Counselor Education Department Graduate Programs

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

www.plattsburgh.edu/academics/counselored/ccmaster.php

Advantages of Mental Health Counseling License

A Mental Health Counselor license qualifies the practitioner to work in public or private mental health services including clinics, medical centers, and private practice.

Mental Health Counselors are able to:
- provide mental health treatments for individuals, groups, partners, and families;
- use community mental health system-based data to design, develop, and manage community mental health agencies;
- become leaders in mental health and addictions services, and advocate for equitable and culturally competent counseling for all clients; and
- develop and maintain a clinical private practice in mental health counseling.

The Mental Health Counseling Program

SUNY Plattsburgh’s Mental Health Counseling Program is designed to provide graduate students with the values, knowledge, skills, experience, and credentials to pursue successful careers as licensed mental health professionals in a variety of public and private clinical settings. The program provides instruction, seminars, internships, and clinical supervision to prepare graduates to join the ranks of professionals in their field. The Mental Health Counseling Program is registered with the NYS Education Department as a licensure-qualifying program.

Upon successful completion of the 60 credit hour program, graduates are qualified to take the Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (New York’s licensing exam). Passing this exam is required to obtain a Mental Health Counselor license in New York State. A Mental Health Counselor Limited Permit, that can be issued by the NYS Education Department upon graduation from the program, allows the graduate to practice as a Mental Health Counselor in New York State for up to three years while acquiring the 3000 hours of post-Master’s supervised clinical experience required for the clinical license.

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.
Specialized Courses

Along with courses taken by all counseling program students, those who choose the Mental Health Counseling Program take specialized courses, including the following:

**CLG548: Clinical Practice in Mental Health Counseling**
Contemporary mental health counseling clinical practice issues and skills will be explored. Using readings, clinical practitioner presentations, discussions and simulated practice, students will develop skills in defining scope of practice, use of software and non-electronic aids in clinical practice and research, and case documentation for clinical standards and managed care reimbursement.

**CLG541: Internship: Mental Health I**
**CLG543: Internship: Mental Health II**
Practice applications of the theories, skills, roles and techniques of mental health counseling emphasizing the development of counseling proficiency under appropriate clinical supervision.

**CLG547: Psychopathology and Mental Health Counseling**
Symptoms, behavioral dysfunctions and maladaptive responses associated with mental disorders. Focus on counselor’s role in effective assessing, treating and providing related services to individuals experiencing mental disorders.

**CLG539: Mental Health Counseling and Consultation**
Historical foundations of the community mental health and community counseling movements, types of counseling agencies and services, counselor roles, program procedures, organizational structures, report writing, record keeping, and counseling practice in mental health and community counseling agencies.

Comments from Candidates

"I decided to do my graduate work in SUNY Plattsburgh’s Counselor Education Department because I knew that its programs were CACREP accredited. I had heard from friends who had been through the program that the professors were nothing short of amazing. I have not regretted this decision one bit . . . Mental health is my passion and completing the new licensure-qualifying mental health counseling program here . . . will give me a competitive edge when job searching and interviewing. I could not have wished for a better graduate education experience!"  
--- Kristina Moquin

About 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 that is situated on the shores of Lake Champlain.

Plattsburgh also borders the Adirondack Mountains and is one hour from America’s winter playground, Lake Placid. 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.

Financial Aid

Several forms of financial aid—including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for New York State residents, Federal Direct loans, and college work-study awards—are available to qualified graduate students. The college also offers a limited number of scholarships and assistantships. Access the following webpage for more information on graduate assistantships: www.plattsburgh.edu/admissions/graduate/assistantships/

Part-time employment opportunities in counseling-related areas exist on campus and in the community. The graduate catalog and application packet have further information about financial aid. Email: finaid@plattsburgh.edu

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.