MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (290)

Program Coordinator:
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The Counseling Graduate Program offers a 60-credit Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling, which serves both students looking to become licensed as mental health counselors and those seeking to eventually proceed into doctoral programs. The curriculum covers mental health counseling practice and research, in addition to necessary coursework in human growth and development, social and cultural foundations, helping relationships, group work, career and lifestyle development, appraisal, research and program development, and professional orientation. Practicum and internship experiences provide unique, varied, and intense hands-on mental health counseling training experiences under supervision of licensed professionals. The degree is registered with the State Education Department as meeting the educational requirements necessary for mental health counseling licensure in New York. Detailed information on the Licensure and Practice of the Mental Health Professions in New York is available from the Office of the Professions (OP) at http://www.op.nysed.gov/mhclic.htm. The degree can be completed full-time in two years, including summer classes.

Admission Requirements
The Counseling Graduate Programs’ Admissions Committee reviews applications. Minimum admissions requirements are as follows:

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
2. Minimum grade point average of 3.0 for all undergraduate work with at least a 3.0 average in psychology courses, or strong evidence of recent academic achievement.
4. Satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination (General test).
5. Completed application for admission to the Master of Science program in Mental Health Counseling.
6. One official copy of transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work.
7. Three letters of recommendation.
8. International students must meet these additional requirements for admission: http://www.newpaltz.edu/graduate/international.html.
Application Procedures

Students may select to apply online or via paper application. Applications to the Mental Health Counseling programs are due February 1st for fall enrollment. Applications for the Advanced certificate program are due November 15th for spring enrollment. Late applications may be considered; however, applicants should contact the graduate coordinator before submitting their application.

To apply, submit the following items to the Graduate School in ONE COMPLETE PACKET:

1. A signed application (paper applications) or a signature page (online applications)
2. All undergraduate transcripts, including schools with transfer credits in sealed envelopes
3. One essay stating intent and objective of your graduate studies
4. Three letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes
5. Satisfactory GRE scores

If you have questions about the application process or the programs offered, may contact the Graduate School at (845) 257-3947 or gradschool@newpaltz.edu.

Curriculum Requirements / 60 credits

Candidates for the MS in Mental Health Counseling must complete a minimum of 60 credits. Degree requirements are as follows:

- 36 mental health counseling credits: COU510, COU515, COU520, COU525, COU530, COU540, COU545, COU550, COU555, COU771, COU772
- 9 human growth and development credits: PSY527 plus two electives (chosen from PSY516, PSY528, PSY529, PSY531, PSY556, PSY560, PSY570)
- 6 methodology credits: a statistics course (either PSY501 or PSY503) and a research methods course (PSY507)
- 9 elective credits to be chosen from an approved list of courses
- Mandatory child abuse training
- Note: All courses are three credits except the following, which are four credits: COU530, COU771, and COU772

Academic Good Standing, Transfer Credits, and Degree Deadline

- Students must maintain an average grade of B in graduate-level courses.
- The Counseling Graduate Program may accept up to nine credits of graduate work taken elsewhere in which a grade of B or better was earned.
- All degree requirements must be completed within five years after admission to degree candidacy.

For course descriptions, please click COURSES.
Assistantships
Teaching assistantships are available to selected students each year. Current stipends are $5,000 per year plus a six-credit tuition scholarship per semester. Assistantship duties involve assisting in faculty teaching. Inquiries should be addressed to the Director of the Counseling Graduate Program. Other financial support is available to selected students each year in positions such as: Assistant in the Office of Psychology and Counseling Graduate Programs, Academic Advisor to undergraduate psychology students, Graduate Intern at the Career Advising and Development Center, and Technical Assistant at the Disability Resource Center. For further information, contact the Office for Psychology and Counseling Graduate Programs.