Counseling
Master of Arts (campus)

The Department of Counseling Psychology and Community Services offers graduate programs leading to the Master of Arts in Counseling and Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology. Graduates of the M.A. program are eligible to apply for licensure as a school Counselor in North Dakota as well as other states. Completion of the M.A. program partially fulfills requirements for certification as a School Counselor or certification as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor or licensure as an Addiction Counselor in North Dakota. The Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology provides preparation for licensure as a Psychologist in North Dakota, as well as other states.

To encourage students who are majoring in Rehabilitation and Human Services to extend their studies to include a graduate degree, the Department offers a Combined Program in Counseling with a Rehabilitation Emphasis. The Combined Program allows students to earn a bachelor’s degree in Rehabilitation and Human Services and a master’s degree in Counseling with a Rehabilitation Emphasis in approximately five years. This would be a year less than is typically required to complete these degrees separately.

The Master of Arts is appropriate for those who wish to become counselors in K-12 schools or community agencies, such as addiction treatment clinics, mental health centers, rehabilitation agencies, and family service organizations. A commitment to social justice and appreciation of diversity are integrated throughout the curriculum. The Department of Counseling Psychology and Community Services is also committed to seeking and valuing diversity in students and staff. This includes the variety of cultures, backgrounds, values, and experiences found among faculty and students; it also includes the diversity of our professional ways of practice, our ways of learning, and our personal and professional goals. We are committed to training multiculturally competent counselors. On-campus students are admitted to one of three program emphases: Addiction Counseling, Community Mental Health Counseling, or Rehabilitation Counseling. An emphasis in School Counseling is available only through our synchronous distance program. Each program emphasis has separate requirements.

Program Goals
Students are expected to:
1. demonstrate critical thinking skills through written assignments and oral presentations;
2. articulate an awareness of the needs of diverse populations and develop sensitivity and skills to meet these needs,
3. demonstrate counseling skills such as empathic listening, clarification, cognitive reframing, confrontation, and crisis intervention;
4. demonstrate the ability to reflect upon one’s values, beliefs, skills, and interventions, particularly in the context of a clinical supervisory relationship in which accepting and responding positively to feedback are expected;
5. conduct an independent research project, analyze the findings, and report the results in a scholarly manner;
6. develop ethical decision-making skills demonstrated across a broad spectrum of professional functioning areas, and
7. acquire knowledge in eight areas of competency.

The eight competencies are:
1. Human Growth and Development; Social and Cultural Foundations; Helping Relationships; Group Work; Career and Lifestyle Development; Appraisal; Research and Program Evaluation; and Professional Orientation & Ethics.

Admission Requirements
The applicant must meet the School of Graduate Studies’ current minimum general admission requirements as published in the graduate catalog.
1. A four-year bachelor’s degree from a recognized college or university (or be in a combined program).
2. Twenty semester credits of coursework in the behavioral sciences at the undergraduate level, which must include theories of personality, abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, and statistics. Additional courses in psychology and sociology may be applied toward this prerequisite. Courses in other social science disciplines where the focus is on the description or explanation of individual or group behavior may be accepted in fulfillment of this prerequisite at the discretion of the department. Applicants must submit this information on the “Supplemental Application Form and Undergraduate Coursework Summary.”
3. A cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.75 for all undergraduate work or a GPA of at least 3.0 for the junior and senior years of undergraduate work (based on A= 4.00).
4. Satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Exam General Test or the Miller Analogies Test.

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5. Favorable recommendations and the admission committee’s perception of the “best fit” based on the applicant’s personal statement.

6. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies’ English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

**Degree Requirements**

Students seeking the Master of Arts degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Counseling Psychology and Community Services Department.

**Thesis Option:**

1. A minimum of 30 semester credits in a major field, including the credits granted for the thesis and the research leading to the thesis.
2. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500-level.
3. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.
4. Required Core and Emphasis courses.

**Non-Thesis Option:**

1. Thirty-two (32) credits including credits required for the major.
2. A minimum of two credits of Independent Study.
3. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500-level.
4. A maximum of one-fourth (usually 8-9 semester credits) of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.
5. Preparation of a written independent study approved by the faculty advisor.
6. Comprehensive final examination.
7. Required Core and Emphasis courses.

**Please refer to the academic catalog for required courses, prerequisites for emphasis areas**

**Faculty and Areas of Expertise**

- **Sarah R. Edwards, Ph.D.**, Dating and Domestic Violence, Healthy Relationships, Client/Therapist Variable Affecting Treatment Outcome; Training and Supervision Issues, Health Behaviors and Barriers to Help Seeking, Rural Psychology Issues.
- **Cindy Juntunen, Ph.D.**, Career development and counseling; supervision and counselor development; ethics; professional issues and identity; psychologists as agents of social change, diversity issues. Vocational psychology; poverty; career values in racial/ethnic minority populations; feminist counseling, supervision.
- **Rachel Navarro, Ph.D.**, multicultural vocational psychology; academic and career development, campus climate and wellbeing with a focus on culturally diverse communities.
- **David Perry, Ph.D.**, Attitudes toward persons with disabilities, how they are formed, maintained, and changed; Effective ways of providing rehabilitation education; applications of Adlerian Psychology to Rehabilitation Counseling.
- **Dorlene Walker, Ph.D.**, Data management in schools; Collaborative educational problem solving; School program evaluation.
- **Kara Wettersten, Ph.D.**, Research methods, qualitative and quantitative; career counseling, psychological testing; supervision and practice. Comparative outcome research; solution focused therapy; domestic violence; healthy relationships.
- **David H. Whitcomb, Ph.D.**, Community and Addictions Counseling Programs, Training: Counseling theories and development, Community Agencies, Master’s Internship, Multicultural Counseling, Supervision and Counselor Training, Lesbian, gay, and bisexual (lgb) identity development; the sociopolitical context of coming out as lgb; facilitating multicultural competence in counselors; career paths and professional development of psychology graduate students; organizational, structural, and management issues of university counseling centers.

**Contact Information**

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