



Our Program

The Master of Science in Counselor Education offers specializations in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling. Housed in the Department of Education and Educational Psychology, Counselor Education is a signature program at WCSU. The program is highly-ranked and award-winning, with distinguished faculty who work closely with students.

Faculty

All core faculty hold doctoral degrees and are respected leaders in the field. Part-time faculty who teach lecture courses also hold doctoral degrees and allow WCSU students to develop specializations and experiential perspectives with regard to the role of professional counselors.

Specialized Courses

Our full-time and part-time faculty combine their talents to offer students specialized training in these areas:

- Play Therapy
- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Marriage Counseling
- Psychopharmacology
- Integrated Primary Care

Core Faculty

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Clinical Program Overview

The Master of Science in Counselor Education has two degree options, both of which are accredited by CACREP:

The Clinical Mental Health Option requires 60 credits, 54 core credits and 6 elective credits. Students are able to take six credits to develop a specialty area. Our specialty areas include play therapy, marriage counseling, and substance abuse counseling. The play therapy specialization provides all of the education requirements for students to become Registered Play Therapists (RPT). The substance abuse electives provide some of the requirements for students to become Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (LADC). The marriage courses do not lead to certification or licensure beyond the LPC.

Students who complete the degree are eligible for certification through the **National Board for Certified Counselors** and licensure in all 50 states. Our graduate students typically come from communities in both Connecticut and New York.

In 2017, the counseling program received a grant from HRSA worth \$1.8 million to expand the behavioral health workforce and place students in primary care settings. WCSU has many unique benefits and affiliations due to the grant.



Beliefs and Commitments

The faculty in the Master of Science in Counselor Education believes that the needs of a diverse society can only be met by encouraging diversity and self-understanding in the counseling profession. Thus, the program actively recruits students who represent a variety of cultures, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic classes.

Location

As a part of the WCSU master plan, the counselor education program will move from its location at the Westside Campus to White Hall at the Midtown Campus in the 2019-2020 academic year. The newly renovated facility offers updated faculty offices, classroom spaces, and laboratory spaces to include child, adult, and family therapy experiences.

School Program Overview

The School Counseling option is currently a 48 credit program but will be moving to 60 credits by 2023 to meet new CACREP accreditation standards. The program is specifically designed to prepare students to work as school counselors in a K-12 setting. In addition to the core CACREP areas, candidates will gain in-depth training on the role and function of the school counselor within the Connecticut Frameworks and the ASCA National Model. Upon completion of the program, candidates are eligible for the Connecticut Initial Educator's Certification: School Counselor (068) endorsement. Students from New York are eligible to apply for certification in Connecticut, and they can meet the educational requirements that allow them to apply for certification through the New York State Department of Education via the Individual Evaluation Pathway.

