

2023

Grace Abbott Training and Supervision Academy Annual Report 2022

Michelle Nelsen

Susan Reay

Ellen Rice

Katie Robbins Case

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/socialworkfacpub>



Part of the [Social Work Commons](#)

Please take our feedback survey at: https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8cchtFmpDyGfBLE



COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
GRACE ABBOTT TRAINING
AND SUPERVISION ACADEMY



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Prepared by: Michelle Nelsen, Susan Reay, Ellen Rice, and Katie Robbins Case

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



Grace Abbott Training and Supervision Academy focuses on developing the workforce and supporting and building meaningful partnerships within the University of Nebraska system and across Nebraska, and meeting the needs of social workers and mental health professionals who want to elevate the profession and serve the missions of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.



3,136
attendees



7,493
CEUs issued



1,540
YouTube views

OUR STORY

GATSA trainings target social workers, students, and other professionals in practice areas including major mental disorder, addiction, LGBTQ bias and stigma, aging and dementia, children and families, corrections and forensics, suicide, cultural literacy, public and private mental health, supervision, research/policy/licensure, domestic violence, rural and underserved communities, and school social work.

The Grace Abbott School of Social Work (GASSW), housed within UNO's College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) has offered formal continuing education and professional development opportunities to social workers and licensed mental health professionals since 2018.

The offerings and efforts have grown steadily since then along with unprecedented enrollment numbers and increased engagement within the NU system and with community partners across the state. With this tremendous growth, GASSW recognized the community and professional workforce needed more than just trainings and CEU opportunities. Additional services were developed, and in January 2022 a new name was adopted: Grace Abbott Training and Supervision Academy (GATSA).

94%

**Overall quality of
GATSA content experts.**

GATSA is committed to providing affordable and convenient supervision and consultation services, facilitating high-quality trainings, and engaging dedicated content experts. Today, in addition to continuing education and professional development, GATSA provides supervision for provisionally licensed mental health professionals,

grant-writing. GATSA is also working to revise and streamline existing protocol so that all CEU-related activity in GASSW funnels directly through GATSA.

GATSA is also discussing possible expansion of services to include provisional supervision, consultation, and exam prep for Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselors (LDAC), as well as exam prep for National

GATSA is committed to providing affordable and convenient supervision and services, facilitating high-quality trainings, and engaging dedicated content experts.

individual and group consultation for fully licensed mental health professionals, and ASWB exam prep.

Opportunities for growth are always on GATSA's radar. The team is currently brainstorming GATSA scholarship funds, stipends to social work students completing their field practicum, and monthly drop-in sessions to learn

Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI).

Currently offered and anticipated services allow for expanded outreach and collaboration not only with qualified faculty within GASSW but also with our university partners such as UNO's Counseling Department, UNMC, BHECN, and Munroe-Meyer Institute.

DEAR STAKEHOLDERS

GATSA is a true collaboration between all stakeholders, and we value you. As a preview into 2023, be on the lookout for partnerships with organizations on anti-racism training and multi-teared educational opportunities such as entrepreneurship in behavioral health, and the pros and cons of using psychedelics as a treatment modality.

Dear Stakeholders,

It is with pleasure that we present our 2022 Grace Abbott Training and Supervision Academy (GATSA) annual report. GATSA provides evidence-based workforce development to support behavioral health professionals who work tirelessly to serve the most vulnerable in our community and across the state. We strive to remove barriers and increase access to support by providing affordable and accessible continuing education and workforce development opportunities, supervision for behavioral health practitioners at any career stage, and social work boards examination preparation.

Despite tremendous gains in 2022, our work at GATSA has only just begun. We are excited for 2023 and beyond! We anticipate that infrastructure development will be a highlight, as we seek funding for a robust and cloud-based software platform to manage all aspects of the program and additional staff to support the significant increase in learners, users, community partners, clients, and content experts GATSA has seen.



Finally, we want to thank our stakeholders for trusting us to create value in providing workforce development. GATSA will continue to focus on developing the workforce, supporting and building meaningful partnerships within the NU system and across Nebraska, and meeting the needs of social workers who want to elevate the profession. We hope you will sign up for GATSA email updates, follow us on social media, and reach out if you have ideas on ways we can work together.

The GATSA Team

Susan

Michelle

Katie

Dity

The GATSA Team

Ellen

"Jeez, where to start. Just really challenged me to consider my implicit biases. I liked the ideas for how to work with parents who are worried about their children identifying as other than binary. The info on weight and body size was fantastic." - continuing education participant

Meet the GATSA team.



MICHELLE NELSEN

Continuing Education and Outreach Specialist
402.554.6342 | mdnelsen@unomaha.edu

Michelle coordinates professional development, continuing education, licensing exam preparation, supervision, and consultation opportunities for students, social workers, mental health professionals, and other members of the community and NU system while working creatively and independently to expand existing offerings and to grow new ideas and practices to sustain, increase, and improve quality continuing education, community outreach, and service.



SUSAN REAY

Faculty Community Engagement Scholar
402.554.2824 | sreay@unomaha.edu

Dr. Reay researches workforce development and evaluation components that support GATSA's strategic plan. As the Community Engagement Scholar, Dr Reay maintains close connections with the community and seeks opportunities for engagement in research, teaching, and program development based on the ever-changing needs of the workforce. Dr. Reay specializes in workforce development research, grant writing, leadership, and program development.



ELLEN RICE

Assistant Director
402.554.4928 | erice@unomaha.edu

As GASSW Assistant Director, Ellen ensures alignment of GATSA with broader departmental goals and UNO strategic priorities. Ellen works to build inter-departmental and cross-campus relationships for greater visibility, service delivery, and collaboration to best serve the Omaha community and UNO alumni.



KATIE ROBBINS CASE

Training and Supervision Specialist
402.554.6615 | krobbinscase@unomaha.edu

As the lead clinical supervisor, Katie provides quality supervision and consultation to provisionally and fully licensed mental health practitioners, creates and executes trainings specific to supervision and clinical mental health topics, and oversees and delivers the ASWB exam preparatory sessions offered to provisionally licensed mental health providers. Through community engagement, Katie identifies experts in the field who can offer education, insight, and cutting-edge research on topics that are relevant to mental health practitioners, social workers, and other helping professionals.



STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT

High volume and productivity require a robust infrastructure, dynamic development, and forward-thinking by the GATSA team. Live webinars facilitated by GATSA in 2022 averaged 285 attendees and 356 CEUs issued. The planning, building, and implementation of a robust calendar such as this is no small feat but with an end goal of supporting our students, developing and professionalizing the workforce, and expanding community outreach, it's easy to stay motivated.

MARKETING AND BRANDING

Digital Fliers and Email Distribution

GATSA uses HubSpot, the university's official digital marketing tool to create, brand, and disseminate digital announcements and fliers and manage their distribution list of more than 3,000 email addresses. JPEG and PDF versions of posters, brochures, and other UNO-branded marketing materials are created using the branded templates stored in Marq (formerly LucidPress).

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Continuing Education Software Platform

Supporting and growing along with the needs of the learning community using a myriad of systems comes with its own challenges and struggles. Currently, GATSA uses several different software programs and systems to manage trainings, rosters and enrollment, CEU certificates, payments/refunds, satisfaction surveys, marketing, reporting, and distribution lists. GATSA needs a single and robust platform to manage all aspects of its program

92%

Participants who would recommend a GATSA training to others.

that is PCI compliant, cloud-based, and specifically designed for managing continuing education and professional development programs.

eMARKET PLATFORM

Registration and Fee Collection

By Spring 2023, GATSA will gain much-needed control and access of its own eMarket (Transact) license and platform. By purchasing Transact, GATSA will have autonomy to publish and unpublish their own storefronts, generate reports, and manage enrollment rosters. This will increase efficiency, boost enrollment, and improve the enrollment and payment process for the end-user.

YOUTUBE

Free Webinars

The GATSA YouTube channel (@graceabbotttrainingandsupe6286) is

Working as a team to identify funding sources through grants and donations, develop a strategic plan, and explore innovative ways to increase revenue, improve efficiency, and automate processes, will grow the program.

CEU EXPANSION

Overlapping Disciplines

There is a need for continuing education that satisfies licensure in professions that are related to and often overlap with social work and mental health. GATSA is working to establish relationships and protocol for securing content experts whose trainings will qualify for CEUs related to nursing, psychiatry, and criminal justice. To accomplish this, GATSA will continue to seek out and build new partnerships while also nurturing partnerships that already exist. Offering

WEBINAR LICENSE

Increased Capacity

In 2022, GATSA purchased its own Zoom webinar license with an enrollment capacity of 1,000 participants to accommodate the high attendance our trainings often see. An individual webinar license allows GATSA the necessary freedom to offer trainings on the dates that work best for the GATSA training calendar and strengthens efforts to build a more robust asynchronous training program. In addition, it allows GATSA complete autonomy for generating Zoom reports and other analytics as needed, applying roles and permissions to hosts, panelists, and speakers, building polls and surveys, and recording and downloading training videos to be added to the GATSA asynchronous catalog.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

GATSA Student Worker

Student worker, Ditty Joy Varughese, is designated specifically to GATSA. Ditty assists primarily with editing and branding asynchronous training videos and building automated surveys and quizzes in addition to configuring Zoom meetings and webinars, creating automated surveys, compiling the results, and presenting the final data in branded, easy-to-read reports.

"This training was incredible. I would love to see more trainings on this topic and the nuances of cultural differences in diagnosis and interventions." - continuing education participant

where our asynchronous trainings live. Even though the channel is relatively new, the catalog of available videos has exceeded 30 and the list of subscribers is steadily growing. The average number of views per video is more than 40.

CEUs for related professions will expand outreach, increase enrollment, and create more revenue.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Growing GATSA

GATSA's weekly strategic planning and housekeeping meetings keep the team focused on developing and pursuing trainings and opportunities that meet the needs of behavioral health professionals, the community at large, and students.

CONFERENCES

GATSA the Vendor

Recruiting for our MSW and BSSW programs, supporting and staying connected to our alumni, what else...? safety conference in Kearney GATSA's presence as a vendor serves many purposes.



Ditty Joy Varughese

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GATSA strives to provide continuing education that is relevant and realistic by offering affordable, timely and evidence-based lifespan career development using nationally recognized speakers, many of whom are locally grown. Grant funding and partnerships across multiple service systems are utilized to provide diverse offerings of continuing education that are grounded in ethical principles essential to behavioral health professionals.

Synchronous Webinars

It's been a busy year. GATSA's well-established partnerships with UNO, Grace Abbott School of Social Work (GASSW), and the community, yielded exceptional trainings led by outstanding local and national presenters. More than 3,000 individuals participated in our live training webinars in 2022, and 7,493 continuing education units were issued.

In-Person Trainings and Conferences

GATSA understands the importance of networking and relationship building and offers in-person trainings and conferences to support the community and stay connected.

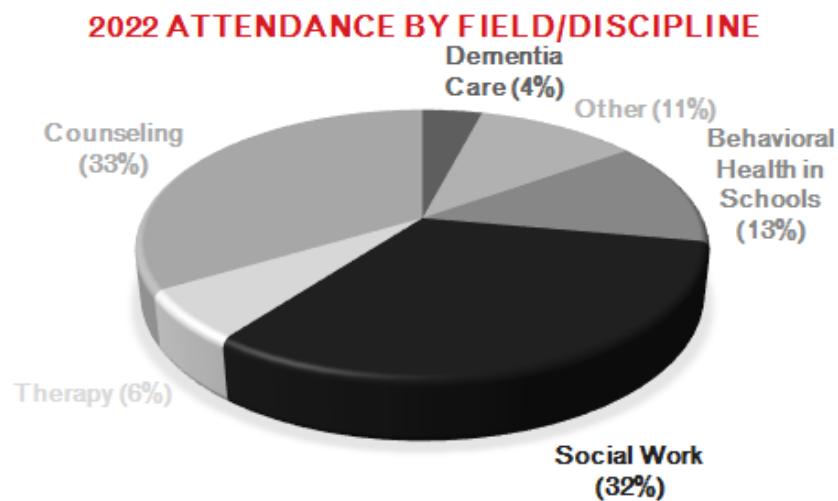
Grant-Funding and Special Projects

In response to the need for highly specialized training and professional development opportunities, GATSA sought three grant awards in 2022. Two were funded and one award is pending. Funded grants included a \$1,500 grant from Region 5 Systems for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services training. A \$7,500 award from the Omaha West Rotary partially supported the provisional supervision fees of two

individuals who identified as diverse backgrounds of intersectionality. Awarded funds were also applied toward a two-day in-person conference focused on entrepreneurship in behavioral health. Lastly, a \$100,000 ARPA funded grant is under review to support Reflective Practice Supervision in collaboration with UNMC and UNL.

Asynchronous Webinars

GATSA's asynchronous training webinars are pre-recorded and viewable at no cost. CEUs are optional and available for as little as \$10 each and upon successful completion of an online quiz. The free videos are available to everyone and publicly posted on GATSA's YouTube channel.



Asynchronous Training Webinars Developed in 2022

An Ecological Approach to Supporting Youth and Families

Can this Patient Decide? Evaluating Capacity

Case Manager vs Case Managed

CLAS Standards

Crisis, Coping, and Caring

Drawing others Close: Portraiture, Dementia, and End-of-Life care

Ethical Supervision: Case Studies, Discussion, and Solutions

Evidence-Based Treatments for Co-Occurring Disorders

Fear of Fatness: Addressing Weight Stigma in Practice

Health Disparities among Diverse and Underserved Older Adults Living with Dementia

Identifying and Engaging with Youth who Self-Harm

Identifying Cognitive Changes in Older Adults: Promoting a Diverse Perspective

Is this Clinical? A Conversation about the Complexity of Stress and Coping in Clients of Color

Leadership in School Social Work Practice: Essential Knowledge, Skills, and Practices

LGBTQ+ Health in Nebraska: Strengths and Disparities

Mental Health Conditions Across the Lifespan

Motivational Interviewing

Navigating Addiction with Individuals and Families

Optimizing School-Based Mental Health Services

Suicide: Tackling Stigma from a Strengths-Based Perspective

Supervision: Conversations, Feedback, and Accountability

Understanding and Diagnosing Major Mental Disorder: A Psychiatric Perspective

Understanding Domestic Violence: Partnering and Planting Seeds

Understanding Trauma Informed Care, Resiliency, and your Health





UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community outreach and building partnerships with community professionals and our alumni is essential to the success of GATSA. Through collaboration and with the benefit of these valuable relationships, GATSA has engaged academic content experts from across the United States and Canada to speak at GATSA trainings, including the University of Toronto, University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Washington, University of Memphis, and University of Denver. With GATSA’s continued efforts and outreach, our reputation and partnerships will grow and fuel demand for our trainings and services.

GATSA was identified as one of three programs on UNO's campus that excel in the areas of continuing education, micro-credentialing, community outreach, workforce development, and revenue generation. A task force was developed and met weekly to talk through the challenges and opportunities to grow at UNO as it relates to marketing, recruitment, enrollment, payment collection, data collection, and reporting.

wonderful community and university partners as well as colleagues within GASSW to build relationships and expand the

program. An example of one of those partnerships is the Annual Dementia Conference delivered in collaboration with the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology, and Palliative Medicine at UNMC, the Alzheimer’s Association – Nebraska Chapter, and Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP). GATSA has

"Thank you for a great partnership, I have mentioned in many meetings that you are the PERFECT partner and just thought about you when they mentioned what Daniel Goleman calls "The Magic of Connection" (at a leadership class I attended), when things work as if each partner almost "read" each other's mind and work becomes a joy: That is you my friend!!!!" – community partner

Over the past five years, GATSA has collaborated with many

facilitated two trainings for these partners so far and is currently developing a third.



"You've done amazing work and we've truly appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with you on the conferences. It's exciting to see what opportunities you'll have with an expanded [GATSA] team "
 – community partner

OUR PARTNERS

GATSA participates in job fairs, conferences, and speaking engagements whenever possible, and often serves as content matter experts for community training needs, providing consultation on challenging clinical cases, serving on professional boards, and engaging in partnerships with high schools to create a workforce development pipeline.

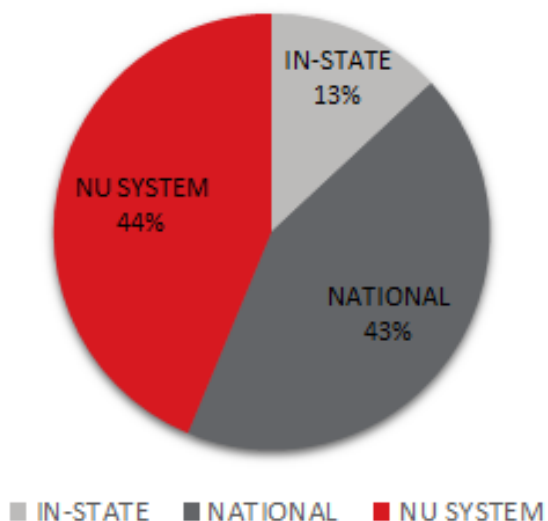
In 2022, GATSA joined forces with partners such as UNO Aviation Institute's first annual Mental Health Summit, the NASW Annual Conference, 2022 Annual Peace Conference, and DHHS Protection and Safety Leadership Conference in Kearney, Nebraska to name just a few.

Future plans for GATSA include strategic planning, agility, and responsiveness to

the ever-changing workforce landscape. GATSA will continue to seek out and build new partnerships while also nurturing partnerships that already exist. There are many opportunities and possibilities for

GATSA to build a stronger bond with our students and alumni, collaborate more extensively with departments within CPACS and across campus, and expand partnerships within the entire NU system.

GATSA Partnerships 2022





SUPERVISION AND CONSULTATION

GATSA offers supervision for provisionally licensed mental health practitioners working toward full licensure as a mental health provider and/or social worker in the State of Nebraska. Practitioners who receive quality supervision are more likely to avoid licensing complaints and ethical pitfalls in their career.

Supervision Services

Quality supervision is an essential component of safe and ethical practice that protects clients, supports practitioners, and aligns with professional codes of ethics such as the NASW Best Practice Standards in Social Work Supervision. GATSA supports provisionally licensed practitioners - many of whom are GASSW alumni, by offering affordable and quality supervision. GATSA now has two supervisors who supervise 19 provisionally licensed mental health practitioners. Supervision includes but is not limited to case consultation, evidence-based practice and theory integration, ethical practice, competence, and

Supervision that develops and supports professional relationships and practice strategies can increase critical thinking skills and extend a practitioner's career.

interpersonal growth. GATSA supervisors are trained in the Reflective Practice supervision model in an effort to help reduce secondary trauma and burn out for early career professionals.

Anyone with provisional licensure or certification in Nebraska must obtain regular supervision from a qualified supervisor while performing 3,000 hours of clinical practice. GATSA matches practitioners with experienced and qualified supervisors by identifying the practitioner's areas of specialized practice and interest, supervision goals, and desired outcome.

Consultation Services

GATSA offers individualized consultation to fully licensed practitioners looking for support and guidance in their mental health practice. Consultation services are offered to clinicians with questions or concerns including clinical or client situations, ethical practice, supervision, or other practice concerns or questions. This consultation service is available as a one-time meeting or ongoing according to the individual needs.



EXAM PREP

GATSA exam-prep supports and teaches participants how ASWB exams are configured, the methodology and logic of test development, tips on reducing anxiety, guidance for developing a customized study plan, and content outlines and suggested references for all exam categories.

Master of Social Work graduates pursuing clinical licensure are required to pass the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) licensing board examination. GATSA is dedicated to support our graduates and other MSW's in the region to gain a better understanding of how the exam is configured, methodology, test development, anxiety reduction, creating study plans and/or outlines, and suggesting references for all exam categories.

In Summer 2022, GATSA implemented examination preparation services for Master of Social Work (MSW) graduates seeking clinical licensure. This service was developed to address the inequities in pass rates on the social work boards examination for some groups of intersectionality. Beginning in July 2022, more than 70 individuals have attended the exam prep sessions and, with our support, increased their ability to pass their board exam. GATSA collaborated with the faculty from Grace Abbott School of Social Work (GASSW) to further extend its reach on this critical issue by creating meaningful changes to the MSW curriculum to address exam pass rate inequities.

On a national level, GATSA works directly with the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), by advocating for necessary changes to the board exam to establish an equitable system for evaluating and assessing MSW graduates' ability to practice clinically.



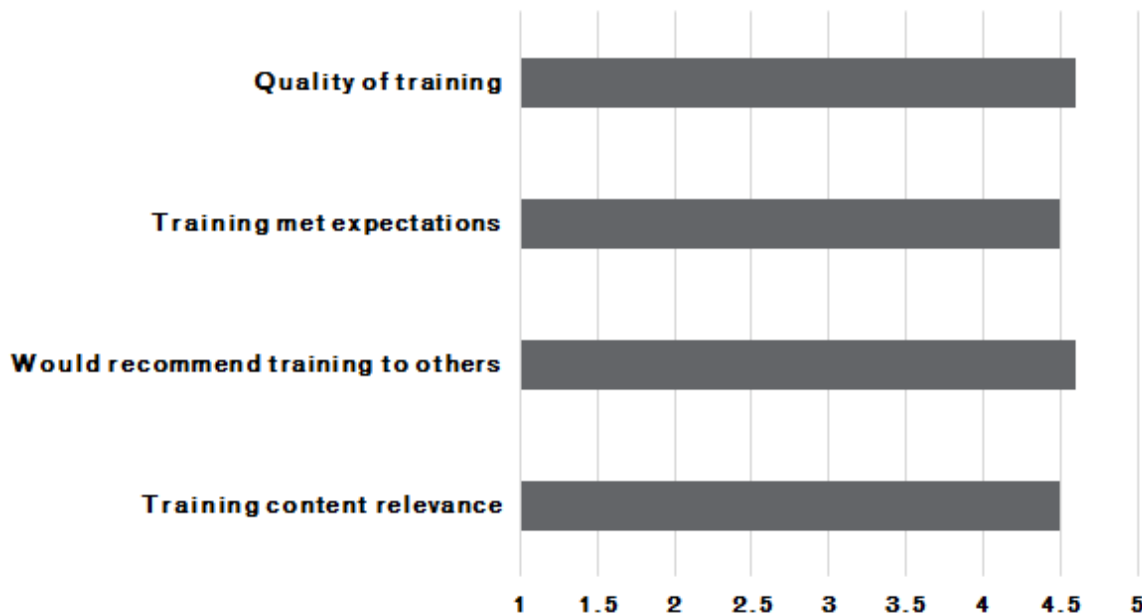
SATISFACTION SURVEYS



Quality Continuing Education

GATSA utilizes satisfaction surveys to measure the participants' level of satisfaction with our trainings as well the trainers and content experts we engage. Responses are often used to inform future trainings and determine what content areas mental health practitioners and community partners desire. Responses collected in 2022 revealed that participants were in strong agreement with the statements below. Responses were ranked on a 5-point Likert Scale, with 4 representing "agree" and 5 representing "strongly agree."


OVERALL PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION: 4.6




UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



GRACE ABBOTT TRAINING AND SUPERVISION ACADEMY

 206 CPACS

 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182

 402.554.6342

 socialwork.unomaha.edu

 gatsa@unomaha.edu

Grace Abbott Training and Supervision Academy (GATSA) meets the criteria of an approved continuing education program for social work and mental health practice in Nebraska.

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its education programs or activities, including admissions and employment. The University prohibits any form of retaliation being taken against anyone for reporting discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for otherwise engaging in protected activity. UCTEMP2022