What can I do with a Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in General Mental Health Counseling?

Use this resource to research some of the career options associated with this degree and specialization. Please refer to the User Guide for more detailed tips on how to make the most of this resource.

About this specialization

The CACREP-accredited master's General Mental Health Counseling specialization is designed to prepare learners to assume positions as mental health counselors serving individuals and groups in institutional, public, or private practice settings. Built on CACREP counseling standards, the curriculum emphasizes assessment, diagnosis, and treatment; intervention; and systemic perspectives of working with children and adolescents, couples, and families. Learners engage in academic study and clinical training during which they demonstrate the established standards and ethics of professional counseling practice, including awareness and sensitivity to the complex mental health needs of a multicultural society. This specialization requires course work and clinical experience.

Related job titles to explore‡

The sample job titles below represent a range of options for professionals with this degree and specialization. While some titles represent entry-level positions, others may require previous experience in the field.

- Behavioral health counselor
- Counselor/vocational counselor
- Licensed professional counselor
- Licensed MHC
- Licensed professional clinical counselor
- Educational counselor
- Lifestyle and development coach
- Mental health counselor
- Substance abuse counselor
- Therapist
- Adjunct or part-time faculty
- Full-time faculty
- Writer
- Researcher
- Grant writer

Capella University cannot guarantee licensure, endorsement, certification, authorization, other professional credential or salary advancement. State regulations and professional credential standards vary. It is the learner's responsibility to understand and comply with requirements for their states and professional associations. For more information on licensure, see the Licensure section on the School's website.

Graduates of this program are not eligible for licensure in South Carolina. Learners residing in South Carolina should check with the state licensing agency for specific requirements for professional licensure.

‡These are examples intended to serve as a general guide. Because many factors determine what position an individual may attain, Capella cannot guarantee that a graduate will secure any specific job title.

Note: Most positions require licensure and/or other designations. We encourage you to research requirements for your job target and career goals.
Related employment settings to explore

Professionals with this degree and specialization may work in a variety of industries and settings. The following list of employment settings is not exhaustive, but is intended to provide an introduction to the opportunities in this field.

Mental health
- Community mental health center
- Employee assistance program
- Family service agency
- Hospital (day treatment and inpatient)
- Psychiatric hospital
- Residential treatment center
- Mental health agency
- Medical/healthcare clinic
- Group home
- Hospice program
- Nursing home

Educational institution
- Land-based or online college or university
- Community college
- Public or private school

Private sector
- Private practice
- Group practice
- Consulting
- Self-employed writer/researcher

Criminal justice/corrections
- Halfway house for criminal offenders
- Prison/jail
- Probation department

Management/administration
- Employee assistance program
- Family service agency
- Federal, state and local government
- Social service agency

Samples of associated skills

- Applying mental health counseling theories and research to contemporary clinical practice
- Delivering culturally and ethnically sensitive counseling/therapy services to clients
- Thinking and writing critically in the mental health counseling discipline and professional practice
- Applying the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics to professional behavior and practice
- Communicating with sensitivity, understanding, and respect in all professional interactions
- Aligning clinical practice and professional development with state and national standards for mental health counselors
Sources for job listings

Explore specific job postings to clarify your career goals, better understand the required skills and experience, customize your job search documents, or target your job search.

- American Counseling Association Job Center
  www.counseling.org/CareerCenter

- National Board for Certified Counselors Job Search
  http://jobboard.nbcc.org/jobseeker/search/results

- USAJOBS
  www.usajobs.gov

- Idealist
  www.idealist.org

- Indeed.com
  www.indeed.com

- SocialService.com
  www.socialservice.com

- American Mental Health Counselors Association Career Center
  http://careers.amhca.org

- HigherEdJobs
  www.higheredjobs.com

- LinkUp
  www.linkup.com

- LinkedIn
  www.linkedin.com

Professional associations & industry information

Utilize professional associations to gain familiarity with the field, learn about current issues and industry trends, identify opportunities to get involved, make professional connections, and contribute your subject matter expertise. Consider joining state or local chapters to meet professionals in your region.

- American Counseling Association
  www.counseling.org

- American Mental Health Counselors Association
  www.amhca.org

- National Board for Certified Counselors
  www.nbcc.org

- O*Net Occupational Information Network
  www.onetonline.org

- Wall Street Journal Career Journal
  www.careerjournal.com

Salary information

- JobSmart Salary Survey
  www.jobstar.org

- Occupational Outlook Handbook
  www.bls.gov

- Salary.com
  www.salary.com

- NACE Salary Calculator
  www.jobsearchintelligence.com/NACE/jobseekers/salary-calculator.php
The Career Center assists learners and alumni in developing and implementing their career management goals resulting in measurable career outcomes. Career counselors serve learners and alumni in all Capella University schools and degree programs. Services are free of charge to learners and alumni.

iGuide Career Center
This comprehensive career site contains a wealth of information on career planning, job searching, resume and CV writing, interviewing, and more.

Career Connection
Career Connection allows users to search for jobs, research employers, or apply for jobs with employers who are interested in recruiting Capella learners and alumni. In addition to the jobs posted in the Capella Network of employers, users can extend their search and find additional employment opportunities through a national network of employers.

Career counseling and job search advising
Career counselors consult with learners and alumni individually by phone and e-mail.

Resume and curriculum vitae (CV) review
Career Center staff members are trained in resume and CV critique. The online Career Center in iGuide provides sample resumes, CVs, and cover letters to help learners and alumni get started. When the draft is ready, Career Center staff work with the learner or graduate to transform the documents into effective self-marketing tools.

On-demand tutorials
Recorded interactive media pieces are created specifically for Capella’s learners, alumni, and prospective learners. The interactive elements provide you opportunities to work with the material in a meaningful way and make connections to your experiences and situations. Because they are recorded, you can access them at your convenience.

Career seminars
The Career Center offers free, five-day seminars, which are facilitated by Career Counselors in the Capella courseroom and are designed for learners enrolled in all specializations.

- **Career Exploration and Planning** seminar focuses on articulating skills, interests, and work values; gaining a better understanding of target industries and professions; and creating an action plan to move toward the desired career goal.
- **Effective Job Search Strategies** seminar focuses on specific job search strategies to help you meet your short-term employment goals, as well as strategies for managing your career over the long-term.

Visit the online Career Center to learn more about services and resources available to help you reach your career goals.