COUNSELOR EDUCATION —
CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL COUNSELING

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Counselor Education Department currently 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 clinical mental health counseling centers, career centers, substance abuse centers, crisis counseling centers, and other clinical mental health 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 in the field through their publications and active service in national professional organizations. The 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 provide excellent opportunities for internships, research, and post-graduate employment. (Note: The Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is currently accredited under the 2001 standards for Community Counseling programs as a Community Counseling Program. The CACREP 2009 standards combine the Community Counseling and Mental Health Counseling standards into standards for Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs. The counseling program intends to seek accreditation for this program as a Clinical Mental Health Counseling program when it comes up for reaccreditation in March of 2017, as per CACREP guidelines.)

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 or increase their readiness for post-masters studies. Many of these opportunities occur in 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 complete 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.

Fairfield University
Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions
Candidates who complete 60 credits 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 licensure. Candidates graduating with a Certificate of Advanced Study degree 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 to 15 credits)**
- CN 558  Counseling Practicum
- CN 590S  Internship: School Counseling

**Specialized Curriculum (18 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
- PY 480  Consulting Theory and Practice

**ELECTIVE COURSES (3 CREDITS)**

**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 531  School Counseling: Procedures, Organization, and Evaluation
- ED 429  Philosophical Foundations of Education*
- SE 405  Exceptional Learners in the Mainstream*

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 counseling skills in real settings under close faculty 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 family service, youth service, and women’s support 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. For more information about applying for an internship please contact Internship@fairfield.edu.

**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. Diana Hulse
Professor of Counselor Education
Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 4250
E-mail: dhulse@fairfield.edu

Dr. Hulse 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/gseapfaculty.

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 – The Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions requires passing scores on the Praxis Core Test or a waiver of the requirement based on appropriate SAT, ACT, GRE or PAA scores. For a waiver, provide an electronic copy of your test scores from ETS uploaded to the application file. 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. Our code is 3390.
7. At least 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
In compliance with Connecticut state law effective July 1, 2010, applicants whose programs of study will require participation in school-based field experiences (e.g., observations, practica, student teaching, internships, etc.) must undergo State and National criminal history background checks before beginning their program of study. The regional educational service centers (RESCs) that are authorized to conduct fingerprinting services and provide the background check results to the Connecticut State Department of Education and local school districts are located at www.fairfield.edu/documents/admission/ga_fingerprinting.pdf. University students who have a history of a federal or state conviction may be barred from participating in school-based field work and may be exited from their degree program, depending on the nature of the conviction. Confirmation of fingerprinting at a RESC must be received by the Dean’s office (Canisius 102) prior to course registration.

The background check is valid for 3 years if the student remains an active student. It is the student’s responsibility to maintain
documented background check prior to students beginning a placement.

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](http://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.

For non-matriculated admission, use the following procedure:

1. Please call the GSEAP Dean’s office at 203-254-4250 to be directed to the advisor for the program that interests you.
2. Schedule an appointment.
3. Obtain a copy (official or unofficial) of your transcripts that shows the degrees you have earned. You will need to bring your transcripts with you to the University to be reviewed. International students must submit certified English translations and course-by-course evaluations, done by an approved evaluator (found on our website at [www.fairfield.edu/eval](http://www.fairfield.edu/eval)), of all academic records.
4. Complete the online admission application at least 24 hours in advance of your appointment and pay the $60.00 application fee at [www.fairfield.edu/applynow](http://www.fairfield.edu/applynow).

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 2016/2017
Tuition: $725 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](http://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](http://www.fairfield.edu/gseap)

ONLINE CATALOG

For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog [www.fairfield.edu/catalogs](http://www.fairfield.edu/catalogs).

For gainful employment disclosures, see [www.fairfield.edu/gainfulemploy](http://www.fairfield.edu/gainfulemploy).