



# Mental Health Counselor

**Mental health counselors** train to treat people with mental and emotional disorders and other behavioral challenges.

Examples of activities:

- provide mental health counseling & psychotherapy
- write treatment plans
- perform mental health assessments and evaluations
- consult with and make referrals to other providers
- develop patient psychosocial histories
- document patient progress
- implement discharge plans and aftercare services
- develop and advocate for mental health programs

## Education

Complete a master’s or doctoral degree in a [Department-registered](#) Mental Health Counseling licensure program, or the equivalent as determined by the Department.

## Experience

Complete at least 3,000 hours of supervised practice of Mental Health Counseling, including direct work with clients in an acceptable setting.

## Examination

National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination

- ▶ Visit the [Office of the Professions](#) for a listing of all options and requirements.



## Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$ 42,150 in the US, \$ 38,530 in NY
- Salary range: \$ 27,720 -\$50,090
- Projected growth: much faster than average

## Where Could I Work?

- Hospitals, nursing homes, and shelters
- Community agencies and mental health centers
- Schools and colleges
- Businesses and private practice
- Behavioral health agencies and programs

## Your Interests and Abilities

- Human development
- Counseling theory and techniques
- Diversity and cultural competency

## Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Dependability
- Listening and communication
- Ability to remain calm

## What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options!

Explore a free career tool at [mynextmove.org/explore/ip](http://mynextmove.org/explore/ip)

**Tip:** try searching for mentoring programs—talk to a mental health counselor about what they do and how they got started!