

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (MS)

Health and Human Enrichment

The Master of Science (MS) in Counseling with Clinical Mental Health concentration is designed to prepare students to function as licensed clinical mental health counselors. Students may choose to complete concentrations in Addictions Treatment, Marriage and Family Therapy, Play Therapy, or Wellness Leadership. The program provides the educational requirements outlined by the New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice as requisite to attaining clinical mental health counseling licensure. Program requirements, policies, and resources are all available in the student handbook that all students review during the Professional Orientation and Ethics course. It may also be requested from the program coordinator listed above. Students should note that there are significant post-degree requirements to undertake prior to being licensed. The Counseling program is nationally accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

Internship

Students in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling concentration must successfully complete a 600-hour mental health counseling internship in a mental health setting. Students can choose to remain in one setting or can split their time between two settings. A mental health provider licensed under the New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice must provide individual supervision at the internship site on a weekly basis. Students interning out of state need to be supervised by mental health providers licensed in the state in which they are practicing. In addition to their field experience, students are required to attend a weekly University based internship seminar. Typically, the internship requirement is met over two academic terms and carries six credits. Students must complete their internship experience within two calendar years.

Admission Requirements

Requirements

The MS in Counseling requires the following materials to be submitted through our online application (<https://www.plymouth.edu/apply/>)

- Recommended 3.0 or better GPA in undergraduate coursework
- Official transcripts from any/all college level work
- Three professional recommendations
- Current Resume
- Statement of interest
- Participation in the Group Interview (<https://www.plymouth.edu/counselor-education-school-psychology/group-interviews/>)
- NH Residency Verification form (NH residents only)

Deadlines

Students pursuing the Counseling program can apply for admission to any of the upcoming semesters. Here are the annual application deadlines:

- Fall semester - August 1
- Spring semester – December 1
- Summer semester – April 15

**We suggest submitting your documentation at least two weeks prior to the posted date to ensure your application is complete and can be reviewed by the deadline.*

Degree Requirements

Required Core Courses in this Major

Core Counseling Component

Course	Title	Credits
Core Counseling Component		
CO 5010	Professional Orientation and Ethics	3
CO 5020	Counseling Skills	3
CO 5040	Diversity and Advocacy in Helping Relationships	3
CO 5050	Advanced Human Development	3
CO 5070	Research Design in the Helping Professions	3
CO 5130	Psychopharmacology and the Biological Basis of Mental Health	3
CO 5230	Career Counseling and Development	3
CO 5260	Counseling Theories and Personality	3
CO 5430	Assessment for Counselors	3
CO 5460	Group Counseling	3
CO 5720	Addictions & Related Disorders	3
CO 5770	Psychopathology: Disorders of Childhood, Adolescence and Adulthood	3
CO 5100	Practicum	3
Elective Course		3
Total Credits		42

Required Concentration in this Major (Students choose one)

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Course	Title	Credits
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Component		
CO 5600	Foundations of Clinical Mental Health Counseling	3
CO 5670	Working with Children and Families	3
CO 5710	Crisis and Trauma Counseling	3
CO 5790	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning	3
CO 5880	Seminar and Internship in Mental Health Counseling	6-9
Total Credits		18-21

School Counseling

Course	Title	Credits
School Counseling Component		
CO 5030	Foundations of School Counseling	3
CO 5080	School Counseling Practice	3
CO 5650	Critical Issues in Schools	3
CO 5780	Working with Youth and Systems	3
CO 5850	Seminar and Internship in School Counseling	6
Total Credits		18

Combined Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling

Course	Title	Credits
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Component		
CO 5600	Foundations of Clinical Mental Health Counseling	3
CO 5670	Working with Children and Families	3
CO 5710	Crisis and Trauma Counseling	3
CO 5790	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning	3
CO 5880	Seminar and Internship in Mental Health Counseling	6-9
School Counseling Component		
CO 5030	Foundations of School Counseling	3
CO 5080	School Counseling Practice	3
CO 5650	Critical Issues in Schools	3
CO 5780	Working with Youth and Systems	3
CO 5850	Seminar and Internship in School Counseling	6
Total Credits		36-39

Optional Additional Concentrations in this Major

Addictions Treatment

Course	Title	Credits
Addictions Treatment Component		
CO 5730	Addictions Treatment Modalities	3
Total Credits		3

Marriage and Family Therapy

Course	Title	Credits
Marriage and Family Therapy Component		
MFT 5010	Foundational Methods in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5020	Current Issues in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5030	Foundations and Ethics in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5900	Seminar and Internship in Marriage and Family Therapy	3-9
Total Credits		12-18

Eating Disorders

Course	Title	Credits
Eating Disorders Component		
CO 5160	Eating Disorders: Awareness and Prevention	3
CO 5185	Medical Aspects and Nutrition Counseling of Eating Disorders	3
CO 5170	Treatment Modalities for Eating Disorders	3
Total Credits		9

Play Therapy

Course	Title	Credits
Play Therapy Component		
CO 5210	Dynamic Play Therapies	1
CO 5220	Child Centered Play Therapy	1
CO 5240	Expressive Play Therapies	1

CO 5250	Special Populations in Play Therapy	1
Add Four Elective Play Therapy Courses		4
CO 5200	Adlerian Play Therapy	
CO 5270	Special Topics: Play Therapy	
CO 5280	Group Play Therapy	
CO 5290	Nature Based Play Therapy	
CO 5370	Play Therapy in School	
CO 5380	Family Play Therapy	
CO 5390	Play Therapy with Traumatized Children	
Total Credits		8

Wellness Leadership

Course	Title	Credits
Wellness Leadership Component		
OH 5180	Exploring Personal & Organizational Health	3
OH 5200	Communication in Socially Responsible Organizations	3
OH 5100	Full Spectrum Leadership	3
Total Credits		9

Learning Outcomes

Counselor Education Objectives - Students will be able to:

1. Articulate and demonstrate the professional and ethical role of a counselor.
2. Discuss and demonstrate techniques of cross-cultural counseling and advocate on behalf of multicultural populations.
3. Describe the role that human growth and development plays in counseling interventions and modify these interventions as appropriate.
4. Explain theories of career development and implement career interventions.
5. Define and utilize counseling skills and advanced counseling interventions.
6. Articulate theories of group counseling and utilize leadership skills in facilitating various types of groups.
7. Identify and utilize various types of counseling assessments.
8. Describe and conduct methods of research and program evaluation.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Objectives - Students will be able to:

1. Articulate and apply foundational knowledge of clinical mental health counseling.
2. Articulate and demonstrate various types of counseling, consultation, prevention, and intervention – including response to crisis and trauma and addiction.
3. Discuss issues of multiculturalism, demonstrate multicultural competency skills, and advocate on behalf of multicultural populations in clinical mental health counseling settings.
4. Analyze and utilize various types of clinical mental health counseling assessments.
5. Critically evaluate and utilize research methods in the practice of clinical mental health counseling.
6. Describe and employ principles of case conceptualization, diagnosis, and treatment planning with a variety of populations.

Career Pathways

The MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is designed to prepare students to function as licensed clinical mental health counselors. It provides the educational requirements outlined by the New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice as requisite to attaining mental health counseling licensures. PSU's mental health counseling program is nationally accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Students should note that there are significant post-degree requirements to undertake prior to being licensed, listed below in the Licensure Requirements section.

2021-22 Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Outcome Report

2021-22 Counselor Education Assessment Report

Key Performance Indicators used to assess Student Outcomes

PSU was recently awarded a \$1.9 million Federal Behavioral Health and Workforce Education Training program grant – [Learn More!](#)