



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS



COUNSELOR EDUCATION — CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL COUNSELING

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Counselor Education Department offers the master of arts degree in clinical mental health counseling and school counseling, and sixth year certificate (SYC) in clinical mental health counseling and school counseling. The clinical mental health counseling concentration prepares candidates to work in a variety of human service settings, including mental health counseling centers, career centers, substance abuse centers, crisis counseling centers, and other agencies offering counseling services. The school counseling concentration prepares candidates to work as counselors in elementary, middle, and secondary schools. Candidates are endorsed for certification and/or job placement only in their area of concentration.

Counseling courses are offered under the guidance of faculty members who are nationally recognized through their publications and active service in national professional organizations. Both programs are designed to develop knowledge and skill in nine areas:

- Human Growth and Development
- The Helping Relationship
- Lifestyle and Career Development
- Research and Evaluation
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Group Counseling
- Individual Appraisal
- Professional Orientation
- Clinical Skills

The MA programs are nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), a coveted credential. Students benefit from the University's location in an area with many forward-looking school systems and clinical mental health agencies. These sites provide excellent opportunities for internships, research, and post-graduate employment. In January 2017 after being reviewed on all 241 2009 Standards, CACREP accredited the School and Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs for eight years, through March 31, 2025. As CACREP observes, "Programs receiving accreditation for an eight-year period deserve to be commended for the work completed throughout the accreditation process. This is indeed a worthy achievement."

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

In addition to preparing our graduates for certification and licensure, our programs provide opportunities that can serve to further our students' professional development. The Counselor Education Lab and Training Center, a state-of-the-art campus facility, is home to our 3-tier practicum supervision model; a model often seen only in doctoral training programs. In addition to the standard coursework, our students have many opportunities to gain additional preparation in supervision, research, substance abuse counseling, and spirituality in counseling.

As students increase and refine their clinical skills they are encouraged to participate as coaches in several core courses; participate as process observers for the group, career, and theories courses; lead training groups for police officers in how to preplan for corrective feedback in police supervision; and engage in research, writing, and professional presentations with faculty. Combined with ongoing supervision, these various opportunities solidify a set of teaching, research, and supervision skills, that when added to the high level of clinical training, create a bridge for entry into the professional field or post-masters studies.

COURSE OF STUDY

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MA - CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Candidates must complete a minimum of 60 credits for the clinical mental health counseling master's degree. A grade point average of 3.0 is expected.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MA - SCHOOL COUNSELING

Candidates must complete a minimum of 48 credits for the school counseling master's degree which allows students to meet the state certification requirements. A grade point average of 3.0 is expected.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SYC

The SYC programs in clinical mental health counseling and school counseling require a minimum of 30 post master's graduate-level credit hours, including clinical courses, and completion of requirements as outlined on an individualized plan of study.

PREPARATION FOR CONNECTICUT STATE LICENSURE AND NATIONAL COUNSELOR CERTIFICATION

Candidates who graduate from the Counselor Education master's degree programs will have completed the requirements to sit for the National Counselor Exam and some of the requirements to become a licensed professional counselor within the state of Connecticut. The department offers the National Counselor Exam; passing this exam results in national counselor certification. In addition, this exam serves as the counselor licensing examination in Connecticut. Candidates who complete 60 credits of designated course content and pass the exam will be required to obtain 3,000 supervised clinical hours and 100 hours of supervision under a licensed counseling professional prior to applying for state



Fairfield University

Graduate School of Education
and Allied Professions

licensure. Candidates graduating with a sixth year certificate are not covered under these guidelines and need to obtain national certification and state licensure on an individual basis according to guidelines outlined by the National Board of Certified Counselors and Connecticut Department of Public Health. The Counselor Education Department is an approved National Board for Certified Counselors continuing education units provider.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY (MA)

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (MINIMUM OF 60 CREDITS)

Social and Cultural Foundations (3 credits)

- CN 433 Multicultural Issues in Counseling

Human Development (6 credits)

- CN 447 Lifespan Human Development
- PY 437 Psychopathology and Classification II

Professional Orientation (3 credits)

- CN 468 Professional Issues in Counseling

Helping Relationship (6 credits)

- CN 500 Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy
- CN 553 Counseling Relationships and Skills

Group Work (3 credits)

- CN 455 Group Work Theory and Practice

Lifestyle and Career Development (3 credits)

- CN 457 Career Development: Theories and Practice

Appraisal (3 credits)

- CN 467 Assessment in Counseling

Research and Evaluation (3 credits)

- CN 566 Research Methodology

Clinical Instruction (9 credits)**

- CN 558 Counseling Practicum
- CN 590C Internship: Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Specialized Curriculum (15 credits)

- CN 432 Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Management, Delivery, and Evaluation
- CN 465 Introduction to Substance Abuse and Addictions
- CN 515 Trauma and Crisis Intervention
- CN 585 Introduction to Clinical Supervision
- FT 550 Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy

ELECTIVE COURSES (6 CREDITS)

Select two elective courses in consultation with advisor.

SCHOOL COUNSELING (MINIMUM OF 48 CREDITS)

Social and Cultural Foundations (3 credits)

- CN 433 Multicultural Issues in Counseling

Human Development (6 credits)

- CN 447 Lifespan Human Development
- PY 436 Psychopathology and Classification I

Professional Orientation (3 credits)

- CN 468 Professional Issues in Counseling

Helping Relationship (6 credits)

- CN 500 Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy
- CN 553 Counseling Relationships and Skills

Group Work (3 credits)

- CN 455 Group Work: Theories and Practice

Lifestyle and Career Development (3 credits)

- CN 457 Career Development: Theory and Practice

Appraisal (3 credits)

- CN 467 Assessment in Counseling

Research and Evaluation (3 credits)

- CN 566 Research Methodology

Clinical Instruction (9 credits)**

- CN 558 Counseling Practicum
- CN 590S Internship: School Counseling

Specialized Curriculum (9 credits)

- CN 531 School Counseling: Procedures, Organization, and Evaluation
- SE 403 Foundations in Research and Evaluation of Psychoeducational Issues In Special Education

ELECTIVE COURSE (3)

Select one elective in consultation with advisor.

Students in both programs are required to take a comprehensive exam in their last semester, or in the semester immediately prior.

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

CN 99 (01), Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE).

SCHOOL COUNSELING

CN 99 (02), Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE).

* Not required for MA, but required for school counseling certification when the candidate lacks a valid Connecticut Educator Certificate.

** Grades of B or better are required in the sequence of clinical coursework.

PRACTICA, INTERNSHIPS, AND RESEARCH

Practica and internship experiences help students develop their skills in counseling settings under close faculty and site supervision. Faculty members conduct weekly group supervision sessions on campus, attending to clinical, preventive, consulting, and professional issues. Students take advantage of audio and video taping systems to help them analyze and improve their techniques. The program has an excellent record of intern placement in both urban and suburban schools, and in a wide range of community based mental health agencies. Students are also encouraged to pursue original research. Some have recently published articles in professional journals and others have taken significant roles in workshops and group counseling sessions for school and community groups.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

School Counseling graduates are well represented throughout Connecticut at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels, as well as in other states.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduates are employed throughout the region, providing counseling on substance abuse, domestic violence, family issues, careers, and other significant issues. Several students have gone on to doctoral study. Many alumni have earned honors for their counseling work and are active in professional organizations.

STUDENT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

Gamma Lambda Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the international honor society for students, professional counselors and counselor educators

GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Tracey Robert, Program Chair
Professor of Counselor Education
Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 4250
E-mail: trobert@fairfield.edu

Dr. Tracey Robert serves as the faculty advisor for applicants to Counselor Education and is the contact person for questions about the programs.

For a complete faculty listing, see www.fairfield.edu/gseappfaculty.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for a master's degree must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent) and give promise of meeting the standards set by the school.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Deadlines: October 1st and January 15th

Students seeking admission must complete and submit the following online:

1. A completed application.
(Apply online at www.fairfield.edu/geapp.)
2. A non-refundable \$60 application fee.
3. A professional résumé. Applicants are required to submit a current résumé that includes employment and educational history.
4. A personal statement. Students should describe why they want to undertake graduate studies in the program for which they are applying.
5. Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended. We generally expect applicants to have a minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0. Any applicant whose undergraduate GPA is lower than 2.67 must request and receive a GPA waiver from the department. Waivers are granted on a case by case basis and may require supplemental undergraduate coursework to increase the undergraduate GPA and/or earning a B or better in two or more approved graduate-level courses. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved evaluating service. A list of approved evaluators is available at www.fairfield.edu/eval. Students may be required to take one or more English writing courses if their writing skills do not meet graduate level standards. Upon the granting of a GPA waiver, an approval form signed by the Department and the Dean's office will be placed in the student's file. Candidates who are granted a GPA waiver and are admitted must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 to be permitted to continue in the program. Candidates applying for admission to a certification program should note that Connecticut State certification program standards for formal admission to an approved initial educator certification program require candidates to possess a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of B- (2.67 on a 4.0 GPA scale), unless an approved GPA waiver form documents that a waiver was granted.

6. School Counseling only - Applicants must have taken one of the following tests: the Praxis Core, SAT, ACT or GRE and provide official scores for their file. Applicants who do not have passing scores on one or more sections may be required to remediate any deficient area. Remediation may include re-taking and passing the sections that were not passed, taking additional coursework, or other remediation activities. If additional courses are required, the candidate must complete the coursework at a grade of B (3.0) or above and provide an official transcript to the Dean's office. Please see advisor for additional details and recommendations. If students provide their social security number to Educational Testing Services (ETS) www.ets.org/praxis when registering for the PRAXIS Core exam, the reported score will automatically be uploaded to their Fairfield application file. Fairfield's code is 3390.
7. Two recommendations. Suggested recommendations include your undergraduate or graduate professors, your major advisor, your work supervisor, or a professional in the field that you wish to study who knows you. Note that recommendations from friends or co-workers are not accepted.
8. Applicants are notified regarding attending a mandatory Admission Day interview after a review of their credentials. Applicants will interact with small and large groups, and will participate in a face-to-face individual interview. Counselor Education is an interpersonal profession and thus, the emphasis on interviews is central to the admission decision making process.
9. The final step in the admissions process is attendance at a mandatory New Student Orientation where applicants meet their advisors and receive important information about the program's policies and procedures.
10. All international students whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking either TOEFL or IELTS exams. For admission to the graduate school, a TOEFL composite score of 550 for the paper test, 213 for the computer-based test, 84 on the internet-based test with a minimum score of 21 in reading and 23 in writing is required. An IELTS score of 7.5 is required. Scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL) or www.IELTS.org. Fairfield's ETS code is 3390.

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:

Fairfield University
Office of Graduate Admission
Kelley Center
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

BACKGROUND CHECK AND FINGERPRINTING

Fingerprinting and background checks are required for certification programs. Please contact the Dean's office at 203-254-4250 for updated information.

MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS

Connecticut State law requires each full-time or matriculated student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required downloadable forms are available online at www.fairfield.edu/immunization. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Although this is not required to complete an application, you must provide proof of immunity/screening prior to course registration. Please consult your private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000, ext. 2241 or e-mail health@fairfield.edu.

NON-MATRICULATED STUDENT STATUS

Under our Non-Matriculated Status option, qualified students may take two or three courses (depending on the program of study) before gaining admission to a degree or certification program. This option provides a wonderful opportunity for qualified students to explore degree options and to confirm personal goals and readiness for graduate study. Qualifications to be considered include a bachelor's degree (required) and other qualifications related to your preparedness for graduate-level studies in the field of interest to you. Successful completion of coursework does not guarantee formal admission.

Individuals enrolled as non-matriculated students are not eligible for any tuition and/or financial support.

NON-MATRICULATED ADMISSION

Qualified applicants who have not completed the formal admission process may apply for permission to enroll as a non-matriculated student and earn up to 6 credits in a certification program and up to 9 credits in a non-certification program.

(The number of non-matriculated credits are limited if the student has transfer credits to be considered.)

- Application Instructions for non-matriculated admission:
- Apply online - Graduate Admission Application www.fairfield.edu/applynow
- Submit \$60 application fee
- Answer "Yes" to the Non-Matriculated student question
- Choose Term to begin course work
- Upload unofficial undergraduate transcript with degree posted to application file *
- Contact the GSEAP Dean's office at 203-254-4250 to be directed to the appropriate advisor for an interview.

*In order to become a fully matriculated student see Formal Admission Process.

MAXIMUM CREDITS ALLOWED BEFORE FORMAL ADMISSION

The total number of credits earned before formal admission to a program (i.e., the total number of transfer credits plus any credits earned as a non-matriculated student) may not exceed 6 (six) credits for applicants to certification programs or 9 (nine) credits for applicants to non-certification programs.

TUITION/FINANCIAL AID

Academic Year 2019-20
Tuition: \$800 per credit hour

A graduate education can provide countless professional and personal rewards in the future. Many students need to look beyond their own financial resources or the resources of their employer for assistance. There are many ways to finance a graduate education, including graduate assistantships, federal direct loan programs and our Veterans Pride Program, which are all discussed at www.fairfield.edu/gradfa.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Advisors from the Office of Financial Aid are committed to helping students find the options that best suit each of their needs. We encourage all Fairfield University graduate students to contact the Financial Aid office with any questions or to make an appointment to speak with a counselor.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 203-254-4125
Fax: 203-254-4008
E-mail: finaid@fairfield.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

MORE INFORMATION

ADMISSION QUESTIONS

Questions about the application process should be directed to the **Office of Graduate Admission**.
Phone: 203-254-4184
Fax: 203-254-4073
E-mail: gradadmis@fairfield.edu

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS WEBSITE

www.fairfield.edu/gseap

ONLINE CATALOG

For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.

For gainful employment disclosures, see www.fairfield.edu/gainfulemploy.