The Programs

SUNY Plattsburgh’s programs in Mental Health Counseling, Student Affairs Professional Practice, and School Counselor are designed to provide candidates with the knowledge, skills, experience, and credentials to pursue successful careers as mental health counselors in a variety of clinical settings, student affairs professionals on university campuses, or school counselors in elementary, middle, and high school and related settings.

Our programs in School Counselor and Student Affairs Professional Practice are nationally accredited by the Council of Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Our program in Mental Health Counseling is registered with the New York State Education Department as a licensure-qualifying program.

All three programs provide instruction, seminars, advisement, both practicum and internship experiences, and clinical supervision to enable graduates to join the ranks of professional counselors.

Contact our Graduate Admissions Office (518-564-4723) for more information, check out our website (www.plattsburgh.edu/academics/counselored), or email Stephen.Saiz@plattsburgh.edu.

Admission Requirements

The application deadline for Spring 2010 matriculation is October 15, 2009, and the required Admissions Interview Day is in on October 30. The application deadline for Fall 2010 matriculation is February 15 and the required Admissions Interview Day is on March 5.

Requirements for admission include:

☐ Prerequisites of 12 credits in psychology, education, or closely related areas and course work in statistics, as well as a statement of computer competence

☐ A baccalaureate degree from an accredited higher education institution, as evidenced by an official transcript

☐ A minimum grade point average of 2.8 on a 4.0 grading scale

☐ Scores above the 25th percentile on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT)

☐ Three letters of reference indicating the candidate’s ability and suitability to pursue graduate studies in counseling

☐ Satisfactory completion of a group activity, writing sample, and individual interviews on Admissions Day (October and March)

☐ Preference is given to applicants who have work or volunteer experience in activities related to counseling.
M.S. to Certificate of Advanced Study Option in School Counselor Program

This unique option permits the candidate to qualify for a professional specialization in Students Affairs Professional Practice, and upon completion of the M.S., pursue a C.A.S. in School Counselor and become eligible for certification as a New York State School Counselor.

In the final semester of the Master’s program the candidate applies to the School Counselor Program and, upon acceptance, proceeds to qualify for a Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) in School Counselor.

SUNY Plattsburgh

High teaching standards, strong faculty involvement with students, and challenging scholarship combine in a safe community environment with great scenic beauty. The college is located in a small city situated on the shores of Lake Champlain. Plattsburgh borders the Adirondack Mountains and is one hour from America’s winter playground, Lake Placid, site of two Winter Olympics.

The college’s proximity to Canada, especially cosmopolitan Montreal, adds distinct international dimensions to a graduate student’s experience. Easy access to arts and entertainment locally, in Burlington, Vermont, and in Montreal make living in the region unique, active and fulfilling. These geographic advantages augment Plattsburgh’s welcoming and supportive campus community.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Counselor Education Department at SUNY Plattsburgh is to educate persons to become professional counselors who have the commitment, knowledge, skills, and self-awareness to offer quality counseling, developmental and prevention services to individuals, groups, and families in educational and community settings.

The Counselor Education Department is further dedicated to preparing professional counselors who have a working knowledge of ethical standards of practice, have developed cultural awareness and skills for working effectively with diverse client populations, and have committed to ongoing professional development.

The Counselor Education Department is committed to fostering an atmosphere promoting diversity, pluralism, and inclusion. We further affirm the right of each person to pursue a program in counseling based solely upon the candidate’s ability without prejudice regarding race, age, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.