ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Advanced Certificate in Mental Health Counseling (291)
(845) 257-3467 or (845) 257-3470

Program Coordinator: Dr. Melanie Hill

The 24-credit advanced certificate in mental health counseling is a bridge program that addresses the needs of two distinct cohorts, both requiring supplemental coursework and training to qualify for licensure as mental health counselors in New York State. Students with 36- or 48-credit degrees in mental health counseling will accrue the additional credits needed to meet the 60-credit education requirement for licensure, while those with 36-60-credit degrees in other areas of counseling (or a closely related helping-professions discipline) will acquire the specialized courses and fieldwork necessary to retrain as mental health counselors. All students complete the 9-credit practicum/internship sequence (COU530, COU771, COU772), which includes more than 600 hours of supervised mental health counseling experience, plus 15 additional credits based on a review of their prior graduate transcripts and identification of specific courses needed to fulfill licensure requirements. Admission to the program is in the fall (deadline February 1st) and in the spring (October 15th).

Consistent with the mission of the State University of New York at New Paltz, the advanced certificate program provides students with a challenging, student-centered, and personalized learning environment that enables them to gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to contribute productively to their profession and communities. For those professionals interested in "retooling" within the broad field of counseling, the advanced certificate program facilitates mid-career changes in specialization to meet professional goals and local and regional needs.

Graduates of the SUNY New Paltz M.S. in School Counseling degree require only 18 credits to complete this advanced certificate.

Admission Requirements

Please prepare the following items for inclusion in the online application process:

- Evidence of a Master’s degree in counseling or closely related mental health field from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 for all graduate work including a grade of "B" in at least five (5) of the prerequisite courses.
- Submit an Adv Cert MHC Prerequisite Form
- One official copy of transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work.
- An admission essay which demonstrates how their academic, professional, and personal experiences make them strong candidates for re-specializing in mental health counseling.
- Contact information for three individuals who have agreed to provide letters of recommendation.
- International students must meet these additional requirements for admission: [http://www.newpaltz.edu/graduate/students/international/](http://www.newpaltz.edu/graduate/students/international/)
- Please send OFFICIAL transcripts to:
  
  Division of Academic Planning and Learning Innovation

Application Deadline

Application review begins October 15 for Spring admission and February 1 for Fall admission and continues until the class is filled.

Applicants evaluated as having satisfactorily met the above requirements may be asked to interview as part of the admissions process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COU530</td>
<td>Practicum in Mental Health Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COU771</td>
<td>Internship in Mental Health Counseling 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COU772</td>
<td>Internship in Mental Health Counseling 2</td>
<td>3</td>
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Electives (9-15 Credits)

Select three-five courses from the list below.  

- COU501 Ethics and Professional Identity in Mental Health Counseling
- COU505 Professional Roles in Mental Health Counseling
- COU510 Counseling Theories
- COU515 Counseling Skills
- COU520 Career Development, Counseling, and Assessment
- COU525 Multicultural Counseling
- COU540 Psychopathology
- COU545 Group Dynamics and Counseling
- COU550 Couple and Family Counseling
- COU555 Assessment
- COU565 Disaster Counseling and Crisis Intervention
- COU570 Substance Use and Addictions Counseling
- COU575 Human Growth and Development
- COU585 Contemporary Issues in Counseling

Total Credits  18-24

1 SUNY New Paltz MS School Counseling alumni only need to complete three courses (9-credits).