

Counseling and Community Psychology (M.A.)

Degree Type

M.A.

Mission Statement:

The graduate programs in psychology at Russell Sage College prepare students for work as mental health counselors and community psychologists. The programs have been designed for students who have made a commitment to advance social justice, to promote the well-being of individuals, families and groups with varying cultural traditions, and to develop change strategies to address social issues in diverse communities through the application of psychological principles, research and methods.

The 60-credit program in Counseling and Community Psychology addresses expected competencies for mental health counselors working with individuals, groups and/or families. The program has been registered with New York State Education Department as meeting the educational qualifications leading to licensure as a Mental Health Counselor in New York State. Students learn how to provide evaluation, assessment, treatment and consultation services in community agencies serving adults, children and families.

Students enrolled in the Counseling and Community Psychology Masters Program may also elect to pursue a Certificate in Forensic Mental Health.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general admission requirements for Sage Graduate School, applicants must:

- have a minimum undergraduate GPA 3.0 for regular admission to the program.
- have completed undergraduate courses in Social Science Statistics and History & Systems of Psychology (not required for undergraduate psychology majors)
- have taken at least three undergraduate courses in Behavioral Sciences (for non-psychology majors)
- schedule an interview with the Graduate Program Director, following submission of all application materials.

Degree Requirements

1. Completion of all required and elective courses (60 credit hours).
2. Completion of a community psychology externship (3 credit hours) and a mental health counseling internship (6 credit hours). The completion of 45 credit hours is necessary before beginning the externship placement. All *required* content courses must be completed before beginning the mental health counseling internship.
3. Completion of a thesis (3 credit hours) or research seminar (3 credit hours).

Program Summary

- All courses are three (3) credits

I. Core Counseling Requirements

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 525	Professional Issues: Mental Health Counseling, Ethics & Multicultural Competence	
PSY 571	Theories of Counseling	
PSY 567	Group Counseling Dynamics	
PSY 588	Counseling Skills	
PSY 543	Career Counseling	

II. Core Community Psychology Requirements

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 551	Foundations of Community Psychology	
PSY 562	Community-Based Health and Well-Being	
PSY 570	Developmental Psychology	
PSY 542	Psychopathology	
PSY 620	Community Based Prevention & Intervention	
PSY 625	Program Monitoring and Evaluation	

III. Research Methods Sequence

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 563	Behavioral Research: Methods & Analysis	
PSY 572	Assessment in Counseling	

IV (A). Certificate in Forensic Mental Health

- Students completing a certificate in Forensic Mental Health must complete the following:

Item #	Title	Credits
FMH/PSY 505	Introduction to Forensic Mental Health	
FMH/PSY 515	Evaluation & Treatment of Adult Offenders	
FMH/PSY 520	Evaluation & Treatment of Court Involved Youth	
FMH 527	Family and Juvenile Law	

IV (B). Electives

- Select three of the following electives with advisement (students NOT in forensic certificate):
 - Note: Other electives may be chosen with advisement.

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 547	Bereavement & Loss Counseling	
PSY 548	Counseling/Child Psychopathology	
PSY 549	Introduction to Play Therapy	
FMH 592	Alcoholism/Drug Addiction: Vulnerabilities,Dynamics, and Problems	
PSY 599	Selected Topics/Psych	
PSY 612	Advanced Play Therapy I	
PSY 613	Advanced Play Therapy II	
NSG 520	Palliative Care & Chronic Illness	
HED 570	Stress Management Techniques	

V. Community Placements

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 606	Counseling Practicum	
PSY 610	Internship in Counseling I	
PSY 611	Internship in Counseling II	

VI. Capstone Work

Item #	Title	Credits
	PSY 687 and PSY 689 or PSY 690	3-4

Additional Information

In addition to the above course requirements, student are expected to:

- achieve a grade of B or better in all Core Counseling Requirements.
- demonstrate effective professional behavior, including effective interpersonal skills, sound judgment and ethical behavior.
- complete workshop on Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse Maltreatment, or the equivalent (offered through The Sage Education Department as NCR 070).
- attend at least two (2) professional workshops/conferences.

NOTE: Students are strongly encouraged to meet periodically with their advisor for program planning.

Total Credits	60
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