



# NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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

2020-2021

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 4, 2020 for admission for the 2021-2022 Academic Year. You may apply \*Early Decision or Regular Decision. 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 the deadline. Program slots tend to fill quickly so we encourage you to submit your application as early as possible.

Application Deadlines	
Early Decision	November 16, 2020
Regular Decision	January 15, 2021

### Early Decision

If you are certain that Northwestern is where you want to study, we encourage you to apply under our Early Decision plan. 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. Given their high level of interest and overall academic and personal strength, Early Decision applicants enjoy a higher rate of admission.

For those applicants who apply for \*Early Decision admission and are invited to attend the exclusive Master of Arts in Counseling Program Early Admission Interview at Northwestern University Evanston Campus. During the interview, applicants will meet the Counseling Program core faculty and program students, participate in a group interview, learn more about the program, and tour The Family Institute headquarters and Northwestern University campus. Following the interview, admission decisions will be made.

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 upon request by the applicant.

### Regular Decision

For those applicants who apply for Regular Decision and are invited to attend the Master of Arts in Counseling Program Regular Admission Interviews at the Northwestern University Evanston Campus. During the interview, applicants will meet the Counseling Program core faculty and program students, participate in a group interview, learn more about the program, and tour The Family Institute headquarters and Northwestern University campus. Following the interview, Regular Decision applicants will be admitted.

## 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 have been 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	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	

1. Complete an **on-line application** through CollegeNet 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 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:

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-**

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

1. Address why you think you are suited to the field of professional counseling.
2. Describe your capacity and readiness to complete your degree while balancing multiple, competing responsibilities.
3. What are your values and experiences around diversity, inclusion, and equality?
4. Scanned copy of a recent photo of yourself

## 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 been separated from any branch of the armed forces of the united states under conditions other than honorable?	<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.			
<p>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.</p>			

## Curriculum Selection

**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
- 2.) **NO academic experiences** and at least **THREE clinical experiences**

**Standard Two-Year Curriculum Applicant**

Apply as a **Two-Plus Curriculum Applicant** if you have:

- 1.) **NO academic experiences** and **TWO or fewer clinical experiences**  
or
- 2.) **NO academic or clinical experiences**

**Two-Plus Curriculum Applicant**

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	
2. Psychology or human services minor	
3. At least two (2) graduate psychology or human services courses that are clinical in nature	
4. 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	
2. Documented training in active listening	

3. Paid work experience in a clinical setting such as a case manager or counselor	
4. Experience as a Resident Assistant	
5. Experience as a Peer Mentor	

## Specialization Selection

Required Specialization Courses		
<p>There are two specialization tracks available to students; 1.) Psychological Counseling Track or 2.) Child Assessment and Intervention 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.</p>		
<p>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:</p>		
	Psychological Counseling Track	Child Assessment & Intervention Track
<b>Assessment Course</b>	426-21 Assessment in Counseling (Adult Focus)	426-20 Assessment in Counseling (Child Focus)
<b>Development Course</b>	414-21 Human Growth and Development (Adult Focus)	414-20 Human Growth and Development (Child Focus)
<b>Therapy Course</b>	417 Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Adults & Children	436 Child Psychotherapy
<b>Elective Course</b>	453 Evaluation and Treatment of Trauma Disorders	453 Evaluation and Treatment of Trauma Disorders
<p><b>You must select a specialization in either Psychological Counseling or Child Assessment and Intervention below.</b></p>		
<p>Check the box indicating your Specialization Track:      <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Psychological Counseling Track</b>      <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Child/Adolescent Assessment and Intervention Track</b></p>		
<p><b>If you selected the Child Assessment and Intervention Track, answer the following questions:</b></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, 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 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](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.