Counseling and Human Services
Mental Health Counseling

- Individual counseling
- Group counseling
- Case management
- Crisis intervention
- Program planning
- Administration
- Advocacy/Intervention
- Religious-based/Pastoral counseling

Counseling therapy and specialty areas:
- Diagnostic specializations (e.g. Eating Disorders, Grief, Trauma)
- Hypnotherapy/EMDR
- Animal-assisted
- Equine Expressive Arts (e.g., Music, Art, Dance, Play, Meditation)
## Mental Health Counseling Employers

| Residential treatment facilities |
| In/Outpatient psychiatric care units |
| Mobile crisis units |
| Hospitals |
| Behavioral health programs |
| Social service agencies |
| Nonprofit organizations |
| Religious and pastoral organizations |
| Hospices |
| Child guidance clinics |
| Family planning centers |
| Adult service programs |
| Group homes |
| Public and private schools |
| Private or group practices |
| Local, state, and federal government: |
| • Armed Forces |
| • Department of Child and Family Services |
| • Department of Corrections |
| • Department of Human Services |
| • Department of Mental Health |
| • Department of Justice |
| • Department of Veterans Affairs |
| • Correctional facilities |
Mental Health Counseling Strategies

- Obtain a master’s degree in mental health counseling or related area.
- Gain practical experience with children, families, and individuals with mental health issues.
- Volunteer with a local social service organization to test interest in working with different populations or presenting problems.
- Conduct informational interviews or shadow professionals in a variety of fields.
- Develop strong communication, listening, and organizational skills, along with a sense of empathy.
- Join professional organizations such as Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) or American Counseling Association (ACA) to learn about current issues in the field.
- Research government hiring procedures and state licensure regulations.
- Obtain national certification as a Mental Health Service Provider (MHSP) through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and/or state dependent certification.
Marriage and Family Therapy

- Pre-marital counseling
- Couples’ counseling
- Conflict resolution
- Divorce mediation
- Sexuality counseling
- Sexuality education
- Child/Spousal abuse counseling
- Family counseling
- Reunification counseling
Marriage and Family Therapy Employers

- Private or group practice
- Local, state, and federal government
- Social service agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Religious and pastoral organizations
- Hospitals
- Family planning centers
- Social service agencies
Marriage and Family Therapy Strategies

- Obtain a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy or related graduate degree.
- Gain practical experience with children and families.
- Acquire knowledge of group dynamics and stressors unique to families.
- Develop skills in conflict mediation.
- Cultivate multicultural competence and an understanding of how values may impact practice.
- Obtain certification as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT).
- Join professional organizations such as the American Counseling Association (ACA) and/or American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) to learn more about the field.
- Consult the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board (AMFTRB) for more information on state licensure regulations.
School Counseling

- Elementary
- Middle school
- High school
- College/Career planning
- Student services
- Administration
School Counseling

Employers

Public and private schools, K-12

Departments of Education
School Counseling Strategies

- Earn a master’s degree in school counseling.
- Gain experience through mentoring, tutoring, or volunteering with a school-based organization.
- Acquire knowledge of stressors unique to children and families.
- Plan to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams: teachers, social workers, school administrators, therapists, and others.
- Become familiar with various assessments and evaluations utilized in educational settings.
- Obtain certification as a National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) through the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Join professional organizations such as American School Counselor Association (ASCA) to learn more about the field.
Career Counseling

- Individual and/or group counseling
- Assessment
- Career planning
- Job searching
- Community/Employer relations
- Employee evaluation
- Program development
- Outplacement
- Career coaching
- Advocacy/Intervention
- Research
- Grant writing
Career Counselling Employers

Large corporations
Colleges and universities
Vocational schools
Career development centers
Employee Assistance Programs (EAP)
Private practice

Local, state, and federal government:
- Armed forces
- One Stop Career Centers
- Employment offices
- Correctional facilities
- Probation services
Obtain practical experience through part-time or summer jobs, internships, assistantships, or volunteer work in a career center or employment agency.

Acquire knowledge of effective interviewing and resume writing skills.

Investigate a wide variety of careers, areas of study, and related assessment tools.

Become familiar with government and community resources available for those in need.

Obtain a master's degree with a special emphasis in career counseling to increase marketability (not required but preferred).

Become familiar with government hiring procedures.

Join the National Career Development Association (NCDA) and apply for Master Career Counselor (MCC) or Master Career Development Professional (MCDP) status.
## Rehabilitation Counseling Employers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential treatment facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assisted/independent living facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult service programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutic recreation centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College/university disabilities offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local, state, and federal government:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Department of Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Department of Veterans Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Correctional facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Probation services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Rehabilitation Counseling Strategies

Gain practical experience working with people who have physical disabilities, the elderly, veterans, adolescents, and families.

Become familiar with human development and issues specific to aging and disabilities.

Volunteer with agencies providing services to these populations such as Meals on Wheels, Project Live, etc.

Seek knowledge of assessment procedures and therapeutic recreational activities.

Obtain a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling to increase marketability (not required but preferred).

Research government and community resources available for those in need.

Expect to work on multidisciplinary teams.

Obtain certification as a rehabilitation counselor (CRC) through the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance Abuse Counseling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addictions counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral disorders counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual and group counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Substance Abuse Counseling Employers

- Hospitals
- Residential treatment facilities
- Drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs
- Outpatient facilities
- Group homes
- Community mental health organizations
- Private or group practices
- Employee Assistance Programs (EAP)
- Local, state, and federal government:
  - Department of Social Services
  - Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Correctional facilities
  - Juvenile detention facilities
  - Probation services
Substance Abuse Counseling Strategies

- Gain practical experience working with people who have alcohol and drug issues and/or behavioral disorders.
- Become familiar with assessment procedures and typical interventions.
- Volunteer at treatment centers, local hospitals, and/or other social service agencies to gain experience and demonstrate interest. Investigate government and community resources available for those in need.
- Attend community meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA).
- Seek knowledge of psychopharmacology and dual diagnosis issues.
- Obtain certification as a Master Addictions Counselor (MAC) through the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
Social Services

- Case management
- Program development
- Community education
- Administration and planning
- Advocacy
- Community relations
- Mental health services
- Volunteer coordination
- Research
- Grant writing
Social Services Employers

- Child guidance clinics
- Consulting firms
- Non-profit and social service organizations
- Research organizations
- Hospitals: military, psychiatric, VA, or general
- Health maintenance organizations
- Nursing homes
- Assisted living facilities

Local, state, and federal government:
- Department of Child and Family Services
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Justice
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Correctional facilities
Social Services Strategies

- Volunteer with a local social service or non-profit organization to test interests.
- Participate in community events to become familiar with local organizations and community resources.
- Learn to work well with different types of people from varying socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds.
- Develop a wide range of skills such as presenting, grant writing, and fundraising. Sometimes professionals in nonprofit organizations fill multiple roles in their jobs.
- Become familiar with government hiring procedures.
Child Welfare Employers

- Public or private child welfare agencies
- Local, state, and federal government:
  - Department of Children’s Services
  - Department of Human Services
  - Child Protective Services
  - Head Start
- Adoption agencies
- Foster care organizations
- Day care centers
- Recreational facilities (e.g., YMCA or YWCA)
Child Welfare
Strategies

Child welfare workers strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children through interventions and programming.

Volunteer at day care centers, children’s shelters, camps, YMCA/YWCA, Scouts, CASA, or other agencies that aid youth and children.

Take additional courses in child development or early childhood education.
Criminal Justice and Corrections Employers

- Prisons and correctional facilities
- Courts
- Police departments
- Probation and parole offices
- Victim services organizations
- Private treatment facilities
- Transitional living facilities and halfway houses
Criminal Justice and Corrections Strategies

Correctional workers focus on rehabilitating clients and assisting victims.

Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility or a victim services organization such as a sexual assault crisis center or family justice center.

Gain experience as a juvenile probation officer; many states allow reputable citizens to serve as volunteer officers.
Disability Services Employers

Community residential homes

State and local agencies:
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment programs
- One-Stop career centers

Medical facilities

Mental health organizations

Schools

Colleges and universities

Employment agencies
Human services workers specializing in this area help people with disabilities to adjust to and lead productive lives.

Volunteer at special needs camps, child care centers, schools, or hospitals to gain experience.

Learn about a variety of disabilities and accommodations.

Obtain specialized training in areas such as sign language or assistive technology for additional opportunities.

Earn a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling to qualify for more positions.
Gerontology Employers

- Hospitals
- Nursing and retirement homes
- Senior centers
- Assisted and independent living facilities
- Hospice
- Home healthcare agencies
- Community agencies serving the elderly
Gerontology involves promoting the well-being of older adults and supporting them and their families.

Become involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.

Join the American Society on Aging.

Supplement curriculum with course work in life span development and aging.

Obtain specialized training and credentials oriented toward gerontology.
Healthcare Employers

- Hospitals
- Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)
- Nursing homes
- Hospice programs
- Home healthcare agencies
- Community health centers
- Public health programs
- Social service organizations
- Outpatient clinics
- Transitional housing facilities
- Specialized camps/schools

Federal, state, and local government:
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Veterans Affairs
Healthcare Strategies

- Human services workers in healthcare facilitate the medical and emotional treatment of patients.
- Volunteer in health related settings such as hospitals or the American Red Cross to gain experience.
- Supplement curriculum with course work in public health or community health education.
- Gain membership in relevant professional associations.
Many undergraduate majors serve as good preparation to enter counseling professions. Sometimes even seemingly unrelated majors, such as communication studies or theatre, can work. If pursuing a graduate degree, some programs require certain undergraduate coursework while other programs are open to any undergraduate degree. Research requirements at schools of interest.

Graduate entrance exams are required for entry into a master’s or PhD program. Though most will require only the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), some may also require the GRE in Psychology.

Graduate programs should be accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) in order to ensure a smooth transition towards licensure or certification.

Most counseling PhD programs require a master’s degree in counseling or a related field and/or several years of experience for admission.

Many counseling positions require credentials as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in order to provide services or to go into private or group practice. Licensure can require an additional 2-3 years of supervised experience after graduation depending upon state requirements. Since licensure is state specific, most counselors choose to also pursue licensure as a National Certified Counselor (NCC) through the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).

Additional credentials may be required for specialized fields such as Marriage and Family Therapy, Career Counseling, Substance Abuse Counseling, or School Counseling. Refer to the NBCC or NCDA (for career counseling) and state licensure requirements to determine which credentials are needed.

Employment opportunities are expected to grow in each of the counseling areas due to changing legislation, expansion of services, increasing student enrollment, improved reimbursement from managed care companies, and decreased stigma surrounding seeking professional help.