

# MELISSA BRENNAN, PhD, LPC-S, CSC

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## EDUCATION

- 2021 **University of the Cumberlands**, Williamsburg, KY  
Ph.D., Counselor Education and Supervision (CACREP Accredited)
- 2013 **University of Texas at San Antonio**, San Antonio, TX  
M.A., Counseling, Specialization in School Counseling (CACREP Accredited)
- 2009 **Texas State University**, San Marcos, TX  
B.A., Psychology, Minor in Sociology

## LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

### Licensure ~ State of Texas

- 2024- Present- Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor Designation
- 2018- Present- Licensed Professional Counselor - Active #77833

### Certifications ~ State of Texas

- 2015- Present- Standard School Counselor (EC-12)
- 2013- Present- Classroom Teacher Generalist (EC-6)
- 2014-Present- Special Education (EC-12)

### Additional Credentials

- Mental Health First Aid Instructor (157865076)- Earned March 2023
- Quality Matters- Applying the QM Rubric- Earned June 2023
- Quality Matters- Peer Reviewer Course- Earned July 2023
- ACUE Creating an Inclusive and Supportive Online Learning Environment- Earned July 2023

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

### Our Lady of the Lake University

Assistant Professor, Counseling ~ August 2022- Present

### Northside Independent School District

School Counselor ~ August 2015- August 2022  
Elementary and Secondary Experience

### University of the Cumberlands

Graduate Teaching Assistant ~ January 2020- June 2021  
Online Synchronous ~ Lesson Development & Teaching

### South San Antonio ISD and Manor ISD

Classroom Teacher~ August 2013- June 2015  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade ~ General Education Classroom

## TEACHING

### Courses Taught

COUN 6323 Professional School Counseling Services: Implementation and Evaluation (OLLU)  
COUN 6351 Professional Orientation: School Counseling (OLLU)  
COUN 6360 Research Methods & Program Evaluation (OLLU)  
COUN 7335 Human Growth & Development (OLLU)  
COUN 8321 Play Therapy (OLLU)  
COUN 8325 School Counseling Internship I (OLLU)  
COUN 8330 School Counseling Internship II (OLLU)  
COUN 8341 School Counseling Internship III (OLLU)  
COUN 8355 Child and Adolescent Counseling (OLLU)  
COUN 8365 Trauma, Grief & Crisis (OLLU)  
EDUC 4330 Childhood Growth and Development (OLLU)  
COUN 635 Child and Adolescent Counseling (University of the Cumberland)  
COUN 637 Group Counseling Skills (University of the Cumberland)

### Courses Designed

Summer 2025 ~ COUN 8325 School Counseling Internship (OLLU)  
Spring 2025 ~ COUN 7335 Human Development Across the Lifespan (OLLU)  
Summer 2024 ~ COUN 6330 Career Counseling (OLLU)  
Summer 2024 ~ MAC Program Community Group (OLLU)  
Spring 2024 ~ COUN 6323 Professional School Counseling Services: Implementation & Evaluation (OLLU)  
Fall 2023 ~ COUN 6351 Professional Orientation: School Counseling (OLLU)  
Fall 2022 ~ COUN 8355 Child and Adolescent Counseling (OLLU)

## SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

### Publications

Guerrero, A.M. & **Brennan, M.** (2025). Marianismo beliefs and mental health help-seeking attitudes among college-aged Latinas. *North American Journal of Psychology*, 27(3), 697-714.

**Brennan, M.** (2025). Pop Culture Play Therapy. In B. Owenby & K. Campbell (Eds.), *Mental Health Trainings, Certifications & Credentials*. ONBLLC Publishing.

**Brennan, M.** (2023). Elementary School Counselors' Experiences Engaging in Advocacy Action for Transgender Youth. *The Paris Conference on Education 2023: Official Conference Proceedings*.  
<https://doi.org/10.22492/issn.2758-0962.2023.64>

Hatfield, T., Allieturco, P., Johansson, S. & **Brennan, M.** (2021). Intentionally Inclusive Pedagogy: Pedagogical Practice as an Act of Social Justice. In D. Meyers & M.S. Barnett (Eds.), *Hating Girls: An Intersectional Survey of Misogyny (pp. 24-50)*. Brill.

Hatfield, T., Allie-Turco, P., Johansson, S.E. & **Brennan, M.** (2022). Online Pedagogy. In T.M. Mikolon & T. Hatfield (Eds.), *Foundations, Principles and Techniques of Online Teaching (pp. 19-46)*. Cognella Academic Publishing.

### **International and National Peer Reviewed Presentations (\*\*indicates student co-presenter(s))**

- \*\*Martinez, V., **Brennan, M.**, Arriaga, A. & Marino, J. (2023). *HSI Educators Navigating New Faculty Orientation and First Year Experiences*. Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities 37th Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois.
- Brennan, M.** (2023). *Elementary School Counselors' Experiences Engaging in Advocacy Action for Transgender Youth in the United States*. IAFOR Paris Conference on Education, Paris, France.
- Heaton, K., **Brennan, M.**, Joseph, L., Grout, V., & Smith, R. (2021). *It's not just a word: Understanding the value of normalizing pronouns*. Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society- Virtual Annual Conference.

### **State Peer Reviewed Presentations (\*\*indicates student co-presenter(s))**

- \*\***Brennan, M.**, Smith, C. & Rechterovic, R. (2025). *School Counseling Supervision: Best Practices for Site Supervisors, Faculty Supervisors & Interns*. 20<sup>th</sup> Annual TSCA Professional School Counselors Conference, Galveston, TX.
- Brennan, M.**, Mayorga, M., Goodrum, B. (2025). *Roles and Functions of a School Counselor and Its Effects on Ethical Integrity*. 20<sup>th</sup> Annual TSCA Professional School Counselors Conference. Galveston, Texas.
- \*\***Brennan, M.** & Guerrero, A. (2024). *Marianismo Beliefs & Mental Health Help-Seeking Behaviors of College-Aged Latina Population*. 68<sup>th</sup> Annual TCA Professional Growth Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Smith, C. & **Brennan, M.** (2024). *Mental and Behavioral Health in the Post COVID Era: Helping Students, Staff, and Families*. TSCA Professional School Counselor Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Brennan, M.** & Smith, C. (2023). *The Future of School Counseling: The Profession is in Trouble and Needs Our Help (A Call for Advocacy)*. TACES Mid-Winter Conference, Georgetown, TX.
- \*\***Brennan, M.**, Smith, C., Rechterovic, B., & Ramirez, S. (2023). *The Future of School Counseling: The Profession is in Trouble and Needs Our Help (A Call for Advocacy)*. 67<sup>th</sup> Annual TCA Professional Growth Conference, Houston, TX.
- Schmuldt, L., **Brennan, M.**, Qureshi, S. & Smith, R. (2021). *Tapping Strengths: Group EMDR During the Dual Pandemic*. The Tennessee Licensed Professional Counselors Counseling & Therapy Summit.

### **Local Peer Reviewed Presentations**

- Brennan, M.** & Healy, D. (2024). *Comunidades Resilientes: Mental Health First Aid Training Program*. OLLU Dean's Showcase of Scholarship & Creativity, San Antonio, TX.
- Brennan, M.** & Shiplett-Jupe, M. (2023). *Heutagogy in Higher Education: How Self-Determined Learning Can Transform Your Teaching*. OLLU CTE Teaching Showcase, San Antonio, TX.
- Brennan, M.** & Smith, C. G. (2021). *Solution-focused brief therapy*. Northside ISD School Psychologist Professional Development Session, San Antonio, TX.
- Brennan, M.**, Ojeda, S. (2017). *Counseling with a growth mindset*. Northside ISD Counseling Summer Institute, San Antonio, TX.
- Brennan, M.**, Bloom, L. & Carrasco, L. (2018). *Incorporating award ceremonies into your school's student leadership program*. Northside ISD Student Leadership Symposium, San Antonio, TX.

### **Invited Presentations**

- Brennan, M.** & Shiplett-Jupe, M. (2024). *Balancing Teaching and Research*. OLLU CTE Faculty Webinar, San Antonio, TX.

- Brennan, M.** (2024). *Self-Care for Future Educators*. OLLU TAFE Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
- Brennan, M.** (2024). *CACREP Updates: OLLU MAC Program's Journey to Accreditation*. OLLU Aspiring Counselors in Action Spring 2024 Webinar, San Antonio, TX.
- Brennan, M.** (2023). *Quality Matters & Online Course Design: Getting Started*. OLLU CTE Faculty Workshop, San Antonio, TX.
- Brennan, M. & Smith, C. G.** (2023). *Advocacy for Self and Profession*. Northside Counselors Association Professional Development Session, San Antonio, TX.
- Brennan, M.** (2022). *School Counseling Ethics*. University of Texas at Austin- Counseling Program Guest Lecture, Austin, TX.

## SERVICE

### Service to Department

- 2023- Present CACREP & Program Evaluation Coordinator – OLLU Counseling Program
- 2024- Present Curriculum Specialist and Course Development Lead – OLLU Counseling Program
- 2023- Present School Counseling Program Coordinator – OLLU Counseling Program
- 2022- 2024 Faculty Advising Coordinator – OLLU Counseling Program
- 2023- 2024 Recruitment Fair Coordinator – OLLU Counseling Program
- 2024- 2024 Scholarship Review Committee – HEB Raise Your Hand Texas
- 2022- 2024 Professional Disposition Committee Member – OLLU Counseling Program
- 2022- 2023 Search Committee Member- Education Department Certification Officer
- 2023- 2023 Scholarship Review Committee- HEB Raise Your Hand Texas
- 2022- 2024 New Faculty Orientation Course Facilitator – OLLU Counseling Program
- 2022- Present Education Program Advisory Council Member- School Counseling Representative
- 2022- Present Counseling Program Advisory Council Member
- 2022- Present Counseling Program Admissions Committee
- 2023- 2024 Clinical Co-Coordination- OLLU Counseling Program

### Service to University & Community

- 2024- Present Faculty Assembly Bylaws Taskforce Member
- 2024- Present Faculty Affairs Committee Member
- 2024- Present Faculty Mentor - McNair Scholars Program
- 2023- 2024 University Course Review Team Member (Quality Matters Standards)
- 2023- 2024 Project Co-Director- Mental Health Awareness Training Grant
- 2023- Present Mental Health First Aid Community Instructor

### Service to Profession

- 2025 Board Member-at-Large ~ South Central Regional Counseling Association (SCRCA)
- 2024 Board Member-at-Large ~ South Central Regional Counseling Association (SCRCA)
- 2024 Editorial Reviewer ~ *IAFOR Journal of Education*, Studies in Education Issue
- 2024 Texas Counseling Association ~ Membership Committee Member
- 2024 Program Reviewer ~ TSCA Professional School Counselor Conference 2025
- 2023 South Texas Counseling Collective Board Member (Potential TCA Chapter)
- 2023 Texas Counseling Association ~ Membership Committee Member
- 2023 Program Reviewer ~ Texas Counseling Association 2023 Winter Conference
- 2023 Program Reviewer ~ IAFOR Paris Conference on Education 2023
- 2022 Northside ISD Counseling Department ~ Counselor Summer Institute Coordinator

2021 Brennan High School ~ Campus Military Support Liaison  
2021 Brennan High School ~ New Counselor Mentor  
2021 Northside Counselors Association ~ Scholarships Chair  
2020 Brennan High School ~ New Counselor Mentor  
2020 Northside Counselors Association ~ HS Board Representative  
2020 District Mental Health Curriculum Writing Committee Member  
2019 Northside Counselors Association ~ Past President  
2018 Northside Counselors Association ~ President  
2018 District Counseling Curriculum Writing Committee (Growth Mindset Focus)  
2017 Northside Counselors Association ~ President Elect  
2016 Northside Counselors Association ~ Community Service Chair

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Counseling Association (2020-Present)  
Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (2020-Present)  
Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex & Gender Expansive Identities (2024-Present)  
Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (2021-Present)  
Texas Counseling Association (2017-Present)  
Texas School Counseling Association (2017-Present)  
Northside Counselors Association (2015-2022)  
Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Honor Society (2022-Present)  
South Central Regional Counseling Association (2024-Present)  
South Texas Counseling Association (2015-2019)

## **HONORS and AWARDS**

2024 Hearst Grant Recipient- 2024/2025- Our Lady of the Lake University  
2024 Recognition- Top 10 Professional Development Badge Earner- OLLU Faculty 23/24  
2023 Hearst Grant Recipient- 2023/2024- Our Lady of the Lake University  
2023 Course Design Quality Recognition (COUN 6351)  
2023 Hearst Grant Recipient- 2022/2023- Our Lady of the Lake University  
2023 First Year Faculty Competition Winner- Professional Development Completion  
2023 First Year Faculty Competition Winner- National Conference Proposal Acceptance  
2023 Recognition- Top 10 Professional Development Badge Earner- OLLU Faculty 22/23  
2017 Northside ISD Campus Educator of the Year- Murnin Elementary