

Master of Science in Counseling with specialization in Clinical Mental Health

63 credits

Specific Program Admission Requirements

1. A bachelor's degree from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, or from an internationally recognized institution with a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Graduate-level credit earned may be used to demonstrate aptitude when GPA is below 3.0.
2. Official transcripts from all previous institutions where a degree was earned.
3. Two letters of recommendation from professionals who can assess aptitude for graduate education in counseling.
4. A 2–4-page personal essay, resume, or CV.
5. An interview with the program's admission committee.

Program Description

The Master of Science in Counseling with a specialization in Clinical Mental Health is designed to prepare candidates with the knowledge and skills necessary to work with individuals, groups, and families presenting with a variety of mental and emotional disorders, as well as to promote mental health and wellness. The program prepares students to be capable and responsive licensed professional counselors in a variety of settings, as well as to engage in consultation and collaboration with other professionals. The program is aligned with counselor education standards, and it covers all required content areas for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification. A 2–4-page personal essay, resume, or CV. An interview with the program's admission committee.

Program Objectives

1. Explain professional practices, ethical and legal standards, historical foundations, and professional roles.
2. Employ cultural, social justice, advocacy, theoretical approaches, and strategies to counseling relationships with diverse populations.
3. Apply human growth and development theories and principles to counseling practices, promoting development and wellness across the lifespan.
4. Apply theories, strategies, and models of career development, counseling, and decision-making with culturally diverse populations.
5. Apply theories, skills, and approaches to counseling practice integrating ethics, consultation, and crisis intervention.
6. Apply theoretical, ethical, cultural, and social justice skills, methods, and principles to group counseling practice.
7. Administer testing and measurement instruments using ethical standards, cultural sensitivity, and appropriate statistical concepts for individual and group assessment.
8. Analyze research and statistical methods and strategies in evidence-based practice, supervision, and program evaluation, considering the ethical and cultural implications in the counseling profession.
9. Apply skills and practices to address a variety of issues in clinical mental health counseling practice, integrating ethical, cultural, diversity, and advocacy perspectives.

Programmatic Academic Achievement Requirements

1. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher to enter the practicum and internship sequence and to graduate.
2. Students must complete the Co-Curricular Counseling Skills and Application Program prior to enrolling in clinical practicum or internship experiences.
3. Practicum and Internship Sequence: This sequence consists of three semester-length courses and a field experience. Students must earn a grade of "B" or better in Practicum in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC 607), Internship I in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC 608), and Internship II in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC 609). The Practicum and Internship sequence has various evaluations that must be passed to earn credit for the sequence. Failing any of these evaluations will result in failure of the entire sequence. Repeating any of these courses requires approval from the Program Director/Coordinator.
4. Students must pass courses CMHC 607, CMHC 608, and CMHC 609 with a minimum grade of B. In all other program courses, a minimum grade of C or better is required for the credits to count toward graduation requirements.
5. The student must pass the Comprehensive Exam, as it is a degree requirement. Students are allowed three attempts to pass the comprehensive exam. If not passed after three attempts, the student will be placed on academic suspension.
6. To complete a degree, a student must complete all academic requirements in a period of time not to exceed 150% of the total credit hours required to obtain the degree.

Program Curriculum

Core/Professional Courses		
Course	Title	Credits
COUN 500	The Counseling Profession	3
COUN 501	Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Counseling	3
COUN 502	Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy	3
COUN 503	Research Methods and Statistics	3
COUN 504	Human Growth and Development	3
COUN 505	Counseling and Advocacy with Diverse Populations	3
COUN 506	Theories and Counseling in Career Development	3
COUN 507	Comprehensive Assessment in Counseling	3
COUN 508	Communication Skills, Consultation and Collaboration	3
COUN 509	Group Counseling: Dynamics and Practice*	3
COUN 510	Crisis Intervention	3
CMHC 601	Psychopathology and Diagnosis	3
CMHC 603-A or CMHC 603-B	Applied Neuroscience and Psychopharmacology for Counselors or Human Sexuality**	3
CMHC 606	Addiction Counseling	3
TOTAL		42
Specialization Courses		
CMHC 600	Introduction to Clinical Mental Health Counseling	3
CMHC 602	Advanced Mental Health Counseling Approaches and Interventions	3
CMHC 604	Counseling Children and Adolescents	3
CMHC 605	Couples and Family Counseling	3
TOTAL		12
Internship and Practicum Courses		
CMHC 607	Practicum in Clinical Mental Health Counseling***	3
CMHC 608	Internship I in Clinical Mental Health Counseling****	3
CMHC 609	Internship II in Clinical Mental Health Counseling *****	3
CMHC 610	Comprehensive Exam*****	0
TOTAL		9
TOTAL CREDITS		63

Notes:

1. *COUN 509, CMHC 607, CMHC 608 and CMHC 609 require compulsory synchronic sessions.
2. **Students who are pursuing licensure as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor in the state of Florida are required to take the CMHC 603-B: Human Sexuality.
3. ***The semester will include a Practicum with 16 weeks over two partial terms (100 hours total) and two additional courses of eight weeks for a total of nine credits.
4. ****The semester will include Internship at 16 weeks over two partial terms (300 hours total) and the Degree Exam.
5. ***** The exam will be offered two times per academic year. If the student does not pass the exam, they must enroll again in the CMHC 610 course in PT 82 for the next semester. Students must refer to the Student Handbook to follow the process.
6. + State/Territory licensure requirements differ. It is the responsibility of the student to understand all current requirements for licensure in the state/territory where they plan to seek initial licensure.
7. ++ Students must abide by the required hours, procedures, and policies set by state and local agencies for practicum and internship experiences. Also, students must comply with state and local certification requirements for the academic program, as applicable. Furthermore, students must comply with all requirements established by the practicum and internship sites where they are practicing.
8. +++ Students are required to participate in designated faculty advising sessions as part of the academic requirements throughout the master's program. Students must refer to the Student Handbook to follow the process.
9. ++++ This program is currently not accredited by CACREP.
10. Graduation GPA: 3.00