



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.
- Two 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:
 - Describe a time when you successfully helped someone overcome a personal, academic, or social challenge. What skills and qualities did you utilize? How does this experience relate to your vision of being an effective clinical mental health counselor?
 - Discuss a current issue or trend in mental health that you find particularly compelling or concerning. How do you think this issue impacts individuals and communities, and what role do you envision for clinical mental health counselors in addressing it?
- 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 background check, 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.

*Please note this program is currently
pending accreditation
approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on
Colleges (SACSCOC).*

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Start Term

Fall (August)

Admission Deadline

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.
Priority Deadline: April

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

Dr. Brittany Sager-Heinrichs
Program Director, Clinical Mental Health Counseling
brittany.sager@su.edu

Office of Graduate Admissions
SUGradAdmissions@su.edu
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-401-5709

Office of Financial Aid
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/finaid@su.edu> | call: 540-665-4538

FACULTY



Dr. Brittany Sager-Heinrichs, Program Director



Dr. Tiffany Snow, Associate Director & Fieldwork Coordinator



Dr. Daniel Kimonyi, Assistant Professor



Dr. Tevin Middleton, Assistant Professor



Professor Jana Rodriguez
Instructor

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Course	Title	Credits
COUN 505	Lifespan Development	3
COUN 509	Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethics	3
COUN 511	Multicultural Counseling	3
COUN XXX	Elective	3
COUN 501	Basic Counseling Skills	3
COUN 503	Group Counseling	3
COUN 506	Counseling Theory	3
COUN 508	Addiction Counseling	3
COUN 512	Grief, Loss, Trauma, and Crisis	3
COUN 514	Human Sexuality	3
COUN 580	Advanced Counseling Techniques and Conceptualization	3
COUN 601	Diagnostic Processes in CMHC	3
COUN 602	Systems Concepts in Counseling	3
COUN 507	Research Seminar I	1
COUN 609	Group Practicum	3
COUN 610	Individual Practicum	3
COUN 517	Research Seminar II	1
COUN 603	Assessment Processes	3
COUN 650	Fieldwork I	3
COUN 527	Research Seminar III	1
COUN 510	Career Counseling	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. 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.