ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (291)

Program Coordinator:
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The 24-credit* advanced certificate in mental health counseling is a bridge program that addresses the needs of two distinct cohorts, both requiring supplemental coursework and training to qualify for licensure as mental health counselors in New York State. Students with 36- or 48-credit degrees in mental health counseling will accrue the additional credits needed to meet the 60-credit education requirement for licensure, while those with 36-60-credit degrees in other areas of counseling (or a closely related helping-professions discipline) will acquire the specialized courses and fieldwork necessary to retrain as mental health counselors. All students complete the 12-credit practicum/internship sequence (COU530, COU771, COU772), which includes more than 600 hours of supervised mental health counseling experience, plus 12 additional credits based on review of their prior graduate transcripts and identification of specific courses needed to fulfill licensure requirements. Admission to the program is in spring only.

Consistent with the mission of the State University of New York at New Paltz, the advanced certificate program provides students with a challenging, student-centered, and personalized learning environment that enables them to gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to contribute productively to their profession and communities. For those professionals interested in "retooling" within the broad field of counseling, the advanced certificate program facilitates mid-career changes in specialization to meet professional goals and local and regional needs.

Graduates of the SUNY New Paltz M.S. in School Counseling degree require only 18 credits to complete this advanced certificate.
COURSES

COU510 Counseling Theories (3)
Contemporary theories of counseling and psychotherapy. Prerequisite: Matriculated (290 or 295) status.

COU515 Counseling Skills (3)
Contemporary counseling skills. Techniques from approaches such as analytic, person-centered, cognitive-behavioral, and family systems. Prerequisite: Matriculated (290 or 295) status.

COU520 Career Development, Counseling, and Assessment (3)
Career counseling theory and practice. Models of career development and implications of these models for career counseling and assessment across diverse populations. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

COU525 Multicultural Counseling (3)
Reviews knowledge and research in multicultural counseling. Teaches skills useful in counseling individuals from diverse populations; focus on personal awareness about stereotypes and how they may impact counseling diverse clients. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

COU530 Foundations of Mental Health Counseling (4)
History, philosophy, and professional orientation in mental health counseling. Ethical, legal and socio-cultural/diversity issues in mental health counseling; includes supervised practicum experience in mental health counseling setting. Prerequisite: Matriculated (290) status; B- or better in COU510 or (PSY551) or 80551 and COU515 or (PSY553) or 80553 and COU520 or (PSY508) or 80508.

COU533 Foundations of School Counseling (4)
History, philosophy, and professional orientation in school counseling. Basics of K-12 guidance programs, including relationship of guidance programs to overall school environment. Ethical, legal and socio-cultural/diversity issues in school counseling; includes supervised practicum experience in school setting. Prerequisite: Matriculated (295) status and B- or better in COU510 (PSY551) or 80551, COU515 (PSY553) or 80553, and COU520 (PSY508) or 80508.

COU540 Psychopathology (3)
Reviews approaches to psychopathology, particularly as they pertain to counseling. Examines systems for conceptualizing, comprehending, and understanding those diagnosed with psychopathology. Covers theoretical approaches and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 285, 290 or 295) status.

COU545 Group Dynamics and Counseling (3)
Theory and practice of group counseling. Examines group dynamics and theories of group development in counseling contexts. Techniques and principles of group counseling, with special emphasis on implications for school and mental health counseling settings. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

**COU550 Couple and Family Counseling (3)**
A variety of approaches to family and couples therapy including psychoanalytic, behavioral, transgenerational, structural, strategic and systems will be examined. The theory and technique of Bowen, Minuchin, Haley, and the Milan associates will be emphasized. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

**COU555 Assessment (3)**
Theoretical and applied examination of issues pertinent to personality and intellectual assessment. Introduces practical applications (administration, scoring, interpretation, and report-writing), as well as theoretical issues (ethics, utility, reliability, and validity). Prerequisite: Matriculated (290 or 295) status.

**COU565 Disaster Mental Health (3)**
Theory and research in disaster mental health are studied. Activities of disaster counseling are practiced. Students complete a one-day American Red Cross training in DMH that will allow them to be deployed to disasters. Prerequisite: COU510 (PSY551) or 80551, COU515 (PSY553) or 80553, and COU540 (PSY552) or 80552.

**COU771 Ethics and Professional Orientation: Mental Health Counseling Internship 1 (4)**
Ethics and professional orientation in counseling; includes first half of intensive supervised internship experience in either mental health or school counseling. Sections are designated for either mental health or school counseling students. Prerequisite: COU580 (PSY580) or 80580 and matriculated (290) status.

**COU772 Ethics and Professional Orientation: Mental Health Counseling Internship 2 (4)**
Ethics and professional orientation in counseling; includes second half of intensive supervised internship experience in either mental health or school counseling. Sections are designated for either mental health or school counseling students. Prerequisite: COU771 (PSY581) or 80581 and matriculated (290) status.

**COU585 Contemporary Issues in Counseling (3)**
In depth examination of a particular area of counseling. May be repeated multiple times for credit, as long as the topic is different each time the course is taken. Prerequisite: Matriculated (290 or 295) status.

**COU590 Thesis (3 or 6)**
Students write a counseling-related thesis under the supervision of a thesis committee (a faculty adviser and two committee members). Students do a literature review/conceptual thesis (3 credits) or an empirical thesis (6 credits). All empirical projects must conform to IRB guidelines. Prerequisite: Matriculated (290 or 295) status.