MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, MS

for the degree of Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling

chair of the department: Kiel Christianson
director of graduate studies: Jinming Zhang
graduate admissions information: Mitzi Koeberlein
overview of admissions & requirements: College of Education (https://education.illinois.edu/programs/grad/how-to-apply/?url=/programs/grad)
overview of grad college admissions & requirements: https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply
department website: http://education.illinois.edu/edpsy
program website: College of Education Programs (https://education.illinois.edu/faceted-search/programs/)
department faculty: Educational Psychology Faculty (https://education.illinois.edu/faculty-finder/edpsy/)
college website: http://education.illinois.edu/
department office: 142 Education Building, 1310 South Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820
phone: (217) 244-3542
e-mail: gradservices@education.illinois.edu

The Master's of Science in Mental Health Counseling is a two-year, 61-credit hour program. The face-to-face program emphasizes training in psychological science and cultural diversity in practice across the lifespan. Students receive extensive preparation in applied psychology and complete a 100 hour (about 7 hours per week) practicum during the first year and a 600 hour (about 18 hours per week) internship during the second year. Graduates from the mental health counseling and career counseling tracks are Illinois Licensed Professional Counselor (LCP) licensure eligible. Graduates may wish to seek further training at the doctoral level in an applied psychology area or to enter the counseling field as a Master's level professional.

Graduate Degree Programs in Educational Psychology

Educational Psychology, EdM (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/educational-psychology-edm/) (on campus & online)
optional concentrations: Bilingual-Bicultural Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/bilingual-bicultural-education/)
Digital Learning (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/digital-learning/)

Educational Psychology, MA (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/educational-psychology-ma/)
optional concentrations: Bilingual-Bicultural Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/bilingual-bicultural-education/)
Digital Learning (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/digital-learning/)

Educational Psychology, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/educational-psychology-ms/)
optional concentrations: Bilingual-Bicultural Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/bilingual-bicultural-education/)
Digital Learning (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/digital-learning/)

Educational Psychology, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/educational-psychology-phd/)
optional concentration: Digital Learning (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/digital-learning/)

Mental Health Counseling, MS (p. 1)
optional concentrations:
African American Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/african-american-studies/) (available to all on campus degrees)
Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (http://www.slate.illinois.edu/) (PhD only)

Admission

Students entering a Ph.D. program without a master's degree must first complete the requirements for a Master of Science (including a master's thesis).

The Department offers admission to two terminal on-campus Master of Science (M.S.) degrees focusing on Quantitative and Qualitative Methodology, Measurement, and Evaluation (QUERIES) and Mental Health Counseling. There is no admission to terminal masters degrees in Cognitive Science of Teaching and Learning (CSTL), Developmental Sciences, or Counseling Psychology areas of specialization.

The department accepts applications for the Ph.D. degree, from both applicants who have completed their bachelor's degrees and those who have a master's degree. Students who enter the program without a prior master's incorporate their master's class work and research into their doctoral program, and earn a master's degree as the first step toward their Ph.D. (satisfying the "Early Research Project" requirement). The department does not accept applications for master's degrees in CSTL, Developmental Sciences, or Counseling Psychology.

Applications

Applicants must submit a complete application for university admission, including three letters of reference, transcripts from all schools where undergraduate and graduate degrees were awarded or expect to be
award prior to the application enrollment term, and other items listed
in the department Web site (http://www.education.illinois.edu/edpsy/).
Applicants to our doctoral program and M.S. in Mental Health Counseling
apply for Fall enrollment. Current deadlines are posted on our department
Web site (http://www.education.illinois.edu/edpsy/).
Doctoral candidates are admitted into one of four divisions: CSTL,
Developmental Sciences, QUERIES, and Counseling Psychology. When
making admission decisions, division committees consider academic
performance (e.g., grade-point average, GPA), GRE scores, letters of
recommendation, and statement of purpose. Preference is given to those
with research experience and research interests that are aligned with
existing research programs in the Department.
Master’s candidates are admitted into QUERIES and Mental Health
Counseling.

Grade Point Average
The preferred department standard for grade point average is 3.0 on
a 4.0 scale. The University calculates undergraduate GPAs on the last
two years of grades for degree applicants and in the last one year for
students who have not yet completed their bachelor’s degree. Graduate
GPAs are calculated on the total of all graduate level courses taken
beyond the undergraduate degree.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
International applicants must demonstrate English Language
Proficiency for admission. Please see https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c for additional information on this requirement.

Area of Study Affiliation
All applicants to the Educational Psychology doctoral program must
specify one of four areas in which they wish to study:
• Cognitive Science of Teaching and Learning (CSTL)
• Counseling Psychology (Counseling);
• Developmental Sciences
• Studies in Interpretive, Statistical Measurement, and Evaluative
  Methodologies for Research (QUERIES)

Detailed information about each area and about the research interests
of the faculty can be found on the department Web site (http://
www.education.illinois.edu/edpsy/).

Although all Ph.D. students are admitted to a specific area of study, the
actual coursework, research, and faculty often overlap area boundaries.
Departmental policy makes it possible for a student to change advisers
and affiliation from one area to another when interests and research
foci become more clearly defined or change. Many faculty members are
affiliated with more than one area of study.

Mental Health Counseling M.S. students must choose one of three areas
of study for their practicum experience:
• Mental Health Counseling
• Career Counseling
• Counseling and Developmental Sciences

Faculty Research Interests
The faculty’s research agendas span a wide range of topics related to
the study and application of psychological principles to develop and
inform educational interventions and facilitate human development
across the life span. Faculty conduct basic and translational research
that explores the cognitive, life-span developmental, social-emotional,
and socio-cultural factors that affect behavior, learning, and achievement
in educational, clinical, and community contexts. They also engage in
research on approaches to educational inquiry and the development of
quantitative, qualitative and evaluative methodologies that underpin the
development of evidence-based, policy-relevant studies. For information
about specific faculty research interests, current grants, and publications,
please visit the Faculty Finder (https://education.illinois.edu/faculty-
finder/).

Center, Programs, and Institutes
Department faculty are affiliated with both research centers and
institutes in the College of Education and the University more broadly,
including the Adult Learning Lab, the Center for Education in Small Urban
Communities, the Center for Advanced Study, the Beckman Institute, the
Center for the Study of Reading, the Social Development Consortium, and
others.

Facilities and Resources
The Department of Educational Psychology puts a high priority on
working with its graduate students to secure fellowships and other
awards.

The College of Education also has many resources to assist graduate
students through their academic career. The Bureau of Educational
Research works with students to secure research funding. The Council on
Teacher Education (http://cote.illinois.edu/) entitles candidates seeking a
Professional Educator License and provides accreditation of professional
education programs. Each student completing a degree program is
assigned a graduate adviser, who is available to assist the student with
planning the program of study and determining degree requirements,
courses and timelines for degree completion.

Information on University resources can be found at http://
www.grad.illinois.edu/current-students (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/
current-students/).

Financial Aid
Financial aid in the form of assistantships, scholarships, fellowships,
and tuition waivers can be found throughout the college (https://
education.illinois.edu/current-students/graduate/financial-aid/)
and campus. Campus opportunities can be found at the Graduate
College (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/funding-jobs/) and the Office
of Student Financial Aid (http://www.osfa.illinois.edu/). Please note:
Graduate students employed as Staff by the University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign are not eligible for a College of Education Award or
Scholarship.

The department does not require a separate financial aid application.

for the degree of Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling

A list of programs and additional requirements can be found on the
program’s website, (https://education.illinois.edu/faceted-search/
programs/?degree=edm&department=edpsy) the College of Education
Graduate Programs Handbook (https://education.illinois.edu/current-
students/graduate/coe-graduate-handbook/), and the Graduate College
Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).

Students will choose one of three areas of study for their practicum:
- Mental Health Counseling
- Career Counseling
- Counseling and Developmental Sciences

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**Other Requirements**

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