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 clinical mental health and school 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.
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
Graduate study in counseling and development leads to a Master of Education degree in either clinical mental health or school counseling. A minimum of 60 credit hours of graduate coursework is required for this degree.

The program is offered in a cohort format, completed in two years, students start and complete the program as a group. Courses are taught primarily in the evening; however, some day and weekend classes are routinely scheduled.

A combination of classroom and field experiences provide you the opportunity to develop a unique professional identity as a clinical mental health counselor or school counselor. We focus on skill development of the counselor, emphasizing personal growth experiences. 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. We also have an on-site counseling lab for training purposes, so students can further develop their skills.

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

• A brief statement of purpose articulating your reasons for pursuing a master’s in counseling and why you are a good fit for the field of counseling.

The application deadlines are January 15 for summer admission and May 15 for fall admission.

Admission to the counseling and development program is competitive. Promising applicants are invited for a group interview with the counseling and development admissions committee. The admissions committee considers all the requirements previously listed when making the admission recommendations. Successful applicants will be notified of acceptance by the Dean of the Graduate School.

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 associationships, 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.