

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the counseling and development program at Winthrop University is to provide an intellectually stimulating and supportive environment for the professional development of school and community counselors who are committed to best practices in their roles as clinicians, advocates and consultants. The program strives to prepare culturally competent, culturally sensitive and ethical counselors to work effectively in a pluralistic society. The faculty designs and delivers academic and clinical experiences to all students in ways that recognize, respect and value the diversity of students' backgrounds, characteristics, beliefs and abilities.



MASTER OF EDUCATION COUNSELING AND DEVELOPMENT



The Graduate School
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Counseling, Leadership and Educational Studies
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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

ACCREDITATION

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), has conferred accreditation to the following program areas in the Department of Counseling and Development at Winthrop University: clinical mental health counseling, formerly called community counseling (M.Ed.) and school counseling (M.Ed.).

COUNSELING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Graduate study in counseling and development leads to a Master of Education degree in either clinical mental health or school counseling. Concentrations/semester credit hours for the degree include a minimum of:

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.Ed. 60 hours)
- School Counseling (M.Ed. 51 hours)

The program is offered in a cohort and part-time format. The two-year cohort program begins in the summer session: students start and complete the program as a group. Part-time students begin a structured program beginning in the fall semester and generally complete the program in three years. Courses are taught primarily in the evening; however, some day and weekend classes are routinely scheduled.

Through a combination of classroom and field experiences, both cohort and part-time formats provide you the opportunity to develop a unique professional identity as a clinical mental health counselor or school counselor. A unique feature of the counseling and development program is each student is engaged in four field-based experiential courses that provides students with direct faculty supervision in the first practicum. Students learn by doing; applying knowledge and building competency in eight core areas as they develop counseling skills in supervised field work in the second practicum and internships.

Today's clinical mental health counselor works in collaboration with other helping professionals in a variety of community, service, and private mental health settings. The vital combination of coursework and field experiences in the clinical mental health counseling program promotes acquisition of appropriate individual and group counseling skills that focus on helping people address the personal, familial and social issues that interfere with their abilities to lead healthy and productive lives.

The school counseling program prepares students to become knowledgeable and ethical counseling professionals for employment as school counselors in public and private K – 12 schools and related educational settings for diverse populations. We endorse a collaborative approach to school counseling with other school services. Clinical and course assignments are designed to provide tangible career benefits for students.

In view of the responsibilities of the counselor in both school and community settings our faculty and students engage in reflective practice, innovative inquiry and responsible social action as we strive to contribute to human development, adjustment and change.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree
- Overall 3.0 GPA
- Official GRE or MAT scores (combined GRE score of 800 or above on verbal and quantitative scales) or MAT (scale score of 392 or above)
- A 2-3 page personal narrative addressing: a) your objectives for pursuing graduate study in counseling; b) qualifications and previous experiences in human related service which you believe will benefit your studies in counseling; and c) professional goals upon completion of the program in terms of benefits to self and society

- Resume or vita
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official transcript of all college credit

Admission deadlines are December 15 for the cohort format beginning in the summer session, and May 15 for the part-time program format beginning in the fall semester. Pre-entrance admission interviews will be conducted during the month of February and June.

The counseling and development program restricts enrollment in its courses to graduate candidates who have been fully admitted to the program. If space is available, graduate candidates may take counseling courses to satisfy professional obligations. Non-degree students seeking admission into restricted courses must obtain consent from the counseling faculty.

FACULTY

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Winthrop University is committed to offering a wide variety of financial assistance to fully admitted, degree-seeking students including graduate assistantships, graduate associateships, graduate scholarships, and need-based financial assistance.

For information on scholarships please visit www.winthrop.edu/graduateschool/. Information on financial aid can be found at www.winthrop.edu/FinAid/.

