Students in Pace University’s new Ph.D. program in mental health counseling will have a unique opportunity to become leaders in this emerging profession. As a doctoral student, you will help to advance the field of mental health counseling by building research-based knowledge. Our Ph.D. graduates will become leaders in their field, by learning the skills to advocate for their clients and as well as for the profession.

Graduates of the program will become known for specializations in such evidence-based areas as grief counseling, substance-abuse counseling, positive psychotherapy and counseling. You will be prepared to function with expertise in these areas as researchers, counselor educators, clinical service providers, and clinical supervisors in the mental health counseling field.

This program will provide students with the foundation and sophistication for research in areas including evidence-based treatment, investigation of new treatment modalities, outcome studies, counselor training and professional identity, and related topics. This program is offered on the Pleasantville campus only.

---

**Application Process**

1. **Applicants must have earned:**
   - a master’s degree in mental health counseling with a curriculum equivalent to that of the Pace University graduate program in mental health counseling;
   - must have completed a psychology statistics class within the last 5 years;
   - a graduate-level GPA of 3.6 or higher.

2. **Applicants must meet one of the following requirements:**
   - be eligible for the New York State limited permit in mental health counseling in New York State;
   - have obtained a limited permit in New York State;
   - be licensed in mental health counseling in New York State;
   - be licensed in mental health counseling in another state.

3. **Applicants must submit:**
   - three letters of recommendation, two of which must be academic in nature;
   - a personal statement; i.e., a narrative of his or her academic, research, and professional experiences which also includes his/her research and professional goals and aspirations;
   - all official transcripts from both undergraduate and graduate degree programs;
   - both General and Psychology GRE scores, taken within the previous five years. Mean GRE scores are estimated to be at the 600-650 level.

4. **Students who substantially meet the above requirements will be invited to an interview with the departmental admissions screening committee.**

   - Master’s-level students in mental health counseling, or a closely-related field, may apply after they have completed 48 graduate credits with a GPA of 3.6 and have also met the requirements listed above.
   - All master’s-level coursework will be evaluated for transfer credit on an individual basis.

   - Students must complete a minimum of 60 credits at Pace University. Students applying from masters in mental health counseling programs other than Pace University must complete 15 credits at Pace in addition to the 45 credits indicated in the curriculum outline below.

   - Students who have only completed a bachelor’s degree and are interested in the doctoral program must, upon completion of their bachelor’s degree, first apply for the M.S. in Mental Health Counseling and then separately apply for the Ph.D. program.

   - The Office of Graduate Admissions provides specific requirements and deadlines for each year on their Web site.
OUTLINE OF PHASED COMPETENCIES

BEFORE THE START OF STUDIES: DOCTORAL STUDENT ORIENTATION PROGRAM
Pre-coursework seminar and MHC 731 Theories & Methods of Counselor Education

In order to facilitate a student-centered learning environment, each new doctoral cohort will work together with faculty to develop and present a counselor education model and support program. An intensive seminar will be arranged during the summer prior to beginning coursework for new students to:

A. develop outlines for research, supervision, leadership and professional orientation;
B. identify content-related areas;
C. discuss project topics to be continued in MHC 731 as part of the requirements for this course.

DURING THE FIRST SEMESTER: DEVELOPMENT OF AN EPORTFOLIO
MHC 731 Theories & Methods of Counselor Education and throughout the program.

Each doctoral student will develop professional curriculum vitae.
A. The ePortfolio support of Dyson College will be introduced in the first semester in MHC 731.
B. Students will update their ePortfolios on an ongoing basis.
C. Students will submit their ePortfolios along with their dissertation at the end of their program.

ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY FOR THE Ph.D.
At the end of the first semester, all students will be required to pass a comprehensive written examination in order to attain formal candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. The examination will be scheduled at the conclusion of the fall semester and again in January for re-takes. A second failure will result in dismissal from the program and appeal will not be considered.

DURING THE SECOND SEMESTER: PREPARATION OF A PROGRAM OF STUDIES
Each doctoral student will prepare a program of studies (in consultation with a faculty member) that reflects the major requirements of his or her program. The program of study should include the sequence and the time span that will be used as an expectation for completion of the doctoral program.

DURING THE THIRD SEMESTER: DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION PLAN
MHC 830 Research Design: Special Topics Seminar

Each doctoral student will write a comprehensive paper that addresses his/her developmental action plan. The plan consists of the following:
A. formulating a line of research that the student plans to pursue which directly contributes to the current direction of the profession of mental health counseling and advances and clarifies emerging areas in the field. This includes a list of key references that support the research interest(s);
B. identifying at least two (2) professional associations related to the student’s interests and a brief description how to develop an active participation in those associations.
C. outlining four (4) behavioral objectives that reflect the overall developmental action plan.
These include:
1. participation in professional presentations;
2. publications;
3. research activities;
4. mentoring.

THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL
MHC 831 Doctoral Dissertation

Each student will develop a research proposal, begin to finalize the dissertation committee, and make a successful presentation to the committee before the completion of the MHC 831 course. The successful completion of this course will fulfill the requirement of the oral comprehensive exam.

FINAL SEMESTER: DISSERTATION DEFENSE
MHC 832 Doctoral Colloquium

A. Before submitting an application for a dissertation defense, each student will attend another student’s defense and submit a reaction paper.

B. The dissertation committee will be comprised of doctoral-level members:
   a. the adviser (chair of the committee);
   b. two dissertation committee members, one of whom may be from outside the department
   c. The dissertation defense will consist of:
      a. presentation by the student;
      b. questions posed by an examining committee;
      c. the dissertation defense will be conducted when the dissertation committee chair agrees that all criteria have been met.
   D. Final acceptance of the dissertation will be determined by the full committee following defense.

The committee may:
   a. accept with no revisions;
   b. accept with minor revisions (corrections of grammatical errors; clarifications of concepts or methods; additions of short sections). The adviser/committee chair will be responsible for deciding on the acceptability of any revisions and give other committee members a written statement that revisions have been completed.
   c. major revisions required: the dissertation must go through the defense process again. This step will be taken if there are major theoretical or methodological problems with the dissertation. A candidate who does not successfully pass a second defense may be required to withdraw from the program;
   d. unacceptable: The dissertation requires major revisions and the defense clearly indicates that the candidate is incapable of such revisions.

CONTINUING REGISTRATION FOR THE DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUM
(MHC 832) will be required to maintain matriculation every semester (fall, spring, summer) until the successful completion of the dissertation and its defense.
Completion of the program must occur within 7 years.

OUTLINE OF CURRICULUM
Students who have completed the requirements of the 60-credit Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling program and meet all admission requirements may apply for admission to the doctoral program. An additional 45 credits of coursework and a doctoral dissertation are required for the degree, as described below. Students must also pass a written qualifying examination at the conclusion of the first fall semester to Advance to Candidacy for the Ph.D. degree.

Year 1 Fall (12 credits)
MHC 705 Statistics & Research Design I (4 cr.)
MHC 731 Theories & Methods of Counselor Education (4 cr.)
MHC 723 Applied Social Psychology (4 cr.)

ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY FOR THE Ph.D.
At the end of this semester, all students will be required to pass a comprehensive written examination in order to attain formal candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. The examination will be scheduled at the conclusion of the fall semester and again in January for re-takes. A second failure will result in dismissal from the program and appeal will not be considered.

Year 1 Spring (12 credits)
MHC 732 Theories & Practice of Counselor Education (4 cr.)
MHC 706 Statistics & Research Design II (4 cr.)
MHC 830 Research Design: Special Topics Seminar (4 cr.)

Year 2 Fall (11 credits)
MHC 733 Leadership & Advocacy in the Counseling Profession (4 cr.)
MHC 831 Doctoral Dissertation Seminar (4 cr.)
Elective (3 cr.)

Year 2 Spring (10 credits)
MHC 832 Doctoral Dissertation Seminar (4 cr.)
Elective (3 cr.)
Elective (3 cr.)