



THE FAMILY  
INSTITUTE

at Northwestern University

RESEARCHERS | EDUCATORS | THERAPISTS | YOU  
PARTNER TO SEE CHANGE

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 Admission Onground

2023-2024

Center for Applied Psychological and Family Studies

618 Library Place

Evanston, IL 60201

[Counseling Program Website](#)

## Application Deadlines and Options

Applications for admission are accepted beginning **September 13, 2023**, for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. Thirty to forty students typically enter the program each year, including some who qualify for the Standard Curriculum and others who are eligible for the Two-Plus Curriculum. Among those with completed applications, the core faculty will determine those who will be advanced to the next phase in the process, that is, a group-based interview. Interviews will be by invitation only and will occur online. After interviews, applicants are admitted on a rolling basis within 4-6 weeks of an interview.

**Note:** For a full application to the Counseling program, applicants must complete the components requested of ALL applicants to The Graduate School at Northwestern University. In addition, applicants must provide the information requested by our program. This aspect of the application includes program-specific areas of inquiry.

Application Deadline
December 1, 2023

## Required Materials

The following items are required 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:

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	
3. Official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores	Submitted through CollegeNet
4. Official transcripts from each institution(s) attended since secondary school	
5. Two required letters of recommendation	

1. Complete an **on-line application** through [CollegeNet](#) accessed through TGS Website, providing information requested of all applicants to The Graduate School as well as program-specific information
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 **unofficial 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. Recommendations must be completed by the application deadline (December 1, 2023).

## Instructions for Application PART 2:

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	

1. Master of Arts in Counseling **Program Specific Application**, which is available as PDF file.
2. **Resume or Vita**
3. **Program's Supplemental Essay**

As part of our program-specific information please write a statement of purpose (750 – 1,000 words) that includes a response to EACH of the following prompts:

- *What qualities do you possess that make you suited to Professional counseling?*
- *Describe your capacity and readiness to complete your degree, while balancing competing responsibilities.*
- *Northwestern University is a place where people with diverse backgrounds from all over the world can study, live, and talk with one another. This range of experiences and viewpoints immeasurably enriches learning. How might your individual background contribute to the diversity of perspectives in Northwestern's classrooms and community?*

## Biographical Information

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Maiden Name
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If you answered yes above, please explain.			
Have you ever pled guilty or no contest to, or been convicted of a crime?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.

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 uniquely considered 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. Note: 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 humanservices courses that are clinical in nature (e.g., abnormal, personality, human development, and/or introduction to psychology)	
<b>Category 2: Clinical Experience - Indicate your clinical experiences in the following six areas:</b>	
<b>Required Clinical Experiences (during college years or beyond)</b>	<b>Your Academic Experience: Provide the name and location of the setting and describe your experience in detail</b>
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.	
<b>Curriculum Selection</b>	
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	

<b>Applicants must indicate if they are applying to the Child and Adolescent Specialization</b>	
<p>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</p>	
<p><b>Are you applying for the Child and Adolescent Specialization?</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<b>Child and Adolescent Specialization Courses</b>	
<p>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</p>	
<p>What experiences have you had working with children and adolescents?</p>	
<p>Why do you want to work with children and adolescents?</p>	

## 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, the average number of hours per week, and primary responsibilities. Pay particular attention to describing activities in the field of mental health.

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

## Extracurricular Activities and Professional Organizations

Please list organizations of highest importance first.

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.		
	From	Click here to enter a date.		
	To	Click here to enter a date.		

## Statement of non-discrimination

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual based on 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](http://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.