



State University of New York at New Paltz

The 60-credit **Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling** 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/mhcllic.htm>. The M.S. in mental health counseling degree can be completed full-time in two years, including summer classes. Starting in 2010, all registered mental health counseling graduate degrees in New York must be 60-credits. Students may attend part-time, but all degree requirements must be completed within five years after admission to degree candidacy.

Admissions Requirements

The Department's Graduate Admissions Committee makes admissions decisions based on the following required criteria:

1. Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
2. Minimum grade point average of 3.0 for all undergraduate work or strong evidence of recent academic achievement.
3. Satisfactory performance (preferably a combined score of 1000 or higher) on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. GRE registration information is available at www.gre.org.
4. Successful completion of nine (9) undergraduate credits in psychology or related social sciences.
5. Successful completion of coursework covering inferential statistics and research methods. Applicants are encouraged to include with their applications catalog course descriptions of the coursework covering this material. This coursework may be part of, or in addition to, the nine (9) undergraduate credits in psychology or related social sciences.
6. Completed Graduate Application, available in paper or online formats at www.newpaltz.edu/graduate/steps.html. In the "Statement of Objectives" section, applicants should include relevant material demonstrating how their academic, professional, and personal experiences make them strong candidates for graduate training in counseling.
7. Two official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work.
8. Three letters of recommendation. Recommenders should address the relevant academic, professional, and personal experiences that make the applicant a strong candidate for graduate training in counseling.
9. *Optional*: Inclusion of supplemental materials (resume/vitae, papers, other relevant written materials, etc.) that enhance the applicant's case for admission.
10. *International Applicants*: The TOEFL is required of all international applicants and any applicant whose undergraduate degree is from a country where English is not the main language of instruction. The required minimum TOEFL score is 550 (213 computer based/80 internet based). TOEFL registration information is available at www.toefl.org.

Application Information

- Paper or online applications available at <http://www.newpaltz.edu/graduate/applications.html>
- You can also obtain application materials by contacting The Graduate School at HAB 804, SUNY New Paltz, 1 Hawk Dr., New Paltz, NY 12561-2443
- **Students are only admitted for the Fall semester:** Application review begins Feb 15 and continues until the class is filled.
- **Assistantships:** Graduate assistantships are available to selected students each year. Current stipends are \$2,500 per semester (\$5,000 per academic year) plus a six-credit tuition waiver per semester. Assistantship duties involve assisting faculty in teaching and research. Contact the Graduate Coordinator for further information about assistantships.
- Admissions based on academic qualifications, without regard to race, color, sex, disability, age, marital status, or religion.

Course Requirements

Methodology Requirement (6 credits)

PSY501 ANOVA or PSY503 Correlation and Multiple Regression
PSY507 Research Methods

Human Growth & Development Requirement (3 credit)

PSY527 Human Growth and Development

Human Growth & Development Electives (6 credit)

Choose two:

PSY516 Organizational Psychology
PSY528 Infancy and Childhood
PSY529 Adulthood
PSY531 Middle Childhood and Adolescence
PSY556 Contemporary Social Psychology
PSY560 Cognitive Processes
PSY570 Cognitive Neuroscience

Mental Health Counseling Requirement (36 credits)

COU510 Counseling Theories
COU515 Counseling Skills
COU520 Career Development, Counseling, and Assessment
COU525 Multicultural Counseling
COU530 Foundations of Mental Health Counseling (4 credits)
COU540 Psychopathology
COU545 Group Dynamics and Counseling
COU550 Couple and Family Counseling
COU771 Ethics and Professional Orientation: MHC Internship 1 (4 credits)
COU772 Ethics and Professional Orientation: MHC Internship 2 (4 credits)

Electives (9 credits)

Three courses chosen under advisement from the following:

- ANY other three-credit courses from above NOT used to fulfill one of the above requirements.
- ANY other three-credit Counseling (COU) or Psychology (PSY) graduate courses not listed above, including: COU565 Disaster Mental Health and PSY576 Families in Transition
- Thesis of three or six credits

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING Session

Must be taken on or off campus and documentation submitted to SUNY New Paltz so that proof of having completed this training can appear on the student's transcript.

Contact Us

Mailing Address:

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New Paltz, NY 12561-2440

Location: JFT 316

Hours: Monday-Wednesday 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM,
Thursday-Friday 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Phone: (845) 257-3467

Email: counsgradprogram@newpaltz.edu