

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

MASTER OF ARTS

ASPIRE

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

PROGRAM VALUE

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at WLU prepares students for careers in a variety of community, education, and healthcare settings, while supporting personal and professional growth and lifelong learning. Students develop proficiency in counseling theories and techniques and apply these concepts and principles in therapeutic practice. This program is designed for working professionals to enter the high-demand field of mental health and behavioral health through rigorous academic study and real-world experiences.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Counseling and clinical skills
- Skills for multiple career pathways
- Ethical decision making
- Evidence-based practices
- Personal & professional development

CAREER READINESS

- Clinical skill development
- Effective communication skills
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Leadership and teamwork
- Real-world experiences

CAREER PATHWAYS

- Day programs
- Residential care
- School-based programs
- Outpatient services
- Hospital settings
- Psychiatric facilities
- Criminal justice system
- Rehabilitation facilities

DEPARTMENT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"Every professor I encountered was not only knowledgeable and effective, but also flexible and deeply supportive. I have been given unwavering post-graduate support and the guidance I needed to start working and pursue licensure with confidence. The knowledge and encouragement I received from every professor involved in the program gave me the confidence to do this important work, and it has been one of the most meaningful and rewarding experiences of my life."

Savannah Allen, MA in Art Therapy and Counseling

HILLTOP ADVANTAGE

One of the most affordable counseling programs available. Fully online delivery with fall, spring, and summer start dates. Can be completed in 2 ½ years (full-time) if all requirements are met. No GMAT or GRE required.

VERSATILE DEGREE

- Multiple career pathways
- Counseling Theory & Practice
- Personal growth & professional development
- Synchronous and online classes
- Preparation to pursue counseling licensure

Department of Art Therapy and Counseling - MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	LAST SEMESTER	
A ACADEMIC MASTERY	- Meet with your advisor to chart your path through the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program - Attend the Virtual Fall Residency orientation and weekend workshops - Begin foundational coursework requirements	- Attend the Virtual Fall Residency weekend workshops - Continue required coursework - Meet with the Coordinator of practicum/internships to review paperwork required to secure your site - Review counseling licensure requirements for your state	- Complete graduate program requirements - Complete a capstone project and present it during the Virtual Graduation Ceremony to the program community (Optional) - Consider submitting your capstone for presentation at professional conferences - Consider adapting your capstone for submission to a peer-reviewed journal	GRADUATE WEBSITES MA in Art Therapy and Counseling MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling BUILD SUCCESS - Meet with your academic advisor - Create a peer-support network - Develop community resources - Create a resume and LinkedIn profile - Attend professional networking sessions - Engage with professional organizations 
S SELF-DISCOVERY & STRENGTHS	- Participate in professional opportunities such as professional conferences - Participate in career exploration workshops	- Meet with the Coordinator of practicum/internships to explore experiential opportunities - Explore job opportunities and attend a writing center workshop - Initiate job search	- Complete professionally focused experiential learning and internship experiences - Complete a resume and LinkedIn profile	
PI PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION INTEGRATIVE & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING	- Create initial resume and LinkedIn profile - Attend career/employer networking events - Explore internships and career pathways	- Engage in networking events, career fairs, or conferences - Explore professional opportunities through the American Counseling Association - Build relationships with employers, alumni, or industry mentors - Complete the 100-hour supervised practicum	- Complete two supervised internships (total 700 hours) - Present a capstone project with real-world application - Apply for full-time jobs with your population of interest	
RE RELATIONSHIPS & LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & WELL-BEING	- Learn about support resources for current students - Schedule a telehealth counseling appointment with Bettermynd	- Participate in professional networking or mentorship programs - Balance academic, work, and extracurricular responsibilities. - Utilize wellness resources to maintain mental and physical health	- Expand professional networks through alumni and industry connections. - Develop a personal plan for work-life balance and well-being post-graduation - Develop a plan for postgraduate supervision and other requirements for counseling licensure	