



Master of Education with Specialization in

# Mental Health Counseling (Puerto Rico)

- CIP code 511508 • 60 credits • 6 terms full time
- Program approved by Puerto Rico Board of Postsecondary Institutions

**Program Description** — Mental Health Counseling provides graduate level professional training for mental health counseling licensure, with a strong commitment to an evolving multicultural society.

**In Puerto Rico** — The School of Psychology and Counseling (SOPC) monitors the mental health licensing standards of both Massachusetts and Puerto Rico. The course work and field experience offered in Puerto Rico conform to Puerto Rico regulations and licensure requirements.

**Learning Outcomes** — Students learn and apply the principles and best practices of counseling, including various psychotherapeutic techniques for work with individuals, couples, families and groups; group counseling, and consultation to organizations and communities. They study human development, dysfunctional behavior and mental illness. They learn to assess, diagnose and treat within the scope of the counselor's practice, and become able to utilize community resources for referrals. They learn and apply strategies for prevention and treatment of substance abuse, domestic violence, the spectrum of mental illnesses; and learn to use psychoeducational techniques aimed to prevent such disorders. They study research design and methodology. They become familiar with state regulations applicable to mental health practice and licensure.

## Academic Requirements

Mental health core courses, practicum and field experience . . . . .	42
Psychology & Counseling electives . . . . .	18
CCP 592 Exit Portfolio . . . . . non-credit	
Total . . . . .	60

The program provides the academic preparation for professional counseling licensure in Puerto Rico. The program of study may not exceed 60 credits.

## Field Experience

The field experience includes practicum and internship under a qualified supervisor, conforming to Puerto Rico regulations and Law 147 of 2002 for Professional Counseling.

**Admission requirements:** Bachelor's degree and other School of Psychology & Counseling requirements.

**Program chair:** Hugh Ferguson, Ph.D.  
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(All courses @ 3 credits.)

**Courses should be taken in sequence.** Term 1 courses should be completed before term 2 courses. A maximum of 4 courses may be taken each term.

### Term 1

- CCP 622 Ethics & Professional Issues for School Counselors & Mental Health Practitioners
- CCP 540 Personality & Counseling Theory
- CCP 550 Rogerian Person-Centered Therapy: Basic Counseling Skills (includes assessment of readiness for field experience)
- CCP 630 Human Development Across the Lifespan

### Term 2

- CCP 615 Psychopathology
- CCP 650 Group Dynamics/Group Counseling & Human Systems
- CCP 518 Research Design & Evaluation
- CCP 639 Career Development

### Term 3

- CCP 699 Mental Health Counseling Jurisprudence Seminar (0 credits)
- CCP 520 Field Experience I (req. CCP 550, CCP 699),
- OR BOTH:** CCP 522 Pre-Internship Clinical Skills (req. CCP 550, CCP 699)
- CCP 524 Pre-Internship Supervision Laboratory
- CCP 636 Psychological Testing
- CCP 754 Perspectives in Cross-Cultural Counseling
- One elective or concentration course

### Term 4

- CCP 641 Field Experience II
- Two or three electives or concentration courses

### Term 5

- CCP 700 Field Experience III
- Two or three elective or concentration courses

### Term 6

- CCP 701 Field Experience IV or one elective (if approved substitution has been granted by program chair)
- One elective or concentration course

## Elective Concentrations

The core program provides the academic preparation for mental health counseling licensure. Students may choose one or two concentrations to earn additional credentials and knowledge, but also have the option to take a blend of elective courses without completing a concentration. The entire program of study may not exceed 60 credits. See *Elective Concentrations* on page 255 for concentration courses.

- Addictions Counseling — CADAC, LADC
- Trauma Studies