



Careers in the Licensed Professions

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

Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$ 56,375
- Salary range: \$ 40,584 - \$73,659
- 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

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

