

**Master of Arts in Counseling
Clinical Mental Health Counseling
On-Campus Branch
Program Specific Application
Fall 2027**

Northwestern

The Center for Applied
Psychological and Family Studies

**Master of Arts in Counseling Program
Center for Applied Psychological and Family Studies
618 Library Place
Evanston, IL 60201**

[MAC Program Website](#)

Master of Art in Counseling | Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Specific Application

Application Deadline

Applications for admission are accepted beginning October 1, 2026, for the 2027-2028 Academic Year. Thirty-five 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.

Application Deadline
December 2, 2026

Application Required Materials

The following items are required to complete an application to the Master of Arts in Counseling Program. All materials including this application will be uploaded into CollegeNet. Applications will not be reviewed until all required materials are received.

1. Complete this **Program Specific Application** – Note Curriculum Track: ***Standard or Two Plus***
2. Complete **TGS 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
3. **Curriculum vitae or professional resume** 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.
4. Upload scanned versions of **unofficial transcripts**. We require a transcript for every institution attended since secondary school and a transcript must be submitted for every institution listed in CollegeNet.
5. Request **letters of recommendation** through 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. Recommenders must complete and upload by the application deadline (December 2, 2026).

6. **TGS Personal Statement** (250 word maximum)

7. **MAC Program Academic Statement** (1,000 word maximum)

The Admissions Committee is most interested in you and why you want to be a Clinical Mental Health Counselor. Your Academic Statement should be written so that we may "get to know you" better.

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What personal and family experiences have influenced your interest in a career as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor?
 2. Describe your capacity and readiness to complete your degree while balancing multiple, competing responsibilities.
 3. What attracts you to the field of clinical mental health counseling (as opposed to social work, or clinical psychology)?
 4. What attracts you to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program here at Northwestern University?
 5. Given that this is a clinical program where you will be asked to help people overcome challenging life circumstances, please describe a time in your life when things didn't go well for you. Describe the circumstances of this time and how you handled the challenges associated with it.
8. **International students:** Official English Language Test Scores (TOEFL or IELTS) 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. [See instructions here](#)
9. Upload all the above items to the online application in [CollegeNet](#).
10. Pay the **application fee** of \$95.00 by credit card at application submission.

If you have any questions about the MAC application process, please contact Admissions and Enrollment, (847) 733-4300, extension 120 or COUNAdmissions@family-institute.org

Master of Art in Counseling | Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Specific Application

Applicant Information

Last Name	First Name	Middle		
Address		City	State	Postal Code
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address		

Counseling Program Curriculum Tracks

You must apply either to become a Standard Curriculum or a Two-Plus Curriculum applicant by checking the box below. 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 category. Note: Applicants admitted to the Two-Plus Curriculum Track will not be allowed to change tracks after admission.

Are you applying as a Standard curriculum applicant?

Apply as a **Standard Curriculum Applicant** (24 courses required, electives are also available) before entering the Counseling Program, you must have:

1. **A BA in Psychology or a closely related field (including courses specifically in abnormal psychology and preferably developmental psych.)**
- OR**
2. **A minimum of two years of professional experience in a clinical mental health setting (volunteer experience as a "camp counselor," etc. does not count but work as an intake coordinator or in an ABA setting does count).**

Are you applying as a Two-Plus Curriculum Applicant?

Apply as a **Two-Plus Curriculum Applicant** (27 courses required, electives are also available) if you have:

1. **A degree that is not in psychology or a closely related field.**
2. **NO paraprofessional clinical experiences related to the mental health field as described.**

Please check if you are applying to the Standard or Two-Plus Curriculum Track:

☐	Standard Curriculum
☐	Two-plus Curriculum

You may use this worksheet to help you determine which program you should apply to. 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 areas:

A BA/BS in Psychology or a closely related field (including courses specifically in abnormal psychology and developmental psych.)

1. Psychology major or human services undergraduate degree from an accredited institution	☐ Yes ☐ No
2. At least two (2) graduate psychology or human services courses that are clinical in nature	☐ Yes ☐ No
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)	☐ Yes ☐ No

Category 2: Clinical Experience - Indicate your clinical experiences in the following areas:

A minimum of two years of professional experience in a clinical mental health setting (volunteer experience as a “camp counselor,” etc. does not count but work as an intake coordinator or in an ABA setting does count).

1. Supervised training in a clinical environment such as a counseling crisis/domestic abuse/sexual abuse training.	☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Documented training in an area directly related to counseling (e.g. crisis intervention; active listening; psychological first aid.	☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Paid work experience in a clinical setting (example as case Manager, mental health practitioner or paraprofessional interventionist with a clinical population.	☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Experience as a Resident Assistant at a university or college.	☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Experience as a mental health interventionists or advocate with a national or international organization.	☐ Yes ☐ No
6. Experience as a Peer Mentor with a specific population.	☐ Yes ☐ No

Child and Adolescent Specialization

Apart from our core curriculum, students can also complete our child and adolescent specialization. Listed below are the courses students must complete. You can complete these courses without tuition impacts in the Standard or Two-Plus track.

By the Winter Quarter of the first year of the program, you can declare an interest in the Child and Adolescent Specialization. This specialization is designed to gain expertise in the area, increase your marketability as an expert and become professionally identified during your training. This specialization requires enrollment in a "cluster" of courses that include:

- ☐ Assessment (COUN 426-20 Assessment in Counseling [Child & Adolescent Focus])
- ☐ Development (COUN 414-20 Human Growth & Development [Child & Adolescent Focus])
- ☐ Therapy (COUN 436 Child and Adolescent Counseling & Psychotherapy)
- ☐ Complete fieldwork experience related to the area of professional interest

Specialization courses are included in the 24 courses required for the Standard Curriculum and the 27 courses required for the Two-Plus Curriculum.

If you desire to complete child and adolescent coursework but do not want to declare a full specialization, your advisor will work with you to choose one or two child and adolescent courses. In addition, if you are not sure if this specialization is right for you, discuss your options with your advisor before the end of Winter Quarter of the first year of the program.

Are you interested in the Child and Adolescent Specialization? Yes ☐ No ☐

Employment and School History

Please upload a detailed resume or curriculum vitae through CollegeNet accounting for all time periods from the start of your undergraduate studies to the present, beginning with your most recent activities. Please 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.

References

Applicants for degree programs are required to submit two (2) letters of reference. References should include, if possible, at least one letter addressing the applicant's academic background. Reference Letters must be submitted through The Graduate School's CollegeNet Application system.

TGS Personal Statement

Write a statement that includes any relevant information on one or more of the following topics (the length of this statement should range from **125 to 250 words maximum**):

- Pivotal experiences, opportunities, and/or challenges that have influenced your educational and professional development.
- Leadership experiences, community outreach, service initiatives, or research projects you have participated in or plan to pursue that aim to positively impact others or the broader community.
- Anything you would like to share with the admissions committee that you have yet to discuss in other areas of the application can be addressed here. This may include any gaps in your academic and professional experience, or additional context if you believe your academic record does not demonstrate your true capabilities. If needed, you may also use this space to expand upon the topics discussed in the above essays.

Master of Arts in Counseling Academic Statement

Please respond to the following question in your Academic Statement **within 1,000 words or less**. Upload statements to **CollegeNet**.

The Admissions Committee is most interested in you, the person who seeks to be a marriage and family therapist. Your Academic Statement should be written so that we may better know you. Please respond to the following questions.

1. **What personal and family experiences have influenced your interest in a career as a clinical mental health counselor?**
2. **Describe your capacity and readiness to complete your degree while balancing multiple, competing responsibilities.**
3. **What attracts you to the field of clinical mental health counseling (as opposed to social work, or clinical psychology)?**
4. **What attracts you to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program here at Northwestern University?**
5. **Given that this is a clinical program where you will be asked to help people overcome challenging life circumstances, please describe a time in your life when things didn't go well for you. Describe the circumstances of this time and how you handled the challenges associated with it.**

Disclosures

If your answer to any of the following questions is yes, explain fully below

(Please see University Policy statement below regarding non-discrimination)

Have you ever been suspended or required to withdraw from any school or college?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Have you ever been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no contest to, a felony offense (excluding expunged, sealed, or juvenile records where legally permitted)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Have you ever been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no contest to, a misdemeanor offense (excluding minor traffic violations or expunged, sealed, or juvenile records where legally permitted)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please provide a detailed account:

Answering “yes” to these questions does not constitute an automatic exclusion from admissions. Factors such as date of offense, seriousness and nature of the violation and rehabilitation will be taken into account. We consider all disclosures in the context of our commitment to fairness, safety, and student success.

The Family Institute at Northwestern University requires all applicants who have received conditional admission to either the Master of Arts Program in Counseling or the Master of Science Program in Marriage and Family Therapy 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 in part in making an adverse decision with regard to an applicant's admission, before making the adverse decision, the Institute will provide the student with a copy of the consumer report and a written description of his or her rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Northwestern University Admission Policy

The Graduate School adheres to Northwestern's Non-Discrimination Statement as stated by the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance. You can read the statement in full [here](#). Any alleged violations of this policy or questions regarding the law with respect to nondiscrimination should be addressed to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4500, Evanston, Illinois 60201; phone 847-467-6165.

Applicants seeking disability accommodations should contact AccessibleNU at 847-467-5530. See the AccessibleNU website for more information.

Northwestern University does not find it possible to admit all applicants who meet its entrance requirements. The University, therefore, reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant. The University also reserves the right to require the withdrawal of any student whose condition endangers his or her own health or the health of other students or precludes him or her from doing the required work.

I certify that all statements made in this application for admission to the Master of Arts in Counseling Program in The Graduate School of Northwestern University are correct, and I realize that all documents submitted in support of this application become the property of Northwestern University.

Signature	Date

Northwestern University
Master of Arts in Counseling | Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Applicant Acknowledgement of Regulatory Alignment

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program is a profession that leads to licensure in all 50 states; however, each state has its own law and regulations about what is needed to become licensed as a licensed counselor in that state.

The Master of Arts in Counseling | Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program leads to a Master of Arts in Counseling. The designed outcome is to lead to eligibility to become a Licensed Professional Counselor within Illinois. States typically have additional post license requirements to become eligible for an independent practice license, including additional hours under supervision and testing. In Illinois the independent practice license is Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC); other states may have a different license name.

The Program is accredited by The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Some states may require a different specialized accreditor or may have additional requirements for licensure.

If you have questions about the program's alignment with professional licensure you may contact the Department Chair: Dr. Lee Teufel-Prida.

Please sign this form and return with your program admissions application.

It is recommended that you keep a copy of this form in your files.

I acknowledge that I have been informed and am aware that licensing regulations differ across states and provinces. I understand that Northwestern University's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is designed to meet the licensure requirements in the state of Illinois, and that an degree from this program may not meet licensing requirements in a different state.

Printed name as shown in application	
Signature	Date