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The Center for Applied Psychological and Family Studies

in conjunction with The Graduate School and The Family Institute

at Northwestern University

Master of Arts in Counseling

On Campus

**Program Specific Application for Admission**

**2019-2020**

**Center for Applied Psychological and Family Studies**

**618 Library Place**

**Evanston, IL 60201**

[Counseling Program Website](http://family-institute.org/academics-alumni/counseling)

**Program Specific Application:**

**Application Deadlines and Options**

Applications for admission are accepted beginning September 5 2019 for admission for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. You may apply \*Early Decision or\* Regular Decision. Around twenty-eight students typically enter the program each year, including some who qualify for the Standard Curriculum and others from an array of different academic and professional backgrounds who qualify for the Two-Plus Curriculum. All admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis and most applicants are notified within a month of being interviewed by program faculty. Program slots tend to fill quickly so submit your application as early as possible.

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| **Application Deadlines** | |
| **Early Decision** | November 18, 2019 |
| **Regular Decision** | January 17, 2020 |

**Early Decision**

If you are certain that Northwestern is where you want to enroll, we encourage you to apply under our Early Decision option. As with all traditional Early Decision plans, you agree to withdraw all applications at other colleges and enroll at Northwestern if admitted.

Applicants who choose Early Decision send a strong, positive message to Northwestern and the program about their interest in studying with us. Given their high level of interest and overall academic and personal strength, early Decision applicants may enjoy a favourable rate of admission. Applicants should learn of their decision status about month after their interview.

Applicants who apply for \*Early Decision admission are invited to attend the exclusive Master of Arts in Counseling-On Campus, Early Admission Interview on Northwestern University’s Evanston Campus. During the interview, applicants will meet the core faculty and current students, participate in a group interview, learn more about the program, and tour The Family Institute’s headquarters and Northwestern University campus.

We admit qualified applicants in the Early Decision applicant pool first. Those applicants who apply Early Decision but are not admitted will be placed in the Regular Decision applicant pool, pending a favourable review of their materials. .

**Regular Decision**

Applicants who apply for \*Regular Decision are invited to attend the Master of Arts in Counseling- On Campus, Regular Admission Interviews on the Northwestern University Evanston Campus. During the interview, applicants will meet the core faculty and current students, participate in a group interview, learn more about the program, and tour The Family Institute headquarters at Northwestern University. Applicant will learn of their admission status about a month after their interview.

**Required Materials**

To be fully vetted for Early or Regular Decision admission to the Master of Arts Degree in Counseling- On Campus, the following materials are required by the relevant deadlines. Applications will not be reviewed until all required materials have been received.

**Instructions for Application PART 1:**

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| **APPLICATION PART 1: What do I submit?** | **How do I submit it?** |
| 1. Online application to The Graduate School through CollegeNet | Accessed through TGS Website |
| 2. CollegeNet application fee of $95.00 | Submitted through CollegeNet |
| 3. Official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores |
| 4. Two official transcripts from each institution(s) attended since secondary school |
| 5. Minimum of two letters of recommendation from academic or professional sources |

1. Complete an **on-line application** through CollegeNet accessed through TGS Website.
2. Pay the CollegeNet **application fee** of $95.00 by credit card at application submission.
3. Submit official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores directly from Educational Testing Service to Northwestern University using institution code #1565 and object code 01. Applicants must submit official scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) taken within the last two years.
4. Upload scanned versions of **official transcripts** online in CollegeNet. We require a transcript for every institution attended since secondary school and a transcript must be submitted for every institution listed in CollegeNet.
5. Submit **letters of recommendation** online in CollegeNet. We require a minimum of two letters of recommendation addressing the applicant's ability to do scholarly work. There is no official form to accompany this letter.

**Instructions for Application PART 2:**

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| **APPLICATION PART 2: What do I submit?** | **How do I submit it?** |
| 6. Master of Arts in Counseling Program Specific Application | Downloaded from this Website |
| 7. Resume or vita | Submitted with Program Specific Application |
| 8. Four supplemental essays |
| 9. Recent photo of yourself |
| 10. Application for Scholarships and Assistantships | Downloaded from this Website |

1. Master of Arts in Counseling **Program Specific Application** which is available as PDF file.
2. **Resume or Vita**
3. **Supplemental Essays-**

In addition to the purpose/personal statement that is part of the on-line application, applicants must submit four additional supplementary essays of a minimum of one page each; these essays can be written separately or combined into one essay with sub-headings, and consist of the following:

1. a brief autobiographical statement;

2. a clear and thoughtful statement of professional interests and goals;

3. a summary of prior clinical training, work experience and direct experience with professional psychology or counseling;

4. a thoughtful statement answering the question, "Why do I think I am suited to the field of professional counseling?

1. Scanned copy of a **recent photo of yourself**

**Biographical Information**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| First Name | Middle Initial | Last Name | | Maiden Name | |
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| How did you hear about the Counseling Program at Northwestern University? | |  | | | |
| Have you ever been suspended or required to withdraw from any school or college? | |  | Yes |  | No |
| If you answered yes above, please explain. | |  | | | |
| Have you ever been separated from any branch of the armed forces of the united states under conditions other than honorable? | |  | Yes |  | No |
| If you answered yes above, please explain. | |  | | | |
| Have you ever pled guilty or no contest to, or been convicted of a crime? | |  | Yes |  | No |
| If you answered yes above, please explain. | |  | | | |
| Answering yes to the questions above does not constitute an automatic bar from admissions. Factors such as date of offense, seriousness and nature of the violation, and rehabilitation will be taken into account. The Family Institute at Northwestern University requires all applicants who have received conditional admission to either the Master of Arts in Counseling Program or the Master of Science in Marital and Family Therapy Program to complete an online background check to determine criminal history. Having an adverse criminal history finding does not necessarily preclude admission. Determinations are considered on a case by case basis. In the event that information from the background report is utilized in whole or part in making an adverse decision with regards to applicant admission, before making the adverse decision, the institute will provide the applicant with a copy of the consumer report and a written description of his or her rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. | | | | | |

**Curriculum Selection**

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| **You must apply either as a Standard Curriculum applicant or a Two-Plus Curriculum applicant by checking the box:** | |
| To apply as a **Standard Curriculum Applicant**, prior to entering the Counseling Program, you must have:   1. at least **ONE** **academic experience** and at least **TWO** **clinical experiences**   or   1. **NO academic experiences** and at least **THREE clinical experiences**   **Standard Two-Year Curriculum Applicant (check this box if it applies to you)**  Apply as a **Two-Plus Curriculum Applicant** if you have:   1. **NO academic experiences** and **TWO or fewer clinical experiences**   or   1. **NO academic or clinical experiences**   **Two-Plus Three-Year Curriculum Applicant (Check this box if it applies to you)** | |
| Indicate your academic and clinical experiences below. Each experience listed must be described in your resume. The Admissions Committee will review your academic and clinical experiences and make a final curriculum determination. | |
| **Category 1: Academic Experience – Indicate your academic experiences in the following four areas:** | |
| **Required Academic Experience:** | **Your Academic Experience:** |
| 1. Psychology or human services undergraduate degree |  |
| 1. Psychology or human services minor |  |
| 1. At least two (2) graduate psychology or human services courses that are clinical in nature |  |
| 1. At least four (4) undergraduate psychology or human services courses that are clinical in nature (e.g., abnormal, personality, human development, and/or introduction to psychology) |  |
| **Category 2: Clinical Experience - Indicate your clinical experiences in the following five areas:** | |
| **Required Clinical Experience:** | **Your Academic Experience:** |
| 1. Supervised training in a clinical environment such as a crisis/domestic abuse/sexual abuse training |  |
| 1. Documented training in active listening |  |
| 1. Paid work experience in a clinical setting such as a case manager or counselor |  |
| 1. Experience as a Resident Assistant |  |
| 1. Experience as a Peer Mentor |  |

**Specialization Selection**

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| **Required Specialization Courses** | | | | | |
| There are two specialization tracks available to students; 1.) Psychological Counseling Track or 2.) Child/Adolescent Counseling Track. Each specialization requires the student to enroll in an assessment, development, therapy and elective course and to complete a fieldwork experience related to the area of professional interest. Applicants declare a specialization and specialization courses begin in Winter Quarter of the first year in the program. | | | | | |
| The following specialization courses are included in the 24 courses required for the Standard Curriculum and the 27 courses required for the Two-Plus Curriculum: | | | | | |
|  | **Psychological Counseling (Adult) Track** | | | **Child/Adolescent Counseling Track** | |
| **Assessment Course** | 426-21 Assessment in Counseling (Adult Focus) | | | 426-20 Assessment in Counseling (Child/Adolescent Focus) | |
| **Development Course** | 414-21 Human Growth and Development (Adult Focus) | | | 414-20 Human Growth and Development (Child/Adolescent Focus) | |
| **Therapy Course** | 417 Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Adults & Children | | | 436 Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy | |
| **Elective Course** | 453 Evaluation and Treatment of Trauma Disorders | | | 453 Evaluation and Treatment of Trauma Disorders | |
| **You must select a specialization in either Psychological Counseling or Child Assessment and Intervention below.** | | | | | |
| Check the box indicating your Specialization Track: | |  | **Psychological Counseling Track** |  | **Child/Adolescent Counseling Track** |
| **If you selected the Child Assessment and Intervention Track, answer the following questions:** | | | | | |
| What experiences have you had working with children and adolescents? | | | | | |
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| Why do you want to work with children and adolescents? | | | | | |
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**Resume or Curriculum Vita**

Please attach a detailed resume or curriculum vitae accounting for all time periods from the start of your undergraduate studies to the present, beginning with your most recent activities. Describe those academic and clinical experiences that you listed in the Curriculum Selection chart above. Include schooling, part-time, summer and full-time work experience, travel, job search, etc. Specify dates, employer/school, job title, average number of hours per week, and primary responsibilities. Pay particular attention to describing activities in the field of mental health.

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| **List honors received or other evidence of high scholarship (Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Gamma Sigma, etc.):** | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | |
| **Describe your employment while in college:** | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | |
| **Hours per week spent working during the following college years:** | | | | | | | |
|  | Freshman |  | Sophomore |  | Junior |  | Senior |

**Extracurricular Activities and Professional Organizations**

Please list organizations of highest importance first.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization Name** | **Dates of Membership** | | **Brief Description of Activity** | **Offices Held** |
|  | From | Click here to enter a date. |  |  |
| To | Click here to enter a date. |
|  | From | Click here to enter a date. |  |  |
| To | Click here to enter a date. |
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