and Psychotherapist

- Provide individual, group, and family therapy for the gifted and talented
- Engage in educational outreach to heighten community awareness of socioemotional issues related to giftedness
- Advocate on behalf of the gifted and talented to ensure proper educational services, psychosocial support, and relevant activities and programming

Eighth Judicial Circuit Court, Gainesville, Florida: May 2022 – present

Guardianship Evaluator

- Conduct court-ordered evaluations of alleged incapacitated persons for guardianship determination purposes
- Write and submit reports on evaluation findings for court records
- Provide testimony for court proceedings

Santa Fe College Counseling Center, Gainesville, Florida: May – July 2022

Counseling Intern

- Provided individual counseling to community college students
- Consulted on cases with staff counselors
- Educated staff counselors on working with gifted populations

Sixth Judicial Circuit Court, Clearwater, Florida: October 2014 – July 2021
Court Counselor, Behavioral Evaluations Program

- Conducted evaluations of families and caregivers of youths in the delinquency system as ordered by the Unified Family Court
- Assessed family history, structure, and dynamics; exposure to trauma and responses thereto; youth and family strengths and resources to determine an overall reading of the family unit and its identified patient
- Provided family analysis to staff psychologists as part of overall case evaluation
- Conducted evaluations of youths in Truancy Court and provided written reports to be entered into the court record with recommendations for programs and services beneficial to youths and families
- Assisted with the creation of family safety plans as ordered by the courts

PEMHS, Inc., Largo, Florida: May 2014 – October 2014

System Navigator II, Family Services Initiative

- Provided short-term case management for families in crisis
- Assisted clients in assessing their needs, determining their priorities, and developing a plan of action
- Focused on developing clients' existing strengths and resources
- Connected clients to available community resources

PEMHS, Inc., Largo, Florida: August 2013 – May 2014

Counseling Intern, Therapeutic Group Home/Family Reunification Team

- Led group therapy sessions for 8-10 children in group home for various mental health and behavioral issues
- Provided individual and family therapy for residents of the group home
- Assisted in assessing and staffing potential and new residents
- Designed and delivered individual and family therapy sessions for clients of the Family Reunification Program who were in the process of reuniting after children's removal from the home
- Met with clients in-home as well as in the community and schools

SUPERVISORY
EXPERIENCE

Live Supervisor, August 2022 – present
Couple and Family Clinic, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Practicum Supervisor, Spring 2023
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Practicum Supervisor, Summer 2022
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Practicum Supervisor, Spring 2022
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Internship Supervisor, Fall 2021
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Instructor (Summer, 2023; Fall, 2023)

University of South Florida

RCS 6803: Counseling Practicum I

Group Facilitator (Spring, 2023)

University of Florida

MHS 6500: Group Counseling, Theory, and Process

Teaching Intern (Fall, 2022)

University of Florida

MHS 6071: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders

Teaching Assistant (Fall, 2021)

University of Florida

MHS 5005: Introduction to Counseling

Assistant Dean of Academics (summers 2001-2008)

Center for Talented Youth, Los Angeles, CA

- Oversaw 26 teaching assistants at summer program for gifted youth
- Responsible for classroom observations and evaluations of teaching effectiveness

ESOL and SAT/ACT/TOEFL Prep Teacher (2005-2007)

Kaplan, Tampa, FL

- Instructed international young adult students on English language and American culture
- Led courses in test preparation for several national exams including the ACT, SAT, and TOEFL

RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Florida (2021-present)

College of Education, Department of Counselor Education

Project Educating Quality Integrated Professional (EQuIP) Counselors

\$1M grant through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Research Assistant, University of South Florida (2004-2006)

Department of Psychology

Social Cognition Laboratory

PUBLICATIONS 1. Bennett, K., Dillahunt-Aspillaga, C., Lasley, C., Trexler, L., Schmeckle, W., Walker-Egea, C., **Gonzalez, C.M.**, & Trexler, L. (accepted, 2022). Traumatic brain injury vocational rehabilitation counselor competencies: Implications for training and practice. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*

2. Dillahunt-Aspillaga, C., Jorgensen-Smith, T., Ehlke, S., Hanson, A., Sosinski, M., & **Gonzalez, C.M.** (2015). Disability adjustment and vocational guidance counseling for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling, 46* (1). <https://doi.org/10.1891/0047-2220.46.1.3>

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

- Gonzalez, C.M.** "So you got your master's degree, now what?," presentation at *Florida Counseling Association 73rd Annual [Virtual] Convention* (2022)
- Gonzalez, C.M.** "It's all about the Benjamins, baby: Commodification of gender imagery in American hip-hop music," paper presented at *Society for the Anthropology of North America, New York, NY* (2006)
- Gonzalez, C.M.** "Race and gender in American hip-hop music," paper presented at *Popular Culture/American Culture in the South, St. Augustine, FL* (2005)
- Gonzalez, C.M.** "Yo, excuse us while we rap: Images of women in American hip-hop music," poster presented at *University of South Florida Undergraduate Research Symposium, St. Petersburg, FL* (2005)
- Gonzalez, C.M.** "Race: Biologically based or socially constructed," poster presented at *University of South Florida Undergraduate Research Symposium, St. Petersburg, FL* (2004)

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE

- Graduate Student Representative** (2021 – present)
College of Education Advisory Board
University of Florida
- Reviewer** (2022 – present)
University of Florida Journal of Undergraduate Research
University of Florida
- Presenter** (2022)
How to Pursue Florida Licensure
co-sponsored by Chi Sigma Iota, Beta chapter, and Practicum and Internship office of Counselor Education department
University of Florida
- Undergraduate Representative** (2005)
Search committee for Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
University of South Florida

PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS

- American Counseling Association (ACA)
Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES)
Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Honor Society, Beta chapter
Florida Counseling Association (FCA)

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)
Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG)

BOARD
MEMBERSHIPS

Suncoast Mental Health Counselors' Association

Chair of Professional Development 2015-2020

Member 2013-2021

Pinellas Youth Pride

Secretary 2016 - 2021

Member 2015-2021

Learning Empowered, Inc.

Member 2020-2021