



MASTER OF SCIENCE
**COUNSELOR
EDUCATION**

PURDUE UNIVERSITY®
FORT WAYNE

**Office of
Graduate Studies**

PFW.EDU/GRADUATE

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The CACREP-accredited Counselor Education program at Purdue Fort Wayne prepares graduate students for licensure in the counseling profession. Students can choose from among two (2) concentrations:

- **Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC):** prepares students for Masters-level licensure as a mental health counselor. Students gain knowledge and skills to therapeutically address a wide variety of individual and relational concerns with adults, children, adolescents, couples, families, and groups following intensive practicum training and community-based internship. Graduates are also eligible to pursue state licensure as a clinical addictions counselor.
- **School Counseling (SC):** prepares students for Masters-level licensure as a school counselor, with the professional knowledge and skills to promote academic, career, and personal/social development among K–12 students. Graduates are prepared to work as active change agents in community schools through direct counseling with students, development of comprehensive school counseling programs, and advocacy for children and families.

The PFW Counselor Education program strives to be a premiere training institution for the preparation of clinically skilled, reflective, compassionate, and research-informed professional counselors. We uphold a multidimensional training philosophy that includes emphasizing mental "health" (vs. pathology), understanding common developmental themes throughout the lifespan, embodying the value of process-oriented clinical awareness, and conceptualizing individuals as integrally embedded within dynamic systems. We maintain that understanding and appreciating multiculturalism, diversity, and social justice is critical to the preparation of professional counselors. We are committed to training professionals who actively seek to become advocates for both individual and systemic change at local through global levels.



Joel Givens, Ph.D.

Counselor Education Graduate Program Director, Associate
Professor, Clinical Mental Health Coordinator
jggivens@pfw.edu

FACULTY



Joel Givens, Ph.D.
Program Director,
Associate Professor, Clinical Mental
Health Coordinator



Kerrie Fineran, Ph.D.
Associate Professor,
Chief of Campus and
Community Wellbeing



Jim Burg, Ph.D., LMFT
Associate Professor,
Community Outreach Coordinator



Brett Wilkinson, Ph.D., LMHC
Department Chair; Counseling
and Graduate Education



Aileen Tierney, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor,
School Counseling Coordinator



Brooke Sellhorn, M.A., LMFT
Clinical Director

PROGRAM DETAILS

Cohort Model & Course Sequencing

This is a continuous, three-year graduate program. Students take most classes together as a cohort, which supports active peer engagement via discussions, roleplays, and small group activities. Course sequencing is designed to optimize counselor training in preparation for practicum:

- Year 1: Theory and content classes with ongoing skill development and roleplay training scenarios.
- Year 2: On-site practicum and track-specific content classes. Gain experience working with clients.
- Year 3: Field-based internships and final content classes. Gain experience in the community.

New students begin Year 1 in the second 6-week summer session. Only two (2) classes are taken each semester, which supports student work/life/school balance and allows us to provide a full year of on-site practicum training in the CCC (see details below). Each class is held two nights per week starting at 4:30pm. Fall and spring semester classes end at 7:15pm while summer classes end at 7:50pm. Clinical practicum and internship classes end around 9:30pm.

Practicum at the PFW Community Counseling Center (CCC)

The CCC is the practicum training facility for our graduate counseling students. We provide over 1000 hours of free counseling services to over 100 clients from the Fort Wayne community each year. Per CACREP accreditation standards, each class section has a maximum of six (6) graduate students.

Practicum is led by faculty or licensed counseling supervisors who guide students in the process of treatment planning, case conceptualization, and skill development. Students conduct sessions with individuals, couples, and families, as well as children, adolescents, and adults. Supervisors observe all sessions live via our in-built video monitoring system, providing students with active feedback and guidance both during and after counseling sessions. This is a gold standard in counselor preparation.

Students begin practicum in Fall of Year 2. SC students complete two (2) semesters in the CCC (fall and spring), while CMHC students complete three (3) semesters (fall, spring, and summer). Each class meets once per week for five (5) hours.

A typical class includes: 1 hour of preparatory group supervision discussion, 3 hours of counseling sessions, and 1 hour of processing/group supervision as the professional team discusses how to provide the best counseling services possible.

Community Based Internships

Students begin community-based internships in Fall of Year 3. All students must complete a minimum of 600 training hours (two (2) semesters) at their site. We have established relationships with over 100 schools and mental health agencies in the northeastern Indiana region. Our students have found tremendous success in a wide variety of settings due to our program's intensive preparation leading into Year 3.

PATHS TO LICENSURE

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC): LMHC & LCAC licensure eligibility
- School Counseling (SC): school counseling licensure eligibility
 - Dual-licensure option: school counseling + LMHC licensure eligibility

CORE CLASSES (45 CREDITS; ALL TRACKS)

CORE CONTENT COURSES (30 CREDITS)

50200 Professional Orientation & Ethics
50300 Counseling Theories and Techniques I
50400 Counseling Theories and Technique II
50601 Essential Counseling Skills
51400 Lifespan Development: Birth to Death
53200 Introduction to Group Counseling
55200 Career Counseling
56400 Child & Adolescent Counseling
57500 Multicultural Counseling
59200 Research and Appraisal in Counseling

CORE: CLINICALS (12 CREDITS)

52400 Practicum in Counseling
52501 Advanced Counseling Practicum
55000 Internship in Counseling and Guidance
55100 Advanced Internship in Counseling

CONCENTRATIONS (18 CREDITS; TRACK-SPECIFIC)

Note: CMHC track leads to identical licensure eligibility (i.e., the LMHCA in Indiana). There are two (2) unique courses per track, and the remaining 18 classes/54 credits are the same.

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (CMHC) ONLY (18 CREDITS)

52700 Diagnosis and Treatment Planning
55000 Internship in Counseling and Guidance (12-week summer)
56300 Foundations of Mental Health Counseling
56700 Introduction to Marriage and Family
58100 Crisis, Disaster, and Trauma Counseling
58200 Addictions Counseling

SCHOOL COUNSELING COURSES (18 CREDITS)

50501 Introduction to Special Education
54200 Organization and Development of SC Counseling Programs
56200 School Counseling: Intervention, Consultation, and Program Development
Three (3) elective courses (self-selected; 3 credits each)

Note: All SC students are eligible, upon recommendation of practicum supervisor, to pursue dual-licensure (i.e., upon graduation, dual-licensure SC students can also pursue the LMHCA in Indiana). This involves taking two (2) specific elective courses (52700 and 56300, see above) plus completing an additional 300-hour (one semester) CMHC internship at a local agency.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"The PFW program helped me grow both professionally and personally in a way that I don't think would have been possible in other spaces. From the on-hands experience in Dolnick Clinic, to realtime supervision and support from faculty, and the connections with peers made that I know will last a lifetime, I couldn't have asked for a more comprehensive Counselor Education experience."

- **Emily Whitacre; Clinical Mental Health graduate**

"This program has laid a foundation for success. A lot of credit goes to our awesome professors, and I cannot thank this university enough. I recommend this program to anyone who wants to take part in helping the next generation."

- **Alexander Arellano; School Counseling graduate**

"The PFW counseling program is a transformational experience. The faculty are as interested in your personal growth as they are your academic achievements. I feel prepared to begin my counseling career and am leaving with some life-long friendships. "

- **Shiloh Smith-Wittwer; Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate**

"There is an incredible connectedness amongst our cohort of students, and it's unlike anything I've ever experienced. We have nearly every class together and we are one unit working together to make the world a better place."

- **Drake Turner; Counselor, PFW Center for Student Counseling graduate**

"If not for the phenomenal training that I experienced over the past three years through Purdue University Fort Wayne, I cannot imagine trying to take on the huge responsibility that is required as a practicing school counselor. The counselor education program taught me to be a team player, active listener, and empathetic counselor. In addition, the program goes a step further and supervises each budding counselor for a full year before releasing them into an internship setting."

- **Julie Miller, School Counseling graduate**

APPLICATION DEADLINES

NOV
1

U.S. Citizen: early admission

FEB
15

U.S. Citizen: final admission

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

STEPS TO APPLY

Application: To begin your application create an account through the portal at pfw.edu/grad-apply. Applicants can make and save changes before submitting by logging in with the username and password used to create the account.

Application Fee: The Graduate School application fee is \$60 (U.S. dollars) for domestic applicants and \$75 (U.S. dollars) for international applicants. Your application will not be processed until your nonrefundable application fee has been paid.

Transcripts: Through the application portal, you must upload transcript(s) and/or academic document(s) for every institution of higher education you attended regardless of whether or not a degree was received. Both official and unofficial transcripts are accepted. If a degree was received then it must be printed on the transcripts. If no degree conferral is printed on the transcripts then a copy of the original diploma (degree certificate) is needed. If the documents are not in English, you must upload an English translation certified by the college or university that issued it. All candidates must hold a four-year undergraduate degree or equivalent in any discipline from a recognized institution.

Academic Statement of Purpose: Provide a summary statement about your professional goals, including preferred professional setting(s) and any specialized interests. May also include any unique skills and/or characteristics that will aid in your pursuit of cited goals. 500-1000 words.

Personal History Statement: Not required for submission.

Recommendations: Submit names of two individuals who are qualified to evaluate your academic or on-the-job performance who can attest to your ability to pursue a graduate degree. In the online application to the Purdue Graduate School, once you click "Send to Recommender," each individual will receive an email with instructions on submitting their recommendation online. Once submitted, the graduate program to which you applied will have access to view your recommendation.

Resume: A current resume must be submitted.

*Submission of GRE scores is optional and not necessary to apply.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

You must provide official transcripts and/or academic records at the request of the graduate program or if you are admitted and choose to enroll. An official transcript bears the original signature of the registrar and/or the original seal of the issuing institution.

An unofficial transcript printed from your current/previous institution(s) student system is not an acceptable document. Official documents should be submitted to:

Purdue University Fort Wayne
Office of Graduate Studies
Doermer School of Business Room 304
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499, USA
graduate@pfw.edu

Domestic transcripts must be sent directly from a Registrar's office to the Office of Graduate Admissions via mail or email. If you mail them yourself, it must be in an envelope sealed by the registrar

BENEFITS

ACHIEVE YOUR CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL GOALS

The Master of Science in Counselor Education is designed to prepare students for a successful career in the helping professions. The convenient course schedule, along with the cohort model, and clinical experience, are unique features of this program that provide students the opportunity to expand their knowledge beyond the classroom and put skills into practice. The goal of the program is to graduate leaders in the counseling field who are prepared to work with diverse populations from a social justice perspective. To that end, prospective students who are diverse in their personal identities, including race, class, sexual orientation, identity, age, gender, and culture are encouraged to apply.

Stand out with a graduate degree that enhances your professional qualifications through:

- Clinical training in our faculty supervised, on-campus Community Counseling Center
- Facilitation of enhanced self-awareness, empathy, and personal growth
- Attention to advanced counseling skills, theory development, and multicultural awareness
- Participation in our program's award-winning Honor Society, Chi Eta Sigma
- Unique research opportunities via the faculty-led Institute of Counseling Research (ICR)

LEARN FROM DEDICATED, EXPERT FACULTY

Our faculty provide a welcoming, supportive, yet rigorous curriculum. They are experienced and dedicated classroom instructors who also possess strong research interests.

Faculty research areas include:

- Suicide Prevention and Postvention
- Substance and Behavioral Addictions
- Couples and Family Interventions
- Critical Analysis of Power Dynamics
- Existential-Humanistic Counseling
- Innovative Counseling Interventions
- Therapeutic Change Mechanisms
- Radical Embodiment in Therapy
- Metacognitive Supervision
- Peer Mentoring Programs
- School Climate Initiatives

THE PURDUE FORT WAYNE DIFFERENCE

Stand out with a graduate degree that enhances your qualifications through:

- Small class sizes
- Personal attention from dedicated faculty
- Course offerings designed for working adults

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