Graduate Studies in COUNSELING

Master of Science in Counseling
Launch or advance your counseling career at Villanova University. The Counseling program emphasizes research-supported skill development with a commitment to effective engagement across diverse communities. Counselors are trained to enhance the cognitive, affective and social/interpersonal development of individuals and groups, to foster client independence in decision-making and facilitate effective problem-solving strategies. Such goals are achieved through direct client work, consultation or advocacy with various professionals, and indirectly the coordination of ancillary services.

Choose the Track that is Right for You
Villanova offers course concentrations in Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling.

Clinical Mental Health Concentration
This concentration satisfies the majority of requirements necessary for licensed professional counselors. Mental health counselors work with individuals, families, and groups to address issues such as depression, anxiety, addictions, career development, poverty, discrimination, relationship problems and grief. Students learn therapeutic techniques and may be involved in community outreach and advocacy.

School Counseling Concentration
The concentration leads to K-12 certification by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. School counselors work with youth individually, in small groups, or as a class, to address social/behavioral, academic, career and personal concerns. Additionally, they collaborate with parents, teachers, administrators and other stakeholders to advocate for youth regarding issues such as domestic abuse, poverty, grief, discrimination and family concerns.

Why Choose Counseling?
You will be a key player in facilitating the growth and development of your fellow human beings, to alter the course of others’ lives for the better. Additionally, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment is projected to grow at the following rates by the year 2020:

- Mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists: 37%
- School and career counselors in colleges, universities and professional schools: 34%
- School and career counselors in vocational rehabilitation services: 30%

Why Choose Villanova’s Counseling Program?
Join the Villanova community, a caring, service-oriented campus in close proximity to Philadelphia.

- Small class sizes (average of 10 students per course) allow you to engage with peers and faculty members on a personal and professional level, making lifetime connections.
- Dynamic faculty members, involved nationally and internationally in scholarship and practice, can offer numerous opportunities to further your interests in research, leadership and client practice.
- Competitive tuition rates; scholarships and assistantships are available. All primary and secondary-school teachers and counselors are eligible to receive reduced tuition rates.

The MS in Counseling program does an exceptional job of integrating traditional counseling theory with contemporary practical applications. I find that the sense of community within this program permits open discussion both in and outside the classroom among diverse students from all stages of life.

- Jennifer Brady, MS 2014
Commitment to Diversity
Reflecting today’s pluralistic society, principles of multicultural counseling are incorporated throughout the program. The counseling curriculum addresses student awareness, knowledge and skills across race, class and culture. Students are provided numerous opportunities for engagement across populations through practicum, internship, volunteer opportunities and classroom assignments or service projects.

Core Courses
Laboratory in Counseling Skills
Laboratory in Group Dynamics
Counseling Theories and Practice
Research and Evaluation
Ethics in Counseling
Human Growth and Development
Lab in Counseling Diverse Populations
Lifestyle and Career Development
Assessment and Appraisal

Required: Clinical Mental Health (CMH) Counseling
Practicum in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Internship I & II in CMH
CMH Counseling Orientation
CMH Resources and Crisis Intervention
Psychopathology

Required: School Counseling
Practicum in School
Internship I & II in School Counseling
School Counseling Orientation
Consultation Processes
Therapeutic Strategies with Children (elementary)
Adolescent Counseling Interventions
Special Education for Counselors and Teachers

Faculty
Stacey Havlik, PhD
PhD, University of Maryland
Homelessness and School Counselor Support;
Educational Policy and Counselor Education

Krista Malott, PhD
PhD, University of Northern Colorado
Multicultural Counseling Competency;
Whiteness; Evidenced-Based Counselor Education

Rayna Markin, PhD
PhD, University of Maryland
Attachment; Therapeutic Relationship;
Group Psychotherapy

Robert Murray, PhD
PhD, Temple University
Catholic School Counseling;
Therapeutic Use of Forgiveness

Christopher Schmidt, PhD
PhD, William and Mary
Moral Development and Counselor Competency;
Counselor Effectiveness and Cognitive Complexity

Edward Wahesh, PhD
PhD, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Substance Abuse Prevention and Counseling;
Motivational Interviewing

While I have benefited from the emphasis on theory and the multicultural focus woven into each course, I have also appreciated the many research opportunities available outside of the required coursework. For those interested in pursuing PsyD or PhD degrees following the completion of the program, the research experience (often leading to publications and conference attendance) is invaluable.
– Jessica Kasten, MS 2014

I think the professors are really knowledgeable and engaging! The professors make an effort to get to know [students] on a personal level and are approachable outside of class.
– Megan Moynihan, MS 2014

For more information:
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