School Counselor Program

SUNY Plattsburgh’s program in School Counseling is designed to provide candidates with the knowledge, skills, experience, and credentials to pursue successful careers in elementary, middle, and high school and related settings. The program provides instruction, advisement, both practicum and internship experiences, and clinical supervision.

The School Counselor Program is nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counselor and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Upon successful completion of the 60 credit hour program, the candidate receives both a Master of Science in Education and a Certificate of Advanced Study. Graduates are eligible both for NYS provisional certification as a school counselor and for taking the National Counselor Exam (NCE).

Candidates in the School Counselor program may complete their program on a part-time or full-time basis. Full-time candidates typically complete their program in two years, including some summer and winter session coursework. Courses are offered both during the day and in the evening to accommodate a variety of candidate work schedules.

Specialized Courses

Along with courses taken by all counseling program candidates, those who choose the School Counselor Program take specialized courses, including the following:

**CLG510 - Professional School Counseling**

An in-depth analysis of the history, development, role, function, and evaluation of school counseling programs K-12. Through lecture, in-class, and out-of-class activities, students will explore the role of the professional school counselor. Students will focus on learning the essential services of a comprehensive developmental school counseling program along the dimensions of academic, career, and personal/social development.

**CLG511 - Leadership and Advocacy in School Counseling**

This course will expose students to a variety of critical issues in school settings. Through experiential activities and research, school counselors in training will be required to create prevention and intervention strategies consistent with the comprehensive developmental school counseling program model.

**CLG536 - Counseling Children and Adolescents**

An overview of the most widely endorsed developmental/theoretical models and strategies for counseling children and adolescents. An overview of developmental/theoretical models and strategies for responding both individually and contextually to the needs of children and adolescents experiencing emotional and/or behavioral problems.
M.S. to C.A.S. 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 Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S) in School Counselor and become eligible for certification as a New York State School Counselor.

In the final semester of the 48 credit hour Masters program, the candidate applies to the School Counselor Program and, upon acceptance, proceeds to qualify for a CAS in School Counselor.

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. For information, email: finaid@plattsburgh.edu.

Comments from School Counselor Candidates

“When starting my research for a counseling program, I found that Plattsburgh State University’s Counselor Education program fit all my needs. I have had the opportunity to present at national conferences, take a wide variety of challenging courses, and gain valuable hands-on experience during my practicum and internship. Not only am I getting the best education possible to prepare me for a career as a school counselor, but I also feel a great deal of support from the faculty and my peers.”

Jennifer Mattimore

“The Counseling Program at Plattsburgh State University gives a warm and inviting atmosphere. The program has taught me about so many new and exciting avenues. I am thrilled to be a part of such a wonderfully vibrant group of individuals who all in their own unique way have taught me about myself and the field of counseling.”

Jennifer Amorelli

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.

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.