Some of us are just natural helpers. If you’re ready to channel your compassion for others into a career, our M.S.Ed. in Counseling can prepare you to empower diverse individuals, couples, families and groups to accomplish their mental health, wellness, education and professional goals. Our program equips you with a variety of skills and strategies that will make a difference in schools, hospitals, communities and the private sector. Areas of study include Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling. Graduate certificates are available in Trauma-Informed Counseling. We are approved by the State Department of Public Instruction to endorse school counselors for professional educator licensing in Illinois. We are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Admission Requirements
You must apply for our program through the NIU Graduate School, and if invited, attend the Pre-Admissions Workshop. For admission to Graduate School, you’ll need to submit an application, a written statement of purpose, two letters of recommendation, completion of the M.S.Ed. applicant essay and résumé. Deadline for fall and summer is February 1.

Learning Outcomes
We take pride in helping you move in a timely manner through our program regardless of full- or part-time status. During your program of study, you will:
- Demonstrate knowledge of common core areas in counseling, which include ethics, diagnosis of mental health, career, theories, group work, assessment, crisis intervention, substance abuse, counseling skills and strategies, and multiculturalism.
- Demonstrate effective counseling competencies.
- Demonstrate general dispositions toward self-reflection and being non-judgmental, and openness to supervision.
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in Clinical Mental Health or School Counseling.
- Demonstrate knowledge of multicultural counseling skills and social justice issues.

Real-world Learning
- Our program requires a supervised practicum (100 clock hours) and internship (600 clock hours). You are responsible for finding and securing an internship site placement.
- Our Community Counseling Training Center is used to provide comprehensive training for counselors and counseling supervisors through delivery of outstanding, culturally responsive counseling services to NIU students, faculty, staff and community members.
M.S.ED. IN COUNSELING

Innovative Experiences

We promote best practices in the preparation of educators, advocates and leaders. Our alumni are committed to what graduate preparation should encompass: understanding the past, advancing the present, and modeling for the future. In Clinical Mental Health Counseling, you’ll learn to assist clients in resolving psychological disorders and/or developmental issues through crisis intervention, remediation, and/or primary prevention interventions. In School Counseling, you’ll become eligible to sit for the Professional Educator License with an Endorsement in School Counseling that allows you to work in the areas of social/emotional development, academic success and career readiness as a K-12 school counselor in Illinois.

Coursework Highlights

- EPS 710 Seminar in Lifespan Human Development
- ETR 520 Introduction to Research Methods in Education
- CAHC 500 Professional Identity and Ethics in Counseling
- CAHC 501 Diagnosis of Mental Health Issues in Counseling
- CAHC 511 Career Counseling
- CAHC 513 Postsecondary and College Counseling for School Counselors
- CAHC 521 Counseling with Children
- CAHC 522 School Counseling: Programs, Issues and Practices
- CAHC 524 Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Programs, Issues and Practices
- CAHC 525 Counseling Skills and Strategies
- CAHC 530 Counseling Theories and Practices
- CAHC 532 Evidence Informed Practices in Clinical Mental Health
- CAHC 540 Group Counseling
- CAHC 550 Practicum in Counseling
- CAHC 565 Multicultural Counseling
- CAHC 567 Substance Abuse Issues in Counseling
- CAHC 570 Consultation and Management in Developmental School Counseling Programs
- CAHC 585 Crisis Intervention
- CAHC 784X Theoretical Foundations of Family Therapy

The Illinois State Board of Education requires additional training courses in classroom management, curriculum development, and working with students with specific needs for licensure.

Why NIU?

Our program is designed to help students develop awareness, knowledge and skills in counseling and advocacy for those who are intending to become licensed professional counselors in clinical or school counseling. Our faculty and current students work consistently to create a collegial and collaborative community of acceptance, mentorship and professional networking within the university, regionally and nationally.

Working for You

Our program is designed to meet the needs of a diverse body of degree-seeking students. The majority of our classes are offered late afternoons and evenings to serve the working population of our students. Most classes are offered at our main campus in DeKalb, but some classes may be offered at our satellite sites in Rockford, Naperville and Hoffman Estates. We take pride in helping you move swiftly through the program. Faculty and staff are available to assist with coursework, internship, practicum and assistantships. We believe a collaborative student-faculty relationship enhances your experience in our master’s program.

Ready to apply?

[go.niu.edu/gradapply]