

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, M.S.

The master of science degree (60 credit hours) in mental health counseling is designed for persons seeking employment in an agency counseling setting. The program qualifies students to be eligible for state licensure as a licensed mental health counselor (LMHC) and certification as a professional counselor (NCC) and clinical mental health counselor (CCMHC). (Additional years of experience are required for licensure.) The mental health program is accredited by and aligned with the standards of the Council for the Accreditation for Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Application Procedures

The admission requirements are similar to those in graduate education. All students attend an interview.

During the application process, the applicant has a nonmatriculated status and may register for three graduate courses in the mental health program. Courses taken during the nonmatriculated status do not guarantee acceptance into the program.

Curriculum

Code	Title	Credits
EDU 595	Intro to Educ Research & Statistics	3
EDU 651	Introduction to Counseling	3
EDU 652	Multicultural Counseling	3
EDU 654	Counseling Theory and Practice	3
EDU 655	Lifespan Development and Behavior	3
EDU 657	Assessment in Counseling	3
EDU 658	Adv. Counseling Techniques	3
EDU 659	Mental Health and Wellness	3
EDU 664	Career Counseling and Planning	3
EDU 666	Psychopathology & DSM Diag.	3
EDU 668	Couples & Family Counseling	3
EDU 669	Group Counseling	3
EDU 670	Differential Diagnosis and Treatment	3
EDU 671	Psychopharmacology	3
EDU 672	Substance Abuse & Addictions Counseling	3
EDU 673	Found/Ethic Mental Health Coun	3
EDU 679	Mental Health Practicum	3
EDU 685	Mental Health Internship I	3
EDU 686	Mental Health Internship II	3
EDU 687	Mental Health Internship III	3
Total Credits		60

Note: A comprehensive portfolio (p. 1) is required.

Required Cycle of Required Courses for Full-Time Students

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
First Semester		
EDU 651	Introduction to Counseling	3
EDU 654	Counseling Theory and Practice	3

EDU 655	Lifespan Development and Behavior	3
Credits		9
Second Semester		
EDU 673	Found/Ethic Mental Health Coun	3
EDU 664	Career Counseling and Planning	3
EDU 658	Adv. Counseling Techniques	3
Credits		9
Third Semester		
EDU 672	Substance Abuse & Addictions Counseling	3
Credits		3
Second Year		
First Semester		
EDU 666	Psychopathology & DSM Diag.	3
EDU 595	Intro to Educ Research & Statistics	3
EDU 679	Mental Health Practicum	3
Credits		9
Second Semester		
EDU 657	Assessment in Counseling	3
EDU 652	Multicultural Counseling	3
EDU 685	Mental Health Internship I	3
Credits		9
Third Semester		
EDU 671	Psychopharmacology	3
Credits		3
Third Year		
First Semester		
EDU 686	Mental Health Internship II	3
EDU 669	Group Counseling	3
EDU 670	Differential Diagnosis and Treatment	3
Credits		9
Second Semester		
EDU 687	Mental Health Internship III	3
EDU 668	Couples & Family Counseling	3
EDU 659	Mental Health and Wellness	3
Additional Requirement		
Portfolio (p. 1)		
Credits		9
Total Credits		60

The Comprehensive Evaluation in the Mental Health Counseling Area of Studies (Portfolio)

The comprehensive evaluation is designed to assess the student's ability to integrate theoretical knowledge into an effective counseling style. The program is based upon an eclectic counseling perspective which encourages students to learn various techniques from different theoretical counseling models.

Candidates complete a comprehensive portfolio demonstrating their knowledge, skills and dispositions in each of the Council for the Accreditation for Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) core areas:

1. Professional identity
2. Social and cultural diversity
3. Human growth and development
4. Career development
5. Helping relationships
6. Group work

7. Assessment
8. Research and program evaluation

Note: The faculty is responsible for recommending to the dean any student whose level of academic performance and/or personal characteristics require remediation or possible termination from the program. This may occur at any time during the student's program of study.

Internships

The program includes a three credit-hour counseling practicum and a nine credit-hour internship for a total of 1,000 clock hours of supervised experience.

Registration

The master of science (M.S.) degree and the certificate of advanced studies programs in mental health counseling have been approved and registered by the New York State Education Department. The New York State Education Department licenses mental health counselors. The Niagara University mental health counseling program meets NYS Education Department requirements for licensure.