

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COUNSELOR EDUCATION WITH SPECIALIZATION IN CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

DEPARTMENT MISSION

To develop self-aware professionals and equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to empower diverse individuals, families, and communities to achieve their well-being, relationship, education, and career goals.

COURSE AND CAPSTONE REQUIREMENTS (60 – 63 CREDITS)

CORE COURSES (required 39 credits)

- CNSL 500 The Dynamics of Group Behavior (3)
- CNSL 501 Theories & Techniques in Counseling (6)
- CNSL 503 Supervised Counseling Practicum (3)
- CNSL 504 Professional Studies in Counseling (3)
- CNSL 505 Counseling & Human Development Across the Lifespan (3)
- CNSL 521 Career Counseling & Development (3)
- CNSL 522 Appraisal Procedures in Counseling (3)
- CNSL 568 Foundations of Addictions Counseling (3)
- CNSL 569 Foundations of Clinical Mental Health Counseling (3)
- CNSL 594 Supervised Clinical Practice - Professional Counseling [2 semesters: fall, spring] (6)
- CNSL 598 Research Methods in Counseling (3)

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIZATION (additional 21-24 credits)

- CNSL 525 Multicultural Counseling (3)
- CNSL 560 Intro. to Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 561 Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 563 Medical Aspects of Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 571 Mental Health Counseling (3)
- CNSL 572 Assessment, Treatment, and Recovery in Counseling (3)
- CNSL 573 Counseling Families (3)
- CNSL 575 Counseling Individuals with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (3)
- Capstone Requirements (0 – 3):
 - Plan A [optional]: Thesis (3)
 - Students in the clinical mental health track who elect the Thesis may be exempt from one 3.0 credit hour course with permission of academic advisor
 - Plan B [required]: Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) taken while enrolled in CNSL 594 internship (0)

CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Clinical Professional Counseling program prepares diverse students to enter the professional counseling field as multiculturally competent practitioners who utilize systemic clinical counseling and ethical practices in alignment with the eight common core professional counseling standards of The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and the nine content areas established by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).

The Master of Science in Counselor Education curriculum is a **60/63 credit graduate program** designed to qualify clinical professional counseling students with conferred degrees for entry-level work in a variety of mental health, rehabilitation, and addiction treatment agencies. Within these settings, clinicians will assist individuals experiencing emotional, mental, social, and physical challenges and disabilities. Students are taught theories and techniques of practice in individual, group, and family counseling modalities, as well as those that promote recovery, resiliency, and rehabilitation. A mindfulness-informed theoretical orientation is also integrated within the program's coursework.

There are four specialization tracks within the Clinical Professional Counseling Program:

1. **Clinical Mental Health**
2. **Clinical Rehabilitation**
3. **Addictions Recovery**
4. **Gerontology Counseling**

The Clinical Professional Counseling program provides the academic background necessary to pursue licensing as a Licensed Professional Counselor-Associate (LPC-A), Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), and/or Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC) as well as certification as a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and/or a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC).

ACCREDITATION

Program accreditation has been awarded by **The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) through October 31, 2023.**

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admissions to the Clinical Professional Counseling program is made on a competitive basis only one time per year. Candidates for admission will be considered on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
2. Grade point average: Minimum 2.70 grade point average (GPA) for all undergraduate courses and a 3.00 for all graduate courses, based on a 4.00-point scale where A is 4.00.
3. Three recommendations from individuals able to testify to the student's suitability as a prospective counselor.
4. A 2 to 3-page typewritten (double-spaced) essay describing the following:
 - a. Reasons for entering the counseling profession.
 - b. Personal and professional experiences that influenced you to pursue the counseling profession.
 - c. Personal characteristics you believe will contribute to your success as a counselor.
5. A formal interview by the program's faculty admissions committee who will assess the prospective student's application materials as well as personal/professional attributes and life experiences that may support the individual's ability to be successful in the field of clinical professional counseling.

All applications must be fully completed and received by **February 1** in order to be considered for admission beginning the following fall academic semester. The graduate admissions application (including the provision of all required documents and supplemental materials) is completed via online submission protocols outlined by the Office of Graduate Admissions. For additional information regarding the graduate admissions application process, please visit <https://www.ccsu.edu/grad/admission/>.

CLINICAL REHABILITATION SPECIALIZATION (additional 21-24 credits)

- CNSL 525 Multicultural Counseling (3)
- CNSL 560 Intro. to Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 561 Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 563 Medical Aspects of Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 571 Mental Health Counseling (3)
- CNSL 575 Counseling Individuals with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (3)
- CNSL 564 Rehabilitation and Disability Case Management (3) **OR** CNSL 572 Assessment, Treatment, and Recovery in Counseling (3)
- Capstone Requirements:
 - Plan A: Thesis [optional] (3)
 - Plan B [required]: Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) taken while enrolled in CNSL 594 internship (0)

ADDICTIONS RECOVERY SPECIALIZATION (additional 21-24 credits)

- CNSL 525 Multicultural Counseling (3)
- CNSL 560 Intro. to Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 561 Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 563 Medical Aspects of Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 571 Mental Health Counseling (3)
- CNSL 572 Assessment, Treatment, and Recovery in Counseling (3)
- CNSL 573 Counseling Families (3)
- CNSL 575 Counseling Individuals with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (3)
- Capstone Requirements (0 – 3):
 - Plan A [optional]: Thesis (3)
 - Students in the addictions recovery track who elect the Thesis may be exempt from one 3.0 credit hour course with permission of academic advisor
 - Plan B [required]: Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) taken while enrolled in CNSL 594 internship (0)

GERONTOLOGY COUNSELING SPECIALIZATION (additional 21-24 credits)

- CNSL 525 Multicultural Counseling (3)
- CNSL 560 Intro. to Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 561 Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 563 Medical Aspects of Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
- CNSL 571 Mental Health Counseling (3)
- GERO 510 Policy, Aging, and Ethics (3)
- PSY 511 Psychology of Aging (3)
- Capstone Requirements:
 - Plan A: Thesis [optional] (3)
 - Plan B [required]: Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) taken while enrolled in CNSL 594 internship (0)

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING CORE FACULTY

Dr. Cherie King, CRC, CDMS

Associate Professor & Department Chair
Advanced Official Certificate Program Coordinator
Dept. of Counselor Education & Family Therapy
Profile: <https://www2.ccsu.edu/faculty/kingche>

Dr. Reginald W. Holt, LPC, NCC, MAC, AADAC

Associate Professor
Clinical Professional Counseling Program Coordinator
Dept. of Counselor Education & Family Therapy
Profile: <https://www2.ccsu.edu/faculty/rwholt>

ADVANCED OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

The Advanced Official Certificate Program (AOCP) in Professional Counseling is designed for practicing counselors who already earned a master's degree in counseling, psychology, marriage and family therapy, social work, or related field, but need additional coursework to be eligible for state licensure and/or professional certification. The AOCP is also available for existing practitioners who desire additional coursework in order to advance their clinical skills, which includes an 18-credit gerontology counseling specialization track.

The Advanced Official Certificate Program (AOCP) in Professional Counseling is issued upon successfully completing a combination of up to 30 credits of selected 500-level courses that are designated for the certificate program. Candidates for the AOCP interested in obtaining licensure and/or certification are responsible for directly working with the issuing state entity or credentialing organization regarding the specific coursework needed for the desired professional credential (e.g., State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for the Licensed Professional Counselor, Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification for the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, etc.).

AOCP ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Master's degree in counseling, psychology, MFT, social work, or related field with an overall GPA of 3.00 or higher.
- Three current professional recommendations.
- Written essay that describes the prospective student's motivation for advanced graduate study, past and present professional experiences, future goals.
- A formal interview by the program's faculty

Application deadlines for the Advanced Official Certificate Program in Professional Counseling are April 1 (for admission beginning the following fall academic semester) and November 1 (for admission beginning the following spring academic semester). The graduate admissions application (including the provision of all required documents and supplemental materials) is completed via online submission protocols outlined by the Office of Graduate Admissions. For additional information regarding the graduate admissions application process, please visit <https://www.ccsu.edu/grad/admission/>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Department of Counselor Education & Family Therapy:**
<https://www.ccsu.edu/ceft/>
- **Clinical Professional Counseling Program:**
<https://www.ccsu.edu/ceft/counselorEducation-clinicalProfessionalCounseling.html>
- **Advanced Official Certificate Program:**
<https://www.ccsu.edu/ceft/advCertificate-ProfessionalCounseling.html>
- **School of Graduate Studies and Admissions:**
<https://www2.ccsu.edu/admission/graduate/>
- **Graduate Tuition:**
<https://www2.ccsu.edu/admission/graduate/tuition.php>
- **Financial Aid Office:**
<https://www.ccsu.edu/financialaid/>
- **Central Connecticut State University:**
<https://www2.ccsu.edu/>
- **Department of Counselor Education and Family Therapy Instagram Page:**
[@CCSU_CEFT](https://www.instagram.com/CCSU_CEFT)



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