Why a master’s degree in Mental Health or School Counseling?

The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Master of Education in School Counseling programs are excellent choices for anyone interested in becoming a licensed clinical or school counselor. Both are designed for individuals with a passion for listening and helping others, and who are preparing to enter the counseling profession with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed across a variety of career options.

Why CMHC or SC at Bowling Green State University?

BGSU’s CACREP-accredited programs enjoy an outstanding reputation among counseling professionals. In fact, our students have over a 95% pass rate on the national counseling exam, and over 95% have found employment within 3 months of graduation. In addition to this remarkable success rate, our programs offer the majority of the classes in the evening. Students need to be available during traditional working hours to complete practicum and internship. Open enrollment allows students to start in the fall or spring. Both programs may be completed on a full-time or part-time basis.

Learning outcomes

Graduates of the CMHC and SC programs will have met the requirements for Licensed Professional Counselors and Licensed Professional School Counselors in Ohio. Students can expect to have the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to enter the workforce as ethical, dynamic and culturally competent counselors.

Professional opportunities

Clinical Mental Health Counselor — CMHC graduates are well prepared to work in a variety of settings, including agencies, hospitals and private practice as clinical mental health providers diagnosing and treating mental and emotional disorders. This work can be reimbursed by insurance, and your degree can help you become licensed across the nation.

School Counselors — SC graduates can become licensed as K-12 school counselors, providing individual and group counseling services to students, while collaborating with teachers and family members to provide high quality care and working to promote mental health programming. School counselors work as part of the faculty to address achievement gaps and other critical concerns.

Program strength and uniqueness

- Both programs may be completed on a full-time or part-time basis, with open enrollment in the fall or spring.
- Emphasis is placed on personal growth, with in-depth self-awareness activities integrated into each course.
- Faculty get to know each student in order to help them achieve their individual goals.
- Students learn from professors who have been practitioners in their disciplines with a combined 40 years of field experience.
- All undergraduate degrees may apply.

“For more information
Contact Program Coordinator, Dr. Robin DuFresne, School of Counseling and Special Education, College of Education and Human Development, at rdufres@bgsu.edu or call 419-372-7282.

“My educational experience at BGSU can be characterized as a paradigm shifting, self-actualization journey where I was academically challenged and stimulated by my cohort and professors. Not only did my program provide me the foundation to be a successful school counselor, but it gave me the tools to be a self-sufficient, change agent to advocate and develop my profession for the future.”

— Jeff Williams, BGSU Graduate Research Assistant School of Mental Health and School Counseling
Admission requirements

Applications are reviewed holistically by the program faculty. It is recommended that applicants have a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average (GPA) or 3.0 in at least nine credit hours of graduate-level courses. Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official transcripts from each degree granting institution must be submitted.

All applicants must submit a writing sample and three (3) letters of recommendation. Applications will be reviewed based on 4 criteria. Please see the program website for these criteria and the prompts for the writing sample.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTEA), or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Successful completion of ELS 112 will also be accepted for this requirement.

Cost of tuition

Please refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar for the most recent information on tuition and fees.

Financial assistance

A limited number of graduate assistantships and scholarships are available for full-time students who qualify. A graduate assistantship application must be submitted by March 1. For more information, please contact the department or see the program website.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions.

The application deadline is July 15 for Fall semester and December 1st for Spring semester. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis as soon as all supporting materials have been received.

Curriculum

Required core courses are required for both specialty areas.

Required Core Coursework
- COUN 6640  Crisis Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6710  Assessment and Testing in Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6740  Career and Life Planning Approaches  3 hours
- COUN 6750  Theories of Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6760  Counseling the Culturally Diverse  3 hours
- COUN 6770  Skills and Techniques of Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6780  Legal and Ethical Issues in Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6790  Group Counseling Model and Procedures  3 hours
- COUN 6805  Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment  3 hours
- EDFI 6420  Research in Education  3 hours
- EDFI 6710  Human Growth & Development  3 hours

Required Professional Experience and Field Placement
- COUN 6885  Practicum/Seminar in Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6890  Internship in Counseling  6 hours

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

This is a 60-credit program that spans 2½ - 3 years for full-time students. Part-time students typically take two courses per semester.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Required Coursework
- COUN 6680  Mental and Emotional Disorders  3 hours
- COUN 6815  DSM Diagnosis & Treatment Implications for Counselors  3 hours
- COUN 6855  Advanced Assessment  3 hours

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Electives (9 hours required)
- COUN 6720  Brief Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6730  Child & Adolescent Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6820  Special Topics in Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6835  Play Therapy  3 hours
- COUN 6845  Marriage, Family, and Couples Counseling  3 hours

SCHOOL COUNSELING

This is a 60-credit program that spans 2½ - 3 years for full-time students. Part-time students typically take two courses per semester.

School Counseling Required Coursework
- COUN 6690  Orientation to Professional School Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6700  Implementing School Counseling Programs  3 hours
- COUN 6730  Child & Adolescent Counseling  3 hours

School Counseling Electives (9 Hours Required)
- COUN 6720  Brief Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6815  DSM Diagnosis & Treatment Implications for Counselors  3 hours
- COUN 6820  Special Topics in Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6835  Play Therapy  3 hours
- COUN 6845  Marriage, Family, and Couples Counseling  3 hours
- COUN 6855  Advanced Assessment  3 hours