

MA IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

The counseling programs provide coursework and experiential training designed to prepare individuals as professional counselors. Specifically, the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) Program provides students with training in the prevention, assessment, and treatment of individuals dealing with mental health problems. Individual, group, and family therapy are focused upon in this specialization. The curriculum is based upon the academic requirements for licensure in Clinical Mental Health Counseling in the State of Indiana.

In addition to the above broad goals, the clinical mental health program has four further objectives.

- to provide a broad background in fields specifically connected with clinical mental health counseling;
- to encourage ethical application of scientific knowledge and an investigative approach to the understanding of psychopathology and the practice of clinical assessment and intervention;
- to prepare students for clinical practice through extensive course work in counseling theory and process and through intensive involvement in supervised practice; and
- to develop a professional counseling identity through pursuit of appropriate certification, licensure, organizational affiliation, and ethical conduct

The 60 credit CMHC program is specifically designed for students who plan to meet licensure requirements in the State of Indiana (or states having similar requirements) as a Mental Health Counselor.

VU's CMHC program is the only such program of its kind in the region housed within a psychology department, and the CMHC degree is the only counseling specialty that leads to licensure.

Curriculum Overview

Core Courses		15 credits
COUN 635	Introduction to Psychopathology	3 cr
COUN 640	Advanced Psychopathology	3 cr
COUN 660	Helping Relationships: Counseling Theories	3 cr
COUN 662	Helping Relationships: Counseling Processes	3 cr
COUN 693	Foundations of Professional & Ethical Issues in Counseling	3 cr
COUN 694	Counseling Proseminar (4 semesters)	0 cr
Advanced Courses		21 credits

PSY 602	Research Methods in Psychology	3 cr
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 664	Career Counseling: Appraisal & Intervention	3 cr
COUN 668	Group Counseling	3 cr
Experiential Training		12 credits
COUN 685	Counseling Practicum	3 cr
COUN 687	Counseling Internship (2 semesters)	6 cr
COUN 688	Advanced Counseling Internship	3 cr
Specialty Electives		12 credits
<p>Twelve credits of specialty electives are required. It is recommended that students choose a minimum of 6 credits of their specialty electives from the list of applied courses. Family Counseling and Dynamics (COUN 665) and Substance Abuse Counseling (COUN 667) are especially recommended for those seeking licensure as a clinical mental health counselor. Students completing either the Business Management or Gerontology certificates should select their remaining 6 credits from the appropriate category below. Students interested in pursuing doctoral work are advised to select some of the research courses listed below. A master's thesis or research project is not required for the CMHC degree, but may be elected as part of the program.</p>		
Applied Courses (6 credits minimum recommended)		
COUN 665	Family Counseling & Dynamics	3 cr
COUN 667	Substance Abuse Counseling	3 cr
COUN 671	Intellectual Assessment	3 cr
COUN 674	Assessment of Social & Emotional Functioning	3 cr
COUN 691	Advanced Topics in Counseling	3 cr

Department of Psychology - Valparaiso University

COUN 695	Independent Study	1-3 cr
PSY 565	Psychology & Law	3 cr
PSY 590	Special Topics in Psychology (with departmental approval)	1-3 cr
PSY 690	Special Topics in Psychology (with departmental approval)	3 cr
Business Management Courses		
COUN 550	Psychological Foundations of Management	2 cr
COUN 651	Leadership & Team Development	2 cr
COUN 652	Developing People	2 cr
Gerontology Courses		
COUN 532	Adulthood & Aging	3 cr
COUN 691	Topics: Psychosocial Interventions for the Aging	3 cr
Research Courses		
COUN 692	Research Project	3-6 cr
COUN 698	Masters Research Proposal	3 cr
COUN 699	Masters Research Thesis	3 cr
Supporting Courses		
COUN 535	Psychology of Personality	3 cr
PSY 550	Human Cognition	3 cr

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.

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