



Master of Arts in Psychology: Clinical Counseling

The Citadel's Clinical Counseling master's program offers graduate education for those interested in becoming licensed professional counselors in the private sector or community agencies, including college counseling centers, hospitals, mental health, and social services agencies. The curriculum reflects current knowledge and perspectives concerning psychological counseling and human development needs of a diverse multicultural society.

Below, we have answered some frequently asked questions students have about our program. Please feel free to reach out to Dr. Genelle Sawyer, program director, at genelle.sawyer@citadel.edu, or refer to our webpage, citadel.edu/ccp, for answers to any additional questions you may have.

Why should I choose this program?

Training is based on psychological, evidence-based principles and emphasizes taking a scholarly approach to understanding client problems and developing intervention strategies. Students have the opportunity to complete their field placement experiences at a wide variety of organizations with a diverse range of clients and problems. Finally, our program has a strong reputation in the community and the field with our students successfully obtaining employment upon graduation, specifically 79% of graduates since 2019 obtained employment in the field prior to graduation and another 17% obtained employment within 3 months of graduation.

Is The Citadel Graduate College a military institution?

Students in The Citadel Graduate College (CGC) do not wear uniforms nor are they part of or participate in any of the military structure of the college that relates to cadets.

Is your program accredited?

The Clinical Counseling Program (CCP) is accredited by the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Counsel (MPCAC), and is scientifically-based in principles and theories of psychology. Training is guided by a scholarly-practitioner model, which emphasizes a scholarly approach to the applications of psychology to diverse populations and a wide range of problems.

Does your program meet licensure requirements for an LPC?

Our program coursework is consistent with requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor in the state of South Carolina. Our students have successfully obtained licensure in other states; however, licensure requirements vary from state to state.

How long does it take to complete the program?

Students who enroll full-time in the clinical counseling program (CCP) can complete the necessary coursework in three years. Some students will opt only to enroll part-time depending on their circumstance. The program must be completed within five years of your start date.

How successful are graduates at passing national licensure exams?

Graduates consistently navigate licensure with 100% of graduates reporting passing either the National Counselor Examination (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE).

Can students work while enrolled in the program?

Yes, many of our students work full- or part-time. The program is designed to be flexible with courses being held in the late afternoons/evenings. However, working full-time becomes challenging during the final year of the program when on practicum and internship in a mental health setting.

If I do not meet admissions criteria, will I still be considered for admission?

We consider the entire application and not simply test scores and GPA. Your application can be enhanced by volunteer and research experience, strong letters of recommendation, and a well-written and thoughtful personal statement. However, meeting all admissions criteria increases chance of acceptance.

If accepted, when can I start classes?

If accepted in the fall, students begin taking courses in the spring semester. If accepted in the spring, students may begin in either of the summer sessions or the fall semester.

When are classes offered?

Fall and spring courses occur one day a week, Monday through Thursday, from 4-6:45 pm or 7-9:45 pm. Summer classes are twice a week from 5:45-8:45 pm.

Are there opportunities for student employment?

Graduate assistantships are available for graduate students who are enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours. Work studies are available for graduate students who are enrolled in a minimum of 3 credit hours. These positions pay \$15 per hour and offer up to 20 hours per week. Many of our current students work in these positions.

How many credits do I need to take to be eligible for financial aid?

Students enrolled in 3 credit hours are eligible for part-time financial aid status. Students enrolled in 6 credit hours are eligible for full-time financial aid status. For deadlines, answers to questions, and other important information regarding financial aid, refer to the financial aid website at citadel.edu/financial-aid.

Where do students find employment after graduation?

Our graduates have obtained employment in diverse settings, including community mental health centers, college counseling centers, substance abuse programs, correctional facilities, and social service agencies. Most of our graduates complete licensure requirements in South Carolina or other states, and many pursue private clinical practice. In addition to clinical practice, some of our graduates pursue administrative or advocacy work in local, regional, and national organizations and non-profits.