

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Saint Peter's University is designed to prepare students for careers as licensed professional counselors (LPC) and mental health clinicians. The program combines rigorous academic coursework with supervised practicum and internship experiences. It emphasizes evidence-based practices, ethical counseling, and cultural competence, with an initial concentration in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Graduates will meet the academic requirements for licensure in New Jersey and eligibility to take the National Counselor Examination (NCE). The curriculum is designed in alignment with Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) standards and will be eligible to apply for accreditation candidacy in Fall 2026.

M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling At-a-Glance

Course Format: Online

Program Duration: 2-3 years (depending on full-time or part-time study)

Credits: 60 credits with supervised practicums

Curriculum Overview

The 60-credit curriculum covers eight CACREP core competencies which include:

- Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice
- Social and Cultural Diversity
- Human Growth and Development
- Career Development
- Helping Relationships
- Group Work
- Assessment
- Research and Program Evaluation

The program emphasizes practical skills through role-playing, case studies, and mandatory group therapy participation, ensuring readiness for real-world clinical challenges. Unique courses like Perspectives on Counselor Formation integrate Ignatian spirituality with professional identity development. The program also offers career-ready advantages, including preparation for licensure exams, conference funding opportunities and partnerships with local agencies for fieldwork placements.