

Correctional Counseling



School of Arts and Sciences

Program Overview

Correctional Counseling in the MS in Counseling Psychology program is a specialty that offers a variety of employment opportunities for counselors who want to work with the offender and victim advocacy populations. It also offers an opportunity for criminal justice students to expand their passion to include rehabilitation services for offenders and their families.

Correctional treatment offers a number of cognitive-behavioral treatment programs to address a variety of issues, with a primary focus on the mental health of offenders and inmates. Particular areas of focus include substance abuse, relapse prevention, DUI offenses, criminal thinking, domestic violence, and anger management. These treatment programs are geared for specific populations including adults and juveniles as well as male and female offenders.

Various therapeutic communities within correctional facilities have implemented Correctional Counseling programs with measurable success in terms of changing criminal thinking and reducing recidivism rates. Departments that have seen success include drug courts, pretrial service agencies, and probation and parole offices. These programs have also been implemented by all levels of correctional settings, from large federal pretrial service programs to smaller, progressive municipal programs.

Students completing the Correctional Counseling concentration will, as a part of their degree program, complete all the educational requirements to sit for the National Counselor Exam. Students completing this concentration will, as a part of their degree program, complete all the educational requirements to apply for Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). This concentration provides a basic foundation in counseling theory and skills with additional coursework in criminological theory, victimology, and correctional counseling practice. The program prepares graduates for success in a wide array of settings including, but not limited to, federal and state prisons, court clinics, forensic psychiatric units, child advocacy centers, reintegration programs and other institutional and community-based correctional programs.

The total degree hours required for this concentration is 60. This concentration requires a 600-hour internship, a 100-hour practicum, and mandatory faculty mentoring/advising meetings.

Core Course Requirements prior to Internship (25 credit hours)

- Substance Abuse: An Introduction to Identification and Treatment (3cr.)
- Career and Vocational Counseling (3cr.)
- Introduction to Counseling and Guidance Theory (3cr.)
- Introductory Counseling Skills: Laboratory Level I (3cr.)
- Human Development: A Life Span Approach (3cr.)
- Counseling Multicultural and Diverse Populations (3cr.)
- Counseling Practicum (1cr.)
- Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences (3cr.)
- Assessment: Principles and Application in Counseling (3cr.)
- Counseling Comprehensive Exam

Required Courses for Specialty Area (30 credit hours)

- Group Counseling (3cr.)
- Legal and Ethical Issues in Counseling (3cr.)
- Psychopathology and Diagnosis Using the DSM (3cr.)
- Advanced Criminology (3cr.)
- Management of Special Populations (3cr.)
- Correctional Counseling (3cr.)
- Victimization and Victim Advocacy (3cr.)
- Internship I – Correctional Counseling (3cr.)
- Internship II – Correctional Counseling (3cr.)
- Professional Seminar: Culminating Experience (3cr.)

Electives (5 credits)

For More Information

visit: holyfamily.edu

call: 267-341-3327

email: gradstudy@holyfamily.edu



Holy Family
UNIVERSITY

Holy Family University

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One Campus Drive

Newtown, PA 18940

Post-Master's Opportunities

Our program also allows those professionals who have completed a Master's degree in Counseling or related mental health profession and are interested in a post-master's specialization in correctional counseling as few as 12 credit hours.

Outcomes

- Holy Family University's Counseling Psychology graduate employment rate in the field has averaged 91% over the past 4 years.
- Holy Family University Counseling Psychology students have an 86% first time pass rate on the licensure exam (NCE) and a 98% first time pass rate on the school counselor exam (Praxis).

The job opportunities available for a student with a graduate degree in Counseling with an emphasis in correctional/rehabilitation counseling are varied. The job outlook for correctional treatment specialists is expected to grow by 18%, which is above the national average of 11% for all occupations. Related areas of work may include substance abuse and domestic violence counseling as well as probation, pretrial services, and criminal investigations. Job duties may include developing rehabilitation plans to re-enter society, evaluation of inmates using questionnaires, and psychological tests and planning education and training to improve offender's job skills.

Increased demand for correctional counselors can be attributed in part to growing prison populations. In some states, prison policy is being reexamined in light of budget concerns, leading to models with potential for an increased emphasis on rehabilitative services and, in turn, counselors, as states try to decrease the expenses of holding offenders in prison for longer than necessary. Private contracting is becoming a growing trend in correctional mental health and specifically in Pennsylvania. With the advent of private contractors in prisons, increased community-based services, and prevention programs, the need for Masters-level clinicians as supervisors and mental health provision is growing. We are preparing students for career paths, not just jobs. It will also be appealing to those in corrections now that want to move up to supervising or directing their own programs.

Why Correctional Counseling at Holy Family University?

Holy Family University has long-standing relationships with correctional facilities and programs in the Philadelphia area, with excellent internship placements in county, city, and state facilities. Our correctional faculty work in correctional settings and provide real work experience to the training of counselors. This program emphasizes advocacy and the concepts of restorative justice in working with offenders and victims. Students also have the advantage of studying side-by-side with Criminal Justice Master's students in some of their coursework, to experience that important component of work with offenders. The program is also the only one of its kind in the tri-state area, and is the perfect choice for those with a passion for forensics, but need a career choice that has lucrative job opportunities. For example, if one plans to practice as a correctional counselor in New Jersey, then the graduate degree must have "counseling" in the degree, as opposed to psychology, in order to secure correctional mental health jobs.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must possess the following qualifications for admission to the MS in Counseling Psychology program:

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
- An undergraduate cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better on a four-point scale. Applicants with an undergraduate cumulative grade-point average less than 3.0 must submit results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) prior to being considered for admission.
- Two satisfactory letters of recommendation or recommendation forms from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic or professional work.
- An application form with a nonrefundable \$25 application fee.
- A 250- to 500-word personal statement of applicant's interests in the field, future professional plans and goals, and reasons for requesting admission. The quality of the applicant's statement will be of critical importance to the success of the application for admission.
- Official transcripts of all previous college or university work.

Applicants will be considered based on their academic ability, expression of interests and goals, life experience, and personal interview. Admissions are rolling with the majority in the fall semester and a limited number in the spring. Prior to admission, selected applicants will be invited to complete a personal interview with Counseling Psychology faculty. Notification of acceptance into the program usually is completed within two weeks of the personal interview.

Please note that the program is limited in size because of the intensive training requirements. Although many applicants meet the criteria for admission, it may not be possible to admit all qualified students.

Our Non-Discrimination Statement can be found at holyfamily.edu/ndstatement or call 267-341-3479.

For More Information

visit: holyfamily.edu

call: 267-341-3327

email: gradstudy@holyfamily.edu

The Value of Family



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