



Counselors must have a strong desire to help others and should be able to inspire respect, trust and confidence. In the human services field, counselors work in diverse community settings providing a variety of counseling, rehabilitation and support services. Their duties vary greatly as there are many specific areas a counselor may choose to specialize in, ranging from arts therapy to trauma counseling, and more.

At Ottawa University

Counselors make a positive impact on the lives of others. The Master of Arts in Counseling program includes field experience and will prepare students to take the state licensure test. To make completing your coursework easier, we've divided our online Master of Arts in Counseling degree into a recommended yearly schedule, which includes a field placement component consisting of nine semester credit hours, completed in eight terms, for a total of 900 client contact hours. During the field component portion of this program, you will work in a community behavioral health agency for approximately 15 hours per week and get hands-on, in-person experience.

Careers

There are numerous areas that counselors choose to work in, including schools, clinics, community mental health centers, family counseling centers, churches, hospitals, hospice programs, and private practice.

Education and Qualifications

This program is designed to meet the educational requirements in the state of Wisconsin for licensure. Requirements vary by state. It is the responsibility of the student to contact their state's licensure or certification authority to assure that the degree meets their state's requirements.

Graduate Master of Arts in Counseling

Foundation Courses

PYF 7001 Graduate Counseling Seminar in Clinical Foundations

Provides an overview addressing necessary foundations in the content areas of abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, and theories of personality. Introduction to APA style and format. (*Course only required if preparatory courses not met.)

PYF 7132 Counseling and the Helping Professions

Examines counseling process, instruction and practice in communication skills in counseling, history, development and practice of counseling as a profession, and how and where counseling is provided.

PYF 7162 Methods and Models of Research

Examination of models of research and application of scientific methods to investigate, analyze, and develop solutions relative to current issues in the field.

PYC 7422 Social/Cultural Concerns in Counseling

Study of social, cultural, and gender differences and issues related to counseling clients with various backgrounds, beliefs, and concerns. Includes multicultural counseling techniques.

PYC 7802 Psychological Testing

Examines use of standardized tests to study individuals, including test development, selection, administration, and interpretation. Includes educational and mental health applications.

PYC 7822 Life Planning and Career Development

Focus on theory, research, techniques, and tools used in life planning, transitions, and career development.

PYC 7832 Human Growth and Development

Examination of psychological, social, intellectual, and physical influences on the development of personality and behavior patterns in children, adolescents, and adults.

PYC 7922 Counseling Theories

Examination of theories of personality development and therapeutic processes. Consideration of techniques for counseling applications and professional consultation.

PYC 7932 Group Counseling and Dynamics

Theories of group counseling. Includes techniques of observation, assessment, and leadership in therapeutic groups.

PYF 8012 Professional and Ethical Issues in Counseling

Study of ethical, legal, and professional concerns in the practice of counseling.

PYC 8040 Advanced Psychodiagnostic and Treatment Planning

As a preparation for Clinical Internship, students will expand their knowledge of the multi-axial system, DSM-IV/DSM-IV-TR diagnostic categories, differential diagnosis, and treatment planning. Emphasis will also be placed on the clinical interview and other initial assessment techniques, as well as skills critical to selecting and evaluating treatment options.

PYC 8112 Theory/Techniques in Marriage and Family Counseling

Examination of traditional and contemporary theories of family systems and approaches to marriage and family counseling.
Prerequisite: 15 semester credit hours of PYC/PYF courses

PYC 8142 Intro to Substance Abuse, Addictions and Related Disorders

Introduction to patterns, causes, assessment and treatment of substance abuse, and other addictive disorders. Student begins preparation of required portfolio.
Prerequisite: PYF 7132, PYC 7922

PYF 8512 MA Comprehensive Exam

PYF 8600, 8610 Field Placement

Course designed to develop counseling skills through practical application in a counseling setting. Students work under the direct supervision of an approved onsite supervisor and faculty supervisor. Classroom component allows student to share learning experiences from placement activities as well as guide the integration and synthesis of learned knowledge into practical application.
900 hours and 9 credit hours

Professional Growth Seminars

36 hours of Professional Growth Seminars