

JOINT LAW/MA IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

The JD/MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) is intended for law students who are interested in becoming licensed mental health counselors in the State of Indiana or other states offering the licensure option. This program combines the 90-credit JD with a 60-credit MA CMHC. Because each degree recognizes coursework completed for the other, the total credits amount to 132-138. This program serves students having a variety of goals related to the growing integration of law and psychology, including:

- legal practice with a focus in mental health and social service (e.g., legal expert for Mental Health Centers);
- mental health and social service administration where understanding of the law and ability to interact with legal systems is required (e.g., director of a social service agency);
- government employment dealing with regulatory procedures and laws that impact mental health and social service agencies, professionals, and clients;
- legal work for national, regional, or state mental health organizations and associations;
- understanding of issues pertinent to the practice and enhancement of mediation using standard counseling techniques;
- positions that, for whatever reason, require credibility within the mental health professions.

Program Requirements Law school students are encouraged to begin coursework in psychology 2-3 semesters prior to beginning studies in the law program. The JD and MA degrees need not be awarded simultaneously; rather they are presented when the requirements for each degree are fulfilled. Students in the MA CMHC degree program should plan a minimum of 1-2 additional semesters beyond the third year of law school.

Curriculum

JD/MA CMHC (in addition to meeting the JD requirements:)		
Core Requirements		39 credits
COUN 545	Community & Health Counseling	3 cr
COUN 570	Assessment in Counseling: Testing & Appraisal	3 cr
COUN 620	Human Development: Biological & Learned Bases of Behavior	3 cr
COUN 625	Social & Cultural Bases of Behavior	3 cr
COUN 635	Introduction to Psychopathology	3 cr
COUN 642	Advanced Psychopathology	3 cr

COUN 660	Helping Relationships: Counseling Theories	3 cr
COUN 662	Helping Relationships: Counseling Processes	3 cr
COUN 664	Career Counseling: Appraisal & Intervention	3 cr
COUN 668	Group Counseling	3 cr
COUN 693	Foundations of Professional & Ethical Issues in Counseling	3 cr
COUN 694	Counseling Proseminar (4 semesters)	0 cr
PSY 602	Research Methods in Psychology	3 cr
PSY 700	Law & Psychology: Integrative Project	3 cr
Experiential Training		12 credits
One practicum, one internship, and one advanced internship must be completed. Select law clinics and externships may substitute for the counseling practicum with the approval of the Psychology Department.		
Electives		9 credits
Law: select six credits from the following:		
LAW 245	Pretrial Law	3 cr
LAW 485	Family Law	2 cr
LAW 486	Law & Health Care Process	3 cr
LAW 487	Elder Law	3 cr
LAW 488	Select Topics in Elder Law	2 cr
LAW 495 B	Children & the Law	3 cr
LAW 495K	Alternative Dispute	3 cr
LAW 662	Legal Clinic	2-3 cr
Psychology/Counseling: 3 credits from the list of approved courses (see electives for the MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling curriculum in the Graduate Catalog)		

More information on the program can be found in the [Graduate Catalog](#) and [Student Handbook](#).

Click on the "[Prospective Students](#)" link to learn more about applying for a degree program.

Department of Psychology - Valparaiso University
If you have any questions you may [email](#) the Director of Counseling and
Psychology Graduate Programs, Dr. Jim Nelson.