



Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

A hybrid, full-time, two and a half-year professional degree program (60 credit hours)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Shenandoah University's Division of Counselor Education offers a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program to provide students with the knowledge and skills to deliver individual and group counseling services grounded in evidence-based practices. Students develop their theoretical orientation through coursework, practicum, and internships and will learn ethical and legal foundations as well as diverse content to work with varied clientele and diagnoses.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with recommended 3.0 cumulative GPA.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate application and \$30 application fee.
- Unofficial transcripts from all institutions of higher education previously attended.
- Three letters of recommendation.
 - At least one faculty letter of recommendation is preferred.
 - Letters must indicate applicant's ability to participate in the rigors of graduate school as well as the traits applicants possess to be a future allied health practitioner.
- Essay (1-2 pages) addressing **one** of the following two prompts:
 - Reflect on your cultural worldview and personal motivations for becoming a counselor and elaborate on specific background experiences that affirmed your career choice. Highlight your opinion on continual self-growth and how a counseling graduate degree facilitates your professional goals to compassionately serve diverse clients.
 - Envision yourself as a seasoned counselor 10 years post-graduation: What specialty areas and diverse client populations do you hope your counseling practice will serve? What contributions do you aim to make to the community? How will you actively prevent projecting cultural biases onto clients and continue building essential multicultural skills?
- Interview: Students that meet academic requirements will be invited to participate in an interview with faculty members.
- Language proficiency must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: <https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>

Prior to enrolling, admitted students will be required to complete state and federal background checks, obtain personal liability insurance, and will be required to adhere to immunization and vaccination policies of Shenandoah's School of Health Professions and practicum sites.

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Start Term

Fall (August)

Admission Deadline

Priority Deadline: May 15, 2024

Format/Location

Hybrid with on-campus courses at the Health Professions Building in Winchester, VA

How to Apply

Begin the application here:

<https://www.su.edu/health/division-of-counselor-education/clinical-mental-health-counseling/>

Foreign Transcripts

International transcript evaluation by an accredited agency is an admission requirement. Approved services are listed at www.naces.org and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

Transfer Credit

Up to 9 graduate credits may be transferred when earned at an accredited institution. All transfer credits (earned grade of B or higher) must fill curricular requirements or electives.

Contact Us

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Office of Graduate Admissions
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Office of Financial Aid
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/>
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Dr. Brittany Sager-Heinrichs
Program Director, Clinical Mental Health
Counseling



DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Course	Title	Credits
Year 1		
COUN 501	Basic Counseling Skills	3
COUN 502	Professional Counseling Ethics	3
COUN 503	Group Counseling	3
COUN 504	Clinical Mental Health Counseling as a Profession	3
COUN 505	Lifespan Development	3
COUN 506	Counseling Theory	3
COUN 510	Career Counseling	3
COUN 512	Grief, Loss, Trauma, and Crisis	3
Year 2		
COUN 507	Research Seminar I	1
COUN 511	Multicultural Counseling	3
COUN 514	Human Sexuality	3
COUN 517	Research Seminar II	1
COUN 550/560/570	Elective	3
COUN 601	Diagnostic Processes in CMHC	3
COUN 602	Systems Concepts in Counseling	3
COUN 609	Group Practicum	3
COUN 610	Individual Practicum	3
Year 3		
COUN 508	Addiction Counseling	3
COUN 527	Research Seminar III	1
COUN 603	Assessment Processes	3
COUN 650	Fieldwork I	3
COUN 660	Fieldwork II	3
TOTAL		60

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING CURRICULUM

Students will complete 60 credit hours to align with CACREP Standards* and Virginia licensing laws to graduate. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout the duration of the program or show significant progress. Courses are hybrid with 70% taught online and 30% on-campus involving fieldwork and practicum practice. There will be no more than one in-person course each semester. Practicums will be completed Monday-Friday at a site closest to the student and required supervision is completed in Winchester every other week in the last two semesters. The curriculum includes core, elective, and clinical courses and students will have the opportunity to complete research projects and present at an annual program-wide gala. After completing coursework, students will be prepared to take the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (CMHCE) required in Virginia.

**This program will be pursuing the accreditation process with CACREP*

CAREER OUTLOOK

The U.S. Bureau of Statistics identify in the Occupational Outlook handbook that mental health counseling jobs will increase 22% from 2021-2031. U.S. News listed mental health counselors as the 37th best job in 2022 and 2nd best job in social services in 2022. There are currently not enough counselors to meet demand and this projected growth indicates continued opportunities for employment. Graduates of this program will have the ability to choose the area of the industry they would like to work such as prison counseling, outpatient drug and alcohol, private practice, or even insurance companies for those looking for less practice-oriented career paths. Residencies are also an option and students can work with their advisor and program director to determine their best options to prepare them for their long-term goals.