

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING - CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (ON CAMPUS OR ONLINE)

Department: Counseling (<https://catalog.bradley.edu/graduate/education-health-sciences/education-counseling-leadership/>)

Accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

The Master of Arts in Counseling program is designed to prepare students for positions as counselors in a variety of settings. The counselor education and supervision faculty believe that the work of the professional counselor is to promote the positive growth and development of the clients with whom the counselor interacts.

The counseling model for preparing counselors recognizes the profound interactive effect of people and human systems. We believe there is a need for social science translators—people who are in touch with the best in theory and research—who can translate this knowledge into effective programs and who can evaluate these programs. Because we believe that counselors should experience personal growth and development as persons and as professionals, all courses are designed to provide both cognitive and experiential learning.

The program utilizes a Screening Process and Retention Policy to assist in determining the suitability of an individual for a career in counseling as well as monitoring progress through the program. A detailed description of the Screening Process and Retention Policy is available in the Counseling Handbook. Continuance in the program is reviewed when a student fails to demonstrate appropriate professional behaviors, or when other circumstances occur which would make a counseling degree candidate ineligible to be certified or licensed as a professional counselor.

Specialties should be consistent with and support activities in the student's proposed internship placement. Other areas unique to a student's interests may be designed in consultation with members of the department.

The program prepares the students for the exam for certification as a National Certified Counselor. It also prepares students who are Illinois residents for Illinois Professional Educator License as a Professional School Counselor. The counseling concentrations are CACREP accredited as Professional School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has authorized online delivery of these counseling concentrations' academic curricula. In addition, courses of continuing professional education are offered to practicing counselors who wish to increase competencies to meet emerging needs of the profession.

The Master of Arts in Counseling with academic concentration in Clinical Mental Health Counseling requires completion of 60 semester hours of graduate work. This graduate program is designed to meet the certification requirements in Clinical Mental Health Counseling toward licensure in the state of Illinois, as well as the competency

standards for this professional track as determined by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs. In 2015, the Higher Learning Commission authorized the online delivery (http://onlinedegrees.bradley.edu/counseling/masters/?Access_Code=BDU-ALL-SEO2&utm_medium=SEO2&utm_campaign=BDU-ALL-SEO2) of this accredited counseling curriculum.

Bradley University's counseling program courses are offered via campus-based and online pedagogies. The online delivery offers the equivalent academic curriculum offered to campus-based students. Bradley University is a regionally accredited institution of higher education in the U.S.

CACREP-accredited master's counseling program requires a minimum of two in-person, synchronous residencies, effective for students admitted to the program on or after July 1, 2026. These residencies are mandatory for all students, regardless of the program's delivery method, to assess counseling skills and professional dispositions.

Both campus-based and online students graduating from Bradley University's Master of Arts in Counseling program will receive the same academic degree and transcripts. Both campus-based and online students who demonstrate successful academic and professional development will be eligible to sit for the National Counselor Examination during their final year of study. Online counseling students must check the specific requirements for the practice of counseling in the state where they reside or where they intend to practice, as well as any applicable reciprocity rules.

The program consists of a graduate core of three semester hours and a program core of 48 semester hours of study required of all candidates. In addition, students take an additional 9 semester hours of specialty area course work that may, in concert with the internship and practicum work required in the core program, permit them to develop a specialty area consistent with plans for future employment. Students must also pass each of the eight core areas of the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam to advance toward graduation. All students should consult with their academic advisors to determine specific courses that will meet their professional goals.

Code	Title	Hours
Graduate Core		
COU 604	Research Methodology and Applications	3.0
Program Core		
COU 540	Human Growth and Development Across the Lifespan	3.0
COU 551	Prevention and Treatment of Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders	3.0
COU 586	Counseling Diverse Populations	3.0
COU 620	Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice	3.0
COU 621	Career and Life Planning Across the Life Span	3.0
COU 623	Pre-Practicum in Counseling	3.0
COU 624	Theories and Techniques of Counseling	3.0
COU 625	Principles of Group Counseling	3.0
COU 630	Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	3.0
COU 631	Trauma, Crisis and Grief Counseling	3.0
COU 640	Clinical Supervision	2.0
COU 641	Assessment in Counseling	3.0
COU 654	Consultation in the Helping Professions	1.0

COU 661	Intimate Partner Relationships and Family Counseling	3.0
COU 690	Practicum	3.0
COU 691	Internship I	1.0-3.0
COU 692	Internship II	1.0-6.0

Specialty Area Course Work**Required**

COU 607	Neurocounseling: Bridging Brain and Behavior	3.0
COU 651	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	3.0

Electives

Select three hours from the following:	3.0
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COU 585	Understanding Schools: A Primer for Non-Teachers
COU 608	Brain-Based Counseling Interventions
COU 669	Education Law, Advocacy and Leadership
COU 699	Thesis

Total Hours	56-63
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