

Graduate School Professional Programs

COUNSELING (COU)

Graduate Faculty:

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Adjunct Faculty:

Nancy Grant, M.S.W.; Alexis Greeves, M.A.; Ruth M. Schilling, M.A.; Rachel St. John, MD.

About the Department:

Gallaudet University's Department of Counseling, founded in 1971, prepares highly qualified M.A.-level counselors eligible for licensure as professional counselors in most states. The training provided in this department uniquely prepares graduates to work with individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, with or without additional disabilities, by developing a core set of competencies in all students with specializations in school and mental health counseling. Since 1971, the department has graduated and placed more than 700 outstanding counselors now working in a wide range of counseling settings throughout the United States.

The department offers the following M.A. programs:

1. M.A. in Mental Health Counseling
2. M.A. in School Counseling and Guidance (Full-time)
3. Combination M.A. in School Counseling with Deaf Students and a Certificate in Cultural Diversity and Human Services (Summers only)
4. Certificate in Cultural Diversity and Human Services

The programs of study are broadly designed to include formal classes and extensive supervised practicum and internship experiences leading to the master of arts degree. The curriculum includes courses from the departments of Counseling; ASL and Deaf Studies; Educational Foundations and Research; and Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences. Elective courses are also available through the Consortium

of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area. All counseling programs are open to deaf, hard of hearing, hearing, physically disabled, and physically able people who are eligible for admission to the Graduate School. Provisions are made to facilitate participation of deaf and hard of hearing students in all phases of the programs, via the use of sign language and notetakers.

In addition to the teaching faculty, a large number of outstanding professionals from the Washington, D.C., area lecture and participate in the training programs. Practicum sites are available on and off campus. They include mainstream, day, and residential schools for deaf students as well as public and private agencies serving deaf people. Internship sites are located around the country and include residential schools and postsecondary programs, community-based counseling centers, and mental health agencies.

Federal grant funds, stipends, and tuition assistance have been made available for students in the mental health counseling program through the Rehabilitation Services Administration, and for school counseling and guidance majors (including summers-only) through the U.S. Department of Education.

Successful communication with deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing clients who utilize sign language as their preferred mode of communication requires professional counselors to achieve a minimum ASL proficiency level. Therefore, all Department of Counseling students are expected to demonstrate a required level of proficiency in American Sign Language on the GU-ASLPI (Gallaudet University American Sign Language Proficiency Interview) before being allowed to begin fieldwork.

Mental Health Counseling

This program prepares counselors for placement in mental health agencies, facilities, and programs serving deaf people. Practicum and internship resources include state, local, and federal mental health agencies, addiction programs, psychiatric hospitals, and educational programs serving the needs of emotionally disturbed deaf children,

adolescents, and adults. The master's degree program suggests a minimum of 65 credit hours and requires two academic years and one summer semester to complete. The program offers students the opportunity to have a clinical or community counseling emphasis through the fieldwork placement.

Students from this program may participate in practicum activities with the Gallaudet University Mental Health Center. Students who undertake or intend to undertake a practicum experience with the MHC may not also receive clinical services from the center. Such students need to seek practitioners not associated with the MHC and would be responsible for the costs of such services. The MHC maintains a listing of outside service providers, many of whom have reduced fees for Gallaudet students. We recommend that students applying to this program carry health insurance with sufficient mental health benefits to cover the cost of such outside services.

In addition to the Graduate School requirements, the mental health counseling program requires nine undergraduate or graduate credit hours in psychology, including, a course in child development and one in abnormal psychology before entering the program.

The Mental Health Counseling Program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Counseling-Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Students are eligible to sit for the National Counselor Examination during their last semester of studies.

Admission Requirements for M.A. Program in Mental Health Counseling

Checklist of requirements for application to every Gallaudet University graduate program:

- Official transcripts of all undergraduate study, including evidence of having received a bachelor's degree from an accredited university. (Those applying during their final undergraduate year will be required to submit a final transcript after completion of their bachelor's degree and before enrolling in their first semester of graduate study.)
- Official transcripts of all graduate study.
- A minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a four-point scale) in all previous undergraduate and graduate study. (Occasionally, applicants with a GPA lower than 3.0 may be admitted conditionally upon the recommendation of the department.)
- An application fee of \$50.
- A completed graduate school application form.
- Goals statement.
- TOEFL scores for all international applicants.

Checklist of requirements specific to this program:

Are additional application materials required?

	Standardized Test Scores?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	References?	Three Letters
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reference Citing Sign Language Skills?	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Essay?	Yes, 3 Essays
	Resume?	No
	Writing Sample?	No
	Videotape of Signing and/or English?	No

Are there additional application requirements?

<input type="checkbox"/>	On-Campus Interview?	Highly recommended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Month of Interviews	Rolling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign Language Evaluation?	GU-ASLPI on enrollment
	English Evaluation?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Culture and Language Colloquium Required?	Highly recommended

Are there additional background requirements?

	Prior Master's Degree?	No
	Required Undergraduate Major?	No
	Recommended Undergraduate Major?	Psychology, Social Work
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite Coursework (Required)?	Child or Human Development Abnormal Psychology Three Additional Credits in Psychology
	Standardized Testing Substitute for Prerequisite?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Prior Coursework?	ASL I & II
	Prior Professional Experience?	No
	Prior Certification?	No
	Health Certification Requirements?	No
	Police or Other Background Check?	Possible

Application Deadlines and Program Scheduling

	Last Date to Submit Completed Application?	No Deadline
<input type="checkbox"/>	First Date for Consideration of Application?	November 15

	Summer Admission Possible?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall Admission Possible?	Yes
	Winter Admission Possible?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-time Study Possible?	Yes
	Summers-Only Study Possible?	No
	Weekend and Evening Study Possible?	No

School Counseling and Guidance

This program prepares school counselors for placement in educational settings serving deaf and hard of hearing children and deaf children with additional special needs. The program gives a mental health emphasis to the training of school counselors. The age range of deaf students with whom trainees work varies from preschool through postsecondary. The master’s degree consists of a minimum of 65 credit hours and requires two academic years to complete, including the summer between the first and second year of study.

A special summers-only track (60 credit hours) exists for current professionals who are seeking a career change or additional educational credentials. Preference is given to applicants having prior experience in educational programs serving deaf and hard of hearing people and to those with a degree in education to facilitate certification at the state level. Federal grant funding is provided to students for most tuition and room and board during three summer semesters.

Both programs of study are accredited by the National Council on Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs (NCATE) and the Council on Accreditation of Counseling-Related Education Programs (CACREP). In addition to the Graduate School requirements, the school counseling and guidance program requires undergraduate or graduate courses in child or human development and abnormal psychology, and one additional course in psychology (nine hours total).

Admission Requirements for M.A. Program in School Counseling and Guidance (Including Requirements for the Summer-Only Option)

Checklist of requirements for application to every Gallaudet University graduate program:

- Official transcripts of all undergraduate study, including evidence of having received a bachelor’s degree from an accredited university. (Those applying during their final undergraduate year will be required to submit a final

transcript after completion of their bachelor’s degree and before enrolling in their first semester of graduate study.)

- Official transcripts of all graduate study.
- A minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a four-point scale) in all previous undergraduate and graduate study. (Occasionally, applicants with a GPA lower than 3.0 may be admitted conditionally upon the recommendation of the department.)
- An application fee of \$50.
- A completed graduate school application form.
- Goals statement.
- TOEFL scores for all international applicants.

Checklist of requirements specific to these programs:

Are additional application materials required?

	Standardized Test Scores?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	References?	Three Letters
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reference Citing Sign Language Skills?	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Essay?	Yes, 3 Essays
	Resume?	No
	Writing Sample?	No
	Videotape of Signing and/or English?	No

Are there additional application requirements?

<input type="checkbox"/>	On-Campus Interview?	Highly Recommended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Month of Interviews	Rolling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign Language Evaluation?	GU-ASLPI on Enrollment
	English Evaluation?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Culture and Language Colloquium Required?	Highly Recommended

Are there additional background requirements?

	Prior Master’s Degree?	No
	Required Undergraduate Major?	Psychology, Social Work
	Recommended Undergraduate Major?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite Coursework Required for full-time students?	Child or Human Development Abnormal Psychology Three Additional Credits in Psychology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite Coursework Required for summers-only students?	General Psychology Abnormal Psychology Audiology
	Standardized Testing Substitute for Prerequisite?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Prior Coursework?	ASL I and II

<input type="checkbox"/>	Prior Professional Experience?	Experience Working With Children Desired
	Prior Certification?	No
	Health Certification Requirements?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Police or Other Background Check?	Prior to Practicum Placement

Application Deadlines and Program Scheduling

	Last Date to Submit Completed Application?	No Deadline
<input type="checkbox"/>	First Date for Consideration of Application?	November 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Summer Admission Possible?	Only for Summer-Only Option
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall Admission Possible?	Yes (except Summers-Only)
	Winter Admission Possible?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-time Study Possible?	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Summers-Only Study Possible?	Yes
	Weekend and Evening Study Possible?	No

Core Program of Study

Here is a listing of core courses required of students majoring in either school counseling and guidance or mental health counseling. Students usually take 12-15 credit hours per semester.

Required Courses for Mental Health Counseling Majors

Semester I - Fall

- COU 710 Orientation to the Profession of Mental Health Counseling (3)
- COU 717 Lifespan Development (3)
- COU 721 Foundations in Helping Skills I (3)
- COU 732 Theories and Approaches in Counseling and Psychotherapy (3)
- EDF 730 Multicultural Foundations of Education (3)

Semester II - Spring

- COU 709 Psychosocial Aspects of Deafness (3)
- COU 714 Adult Psychopathology (3)
- COU 716 Psychopharmacology for Counselors (1)

- COU 740 Practicum in Counseling Deaf People (3-4)*
- COU 748 Principles of Assessment in Counseling (3)
- COU 753 Group Psychotherapy (3)

Summer Session

- COU 728 The Cycle of Substance Abuse (3)
- COU 736 Organization and Administration of Human Services (3)
- COU 740 Practicum in Counseling Deaf People (3-4)*

Semester III - Fall

- EDF 720 Introduction to Basic Concepts and Methods of Educational Human Services (3)
- COU 715 Family Therapy (3)
- COU 734 Lifestyles and Career Development (3)
- COU 740 Practicum in Counseling Deaf People (3-4)*
- COU 768 Techniques and Skills in Psychotherapy (3)

Semester IV - Spring

- COU 790 Internship in Counseling Deaf People (8-12)*

Required Courses for School Counseling and Guidance Majors

Semester I - Fall

- COU 712 Orientation to the Profession of School Guidance Counseling (3)
- COU 717 Lifespan Development (3)
- COU 721 Foundations in Helping Skills I (3)
- COU 732 Theories and Approaches in Counseling and Psychotherapy (3)
- EDF 730 Multicultural Foundations of Education (3)

Semester II - Spring

- COU 709 Psychosocial Aspects of Deafness (3)
- COU 748 Principles of Assessment in Counseling (3)
- COU 751 Group Counseling with Deaf Students in Schools (4)
- COU 758 Counseling Deaf Students with Additional Special Needs (3)
- COU 716 Psychopharmacology for Counselors (1)
- COU 740 Practicum in Counseling Deaf People (3-4)

Summer Session

- COU 702 Play Therapy (3)
- COU 703 Substance Prevention for Children and Youth (3)

*Each student will be required to take a Gallaudet University American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (GU-ASLPI) and attain a rating of Intermediate before being allowed to enter COU 740: Practicum. A rating of Intermediate Plus must be attained before beginning COU 790: Internship.

Semester III - Fall

- HSL 707 Audiology and Hearing Technology for Educators and Counseling Professionals (2)
- COU 734 Lifestyles and Career Development (3)
- COU 737 Organization and Administration of School Guidance Programs (3)
- COU 740 Practicum in Counseling Deaf People (3-4)*
- EDF 720 Introduction to Basic Concepts and Methods of Educational Research (3)
- COU 715 Family Therapy (3)

Semester IV - Spring

- COU 790 Internship in Counseling Deaf People (8-12)*

- COU 790 Internship in Counseling Deaf People (8-12)

Third Spring

- COU 716 Psychopharmacology for Counselors (1)
- EDF 720 Introduction to Basic Concepts and Methods of Educational Research (3)

Fourth Summer

- COU 715 Family Therapy (3)
- COU 773 Multicultural Interviewing and Assessment (3)
- COU 774 Multicultural Strategies and Interventions (3)

Total Number of Core Hours Required: 69

Required Courses for Summers-Only Combination Masters Degree in School Counseling with Deaf Students and a Certificate in Cultural Diversity and Human Services

First Summer

- COU 712 Orientation to the Profession of School Guidance Counseling (3)
- COU 721 Foundations in Helping Skills I (3)
- COU 770 Diversity Foundations I (3)
- COU 771 Diversity Foundations 2 (3)

First Fall

- COU 772 Cultural Diversity Encounter (3)

First Spring

- COU 717 Lifespan Development (3)

Second Summer

- COU 709 Psychosocial Aspects of Deafness (3)
- COU 732 Theories and Approaches in Counseling and Psychotherapy (3)
- COU 751 Group Counseling with Deaf Students in Schools (4)

Second Fall

- COU 740 Practicum in Counseling Deaf People (3-4)*

Second Spring

- COU 703 Substance Prevention for Children and Youth (3)

Third Summer

- COU 734 Lifestyles and Career Development (3)
- COU 737 Organization and Administration of School Guidance Programs (3)
- COU 748 Principles of Assessment in Counseling (3) Qualifying Examination

Third Fall

Certificate Program in Cultural Diversity and Human Services

Effective multicultural work requires practitioners to develop continuing awareness of self and increased knowledge and practical understanding of others' world views and consequent behaviors. Work with multicultural clients and communities requires skills for engaging increasingly diverse clients, colleagues and organizations. Multiculturalism includes deaf culture as one of many cultural reference groups.

The Certificate program is a two year, 15 credit program of studies. Students complete two courses, over a two week period, during each of two consecutive summers. In addition, students complete a three-credit field experience (cultural encounter) during the academic year between their two summers of study.

This certificate program offers opportunities for study on three inter-related areas. These are: (1) to study cultural identity and its implications from theoretical, personal and experiential perspectives; (2) to provide intensive student-focused learning about specific multicultural issues and groups utilizing a wide range of learning techniques; and (3) to address complex multicultural approaches, skills, tools, resources, and alliance-building in handling multiculturally competent assessments and interventions. The application of this knowledge is with clients aged birth through young adults and their families in which deafness/hearing loss and cultural diversity are present. Areas (1) and (2) focus on increased multicultural awareness and knowledge base; area (3) focuses on skill development.

The certificate program includes five 3-credit courses.

Summer I: Consecutive classes, M-F

- COU 770 Diversity Foundations 1 (3 credits, first week)
- COU 771 Diversity Foundations 2 (3 credits, second week)

Fall

- COU 772 Cultural Diversity Encounter (online discussions and supervision) (3 credits)
Includes a de-briefing of this experience over the mid-winter weekend (Martin Luther King weekend).

Summer II : Consecutive classes, M-F

- COU 773 Multicultural Interviewing and Assessment (3 credits, first week)
- COU 774 Multicultural Strategies and Interventions (3 credits, second week, plus Saturday morning culminating activity and evaluation)