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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 Program

**Program Specific Application for On Campus Admission**

**2022-2023**

# Center for Applied Psychological and Family Studies 618 Library Place

**Evanston, IL 60201**

Counseling Program Website

**Program Specific Application:**

**Application Deadlines and Options**

Applications for admission are accepted beginning **September 15, 2022,** for the 2022-2023 Academic Year. You may apply Early Decision or Regular Decision. Thirty to forty students typically enter the program each year, including some who qualify for the Standard Curriculum and others who qualify for the Two- Plus or BRIDGE Curriculum. All admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis and most applicants are notified within 4-6 weeks of an interview. Program slots tend to fill quickly so we encourage you to submit your application as early as possible.

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| **Application Deadlines** | |
| **Early Decision** | November 11, 2022 |
| **Regular Decision** | January 13, 2023 |

# Early Decision

If applicants are certain that Northwestern is where they want to study, we encourage them to apply under our Early Decision process. Applicants who choose Early Decision send a strong, positive message to Northwestern. As with all traditional Early Decision plans, applicants agree to withdraw all applications at other colleges and enroll at Northwestern if admitted. Given their high level of interest and overall academic and personal strengths, Early Decision applicants enjoy a higher rate of admission.

After Early admissions applications are reviewed, some will quality for an Early Decision interview. Early Admission interviews are conducted virtually for about 90-120 minutes. During the interviews, applicants meet a member of the Counseling Program core faculty and participate with other applicants in a group interview. Following the interview, admission decisions will be made, and each candidate invited to join the incoming class will be personally notified (often via a phone conversation). Those applicants who apply to Early Decision but are not admitted will be placed in the Regular Decision applicant pool, should they wish to stay in the process.

# Regular Decision

For those who apply for Regular admission and are invited to attend the exclusive Master of Arts in Counseling Program Early Admission, interviews are online. During the interviews, applicants will meet the Counseling Program core faculty and program students, participate in a group interview, learn more about the program. Following the interview, admission decisions will be made.

# Required Materials

The items that follow are required by the relevant deadlines to complete an application to the Master of Arts in Counseling Program. Applications will not be reviewed until all required materials are 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. Two required letters of recommendation |

1. Complete an **on-line application** through [CollegeNet](https://www.applyweb.com/nugrad/index.ftl) accessed through TGS Website.
2. Pay the Apply Yourself **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 two letters of recommendation addressing the applicant's ability to do scholarly work. Recommendations should be from individuals with whom you have had an academic or professional relationship.

# 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 | Upload to the online application |
| 7. Resume or vita | Submitted with Program Specific Application |
| 8. One essay with three sections |
| 9. Recent photo of yourself |

1. Master of Arts in Counseling **Program Specific Application** which is available as PDF file.

## Resume or Vita

## Scanned copy of a recent photo of yourself

1. **Supplemental Essay**

*Please write a statement of purpose (750 – 1,000 words) that includes a response to EACH of the following prompts:*

*Address why you think you are suited to the field of professional counseling.*

*Describe your capacity and readiness to complete your degree while balancing multiple, competing responsibilities.*

*Describe your values and experiences around diversity, inclusion, and equality*

# 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 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 considered. 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. If 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. | | | | | |

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| **You must apply either to become a Standard Curriculum applicant or a Two-Plus Curriculum applicant by checking the box. Please carefully review and fully provide all information requests. NOTE: Applicants will be considered specifically and uniquely for the curricular plan to which they apply. For example, if you apply for the standard curriculum, you must meet all stipulated requirements for each unique category. Applicants should not apply to 2-plus seeking to gain admission to the program, with intent after admission to seek to be placed in the standard track.** | |
| **Applicants MUST select and indicate the curriculum plan to which they are applying**  **Are you applying as a Standard curriculum applicant? (24 required courses)**  **Choose one: YES  NO**  To apply as a **Standard Curriculum Applicant** (24 courses required, electives are also available) before entering the Counseling Program, you must have:  1.) at least **ONE academic experience** and at least **TWO paraprofessional clinical experiences related to the mental health field**  or  2.) **NO academic experiences** and at least **FOUR paraprofessional clinical experiences related to the mental health field**  **Are you applying as a Two-Plus Curriculum Applicant? (27 required courses)**  **Choose one: YES  NO**  Apply as a **Two-Plus Curriculum Applicant** (27 courses required, electives are also available)if you have:  1.) **NO academic experiences** and **THREE or fewer paraprofessional clinical experiences related to the mental health field**  or  2.) **NO academic or paraprofessional clinical experiences related to the mental health field.** | |
| 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 in consideration of the curriculum plan for which you are applying. | |
| **Category 1: Academic Experience – Indicate your academic experiences in the following four areas:** | |
| **Required Academic Experience:** | **Your Academic Experience (describe briefly by indicating the program of study or specific course on your transcript.** |
| 1. Psychology or human services undergraduate degree from an  accredited institution |  |
| 2. At least two (2) graduate psychology or human services courses that are clinical in nature |  |
| 3. 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 six areas:** | |
| **Required Clinical Experiences (during college years or beyond)** | **Your Academic Experience: Provide the name and location of the setting and describe your experience in detail** |
| 1. Supervised training in a clinical environment such as a counseling  crisis/domestic abuse/sexual abuse training |  |
| 2. Documented training in an area directly related to counseling (eg crisis intervention; active listening; psychological first aid. |  |

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| **Curriculum Selection**  3. Paid work experience in a clinical setting (example as case  Manager, mental health practitioner or paraprofessional interventionist with a clinical population |  |
| 4. Experience as a Resident Assistant at a university or college |  |
| 5. Experience as a mental health interventionists or advocate with  a national or international organization |  |
| 6. Experience as a Peer Mentor with a specific population |  |



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| **Applicants must indicate if they are applying to the Child and Adolescent Specialization** |
| Apart from our core curriculum, students can also complete our child and adolescent specialization. Listed below are the 5 courses students must complete. You can complete these courses without tuition impacts in the standard or 2-Plus track  **Are you applying for the Child and Adolescent Specialization?**  Yes No |
| **Child and Adolescent Specialization Courses** |
| 1. Assessment of Counseling- Child/Adolescent 2. Human Growth and Development- Child/Adolescent 3. Child and adolescent Counseling 4. Evaluation and Treatment of Trauma Child/Adolescent 5. Play Therapy methods |
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| 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, t and full-time work experience, travel, job search, etc.

Specify dates, employer/school, job title, the 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

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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. |  |  |
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## Statement of non- discrimination

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates. Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination.

Further prohibited by law is discrimination against any employee and/or job applicant who chooses to inquire about, discuss, or disclose their own compensation or the compensation of another employee or applicant.

Northwestern University complies with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination based on the protected categories listed above, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX requires educational institutions, such as Northwestern, to prohibit discrimination based on sex (including sexual harassment) in the University’s educational programs and activities, including in matters of employment and admissions. In addition, Northwestern provides reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants, students, and employees with disabilities and to individuals who are pregnant.

Any alleged violations of this policy or questions with respect to nondiscrimination or reasonable accommodations should be directed to Northwestern’s Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, [equity@northwestern.edu.](mailto:equity@northwestern.edu)

Questions specific to sex discrimination (including sexual misconduct and sexual harassment) should be directed to Northwestern’s Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, [TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu.](mailto:TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu)

A person may also file a complaint with the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights regarding an alleged violation of Title IX by visiting www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html or calling 800-421-3481. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to Northwestern may be referred to Northwestern’s Title IX Coordinator, the United States Department of Education’s Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or both.