

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING / MASTER OF ARTS

CMHC Program Mission

The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is an accredited program with the Council for Accredited Counseling Related Programs (CACREP). The program is designed for students seeking to develop or refine job-related counseling skills and knowledge. It is our goal to provide our students with relevant, practical, and applicable learning experiences. In addition to the CACREP certification, the program is also approved by the Illinois Certification Board to offer an Advanced Training Program in Addictions (ATP). Students will develop as counselors, scholars, and ethical professionals throughout their tenure in our program. Our CMHC program provides students with a well-rounded, engaging learning environment in which students receive real-world experiences easily transferable from the classroom to various clinical settings. Courses are taught by instructor-practitioners who use their current clinical experiences to enhance students' classroom learning and comprehension of the field of clinical mental health counseling. Students are well-grounded in culturally, theoretically, and ethically sensitive practices.

CMHC Program Goals

Upon graduating from the CMHC program, students will have acquired the following:

1. Knowledge of relevant areas in clinical mental health counseling, including personality, life span development, multicultural issues, counseling theories, and evaluation and assessment.
2. Skills in interviewing, assessment, and counseling techniques.
3. Awareness of clients' individuality, multicultural sensitivity, and the importance of flexibility in their work with clients.
4. Development of appropriate ethical behavior and clinical mental health counselor professional identity.

Admission Standards

Admission to the graduate program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is based on academic and personal qualifications of the applicant. Students are admitted without regard to race, color, religion, age, gender, irrelevant handicap, national or ethnic origin, or disability.

All students must submit a final official transcript documenting evidence of a baccalaureate degree awarded by a regionally-accredited institution of higher education and a completed application which includes a personal statement of professional goals. Because this program is directed toward adults, it is expected that personal maturity and experience are prime indicators of success in the program. Although the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program does not require a criminal background check, applicants should be aware that many internship sites and potential employers will. There are three enrollment categories for students in the program: full, provisional, and at-large.

Transfer of Credit after Matriculation

Students who are already matriculated at Lewis University and wish to transfer in a course must seek written approval from the Graduate Program Director before the course is attempted. Only courses with a

grade of B or better will be accepted. Students may transfer in up to 2 courses.

Course of Study Overview

To obtain a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, students must specialize in one of two concentrations. Concentration A, Adult Clinical Mental Health Counseling, offers a traditional clinical mental health curriculum designed to prepare the student to work in a wide variety of mental health settings. Concentration B, Child and Adolescent Clinical Mental Health Counseling, offers a clinical mental health curriculum designed to prepare students to work with children, adolescents, and families in both public and private settings.

In addition to concentration A or concentration B, students also have the option to add the Advanced Training Program in Addictions (ATP) concentration. The ATP concentration is taken along with concentration A or concentration B. Students who complete the ATP concentration are prepared to take state testing post-master's degree for the Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Certificate (CADC).

Course Formats and Credit

Courses are offered in the evening and online and workshops are offered on weekends and online each semester. The normal load for a full-time graduate student is 3 courses, or 9 semester hours. For those who are working full-time, the normal semester load is 2 courses, or 6 semester hours.

Good Academic Standing

See Good Academic Standing (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#standing>).

Academic Probation and Dismissal

See Academic Probation and Dismissal (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#Probation>).

Time Limitations and Resident Requirement

Students must complete all requirements within 7 years from the time of completion of the first graduate course at Lewis University. Students remain under the requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of matriculation unless they discontinue attendance for two consecutive years or more, in which case they will follow the catalog in effect upon their return.

Graduation Requirements

Students will be awarded the Master of Arts degree when they have:

1. Completed at least 60 hours of graduate study as stipulated previously.
2. Successfully passed the comprehensive examination. (The comprehensive examination is normally attempted after 48 hours are completed; the comprehensive examination should be attempted in the student's penultimate semester.)
3. Assembled materials for a portfolio review consisting of, at a minimum, a supervisor's clinical assessment, the comprehensive examination, and one case study from practicum or internship.
4. A GPA of 3.0 or above.

Child and Adolescent Distinction

The Child and Adolescent distinction is embedded within the Child and Adolescent concentration in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program. Students will complete 18 credit hours of specific coursework on their way to finishing their MA and will receive a department-issued certificate as well as a notation on their transcript upon graduation denoting a concentration in child and adolescent counseling.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Degree Offered: Master of Arts

Total Credit Hours: 60

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
COUN 50500	Research in Counseling	3
COUN 51200	Interviewing Skills	3
COUN 51400	Introduction to Clinical Mental Health Counseling	3
COUN 52000	Advanced Developmental Psychology	3
COUN 52200	Career Development Theory	3
COUN 55200	Clinical Psychopharmacology	3
COUN 55300	Crisis Intervention and Treatment of Trauma	3
COUN 56500	Group Dynamics and Counseling	3
COUN 56700	Treatment of Substance Abuse	3
COUN 57500	Family Dynamics and Counseling	3
COUN 57800	Professional and Ethical Issues in Counseling	3
COUN 57900	Multicultural Issues in Counseling	3
COUN 58000	Models and Theories of Clinical Supervision in Mental Health	3
COUN 58500	Practicum in Counseling	3
COUN 59000	Internship in Counseling	3
Concentration		
Select one of the following Concentrations:		15
Adult Clinical Mental Health Counseling (p. 2)		
Child and Adolescent Clinical Mental Health Counseling (p. 2)		
Advanced Training Program in Addiction Studies (p. 2)		
Total Hours		60

Concentrations

Adult Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Concentration: ADLT

Code	Title	Hours
COUN 51100	Individual Appraisal	3
COUN 54100	Psychopathology	3
COUN 57300	Counseling Theories 1	3
COUN 57700	Counseling Theories 2	3
COUN Elective		3
Total Hours		15

Child and Adolescent Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Concentration: CHLD

Code	Title	Hours
COUN 51300	Individual Appraisal: Child Emphasis	3
COUN 54300	Psychopathology: Child Emphasis	3
COUN 57400	Counseling Theories: Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy	3
COUN 57300 or COUN 57700	Counseling Theories 1 Counseling Theories 2	3
COUN Elective		3
Total Hours		15

Advanced Training Program in Addiction Studies

Concentration: CADC

In addition to the child/adolescent and adult concentrations, students can also choose to add on the Advanced Training Program in Addiction Studies. Lewis is the first university in Will County to offer an advanced training program in Addiction Studies. By adding these three courses to the CMHC curriculum, students will be prepared to take the examination for Licensed Professional Counselor, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor or both to help those battling alcohol and substance abuse issues. The required supervision and work experience is embedded in this accredited advanced training program.

Code	Title	Hours
COUN 53300	Introduction to Addictions	3
COUN 53400	Special Populations in Addictions	3
COUN 53500	Internship in Counseling and Addictions ¹	3
Total Hours		9

¹ Replaces COUN 59000 Internship in Counseling

Additional Admission Requirements

Full Admission

Students in this category have:

- Completed at least 15 hours of psychology, including a course in statistics or research methods.
- Submitted a completed application with an accompanying personal statement which serves as a writing sample, and a non-refundable application fee.
- Submitted two letters of recommendation from professors, employers or supervisors (at least one letter from an instructor is strongly preferred).
- Submitted an official transcript of all academic work previously attempted or completed. An applicant's GPA should equal a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Certified their proficiency in reading and writing English, if the applicant is from a non-English speaking country, by achieving a 550 on the TOEFL written exam; 213 on the computerized exam; 79 on the Internet-based exam or IELTS score of 6.0. ELS level 112 completed. Step Eiken (Japan) Pre-1 is also accepted.
- Received acceptance by the Graduate Council of the College of Education and Social Sciences.

Provisional Admission

In select cases, a student who does not meet the requirements for full admission may be considered for provisional admission. Provisional

admission does not apply in cases where applicants have fewer than 15 hours of psychology undergraduate courses. In those cases, applicants must complete the 15 hours with a GPA of 3.0 or better and then apply for admission. Provisional status may change after one year if the student maintains a GPA of 3.0 or higher in all coursework. Students may be allowed to take up to 9 graduate credit hours as a provisionally admitted student. The student must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 in these courses.

Student-at-Large

A student-at-large is not a degree candidate. However, should a student decide to apply for full admission status at a later time, but within 5 years of course completion, only 4 courses (12 hours) will be accepted for credit toward the advanced degree. At-large students are allowed to take a maximum of 3 courses with permission from the Graduate Program Director.

Transfer Admission Procedures

Students may apply up to 12 semester hours of graduate-level work from other regionally-accredited institutions to their program of psychology prior to their acceptance into Lewis Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. A transfer student, whether admitted as full or provisional, will follow the admission criteria described above and below. The following conditions apply to the acceptance of transfer credit:

1. Only courses with a grade of B or better will be accepted.
2. Coursework must have been completed at a regionally-accredited graduate school.
3. Appropriateness of coursework will be decided by the Graduate Program Director at the time of the student's application to the program.
4. Courses from outside the United States will be considered if they are evaluated as graduate level by the Office of Admission or the Commission on Accreditation of the American Council on Education.
5. Credit for prior learning is not awarded for graduate courses.