PhD IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
Doctoral Degree Program 2014
Westchester
Use this unique opportunity to become a leader in the emerging profession of mental health counseling.

Pace University's PhD in Mental Health Counseling program is designed to train mental health counselors to become leaders in this emerging field by:

- **Preparing counselors** to conduct research that will further the knowledge base of the profession.
- **Training counselors** in advanced clinical and supervisory skills.
- **Fostering the next generation of leaders** who will be teachers and advocates for the mental health counseling profession across the country.

**A prestigious degree that will help you advance your career.**
Be among one of the first to earn this forward-looking doctoral degree.

- **Stand out from the competition**—If you are in private practice as a mental health counselor, a doctoral degree will enhance your status as a clinician, as well as your depth of knowledge, which will give you an advantage in this emerging field.

- **Advance your career**—If you are a clinical supervisor, this degree will help you to advance in your career.

- **Is higher education your calling?**—If you are interested in a career in higher education, a PhD is required. This degree will help you to get ahead of your peers and stand out from other candidates competing for these coveted positions.
Program Overview

The PhD in Mental Health Counseling program provides you with the foundation and sophistication for research in areas such as evidence-based treatment, investigation of new treatment modalities, program evaluation, counselor training and professional identity, and related topics in counseling preparation. As a doctoral student, you will help to advance the field of mental health counseling by building research-based knowledge.

The program builds on our strong, widely-respected master’s-level program to prepare students to become high-caliber researchers and professionals. With the assistance of faculty mentors, graduates of the program will develop specialization in an area of mutual interest, including:

- Evidence-based grief and trauma counseling
- Substance-abuse counseling
- Positive psychotherapy
- Multicultural counseling

The program is small and selective—accepting approximately 10 students per academic year. Small class settings enable meaningful interaction with faculty and fellow students. This doctoral program is open only to applicants with master’s degrees in mental health counseling or a closely-related field.

Data from the Department of Labor shows that job growth in the mental health counseling sector is expected to grow significantly—by 37 percent—from 2010 to 2020 as health insurance companies increasingly cover counseling services and as the population grows overall.
Work with Professors Who Are Top Professionals in the Field

At Pace, you will not simply learn research, you will do research. Sharing their time and knowledge, faculty mentors will work closely with you as you develop your own research ideas and projects in an atmosphere that stresses collaboration rather than competition.

You will have the opportunity to be mentored by faculty with recognized expertise and published research in a host of different areas, such as bereavement, counselor training, lifespan development, multicultural awareness, resilience, self-determination, subjective well-being, and trauma.

Whether it’s assisting on research projects with other institutions, supervising mental health counselor trainees, or teaching a course, your experiences in the program will be rich and varied. Moreover, monthly symposiums will allow you to expand your network as you meet clinicians and researchers from other renowned facilities and universities. In essence, the faculty at Pace consider you not just a student, but also a colleague.

“The program will enrich our graduates’ ability to work successfully with clients and to develop new ways to treat mental health conditions that have the potential to significantly advance the field of mental health counseling.”

— Rostyslaw Robak, PhD
Department Chair and Professor of Psychology
Application Process

1. All 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
   - 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 (3) letters of recommendation, two (2) of which must be academic in nature
   - A personal statement; i.e., a narrative of his/her academic, research-based, and professional experiences, which also include his/her research and professional goals and aspirations
   - All official transcripts from both undergraduate and graduate degree programs
   - GRE scores taken within the last five years

4. Students who substantially meet the above requirements will be invited to an interview with the department’s admission screening committee

In addition:
   - 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 who have completed only a bachelor’s degree and are interested in the doctoral program must, upon completion of their bachelor’s degree, first apply to Pace’s MS in Mental Health Counseling and then separately apply for the PhD program
   - The Office of Graduate Admission provides specific requirements and deadlines for each year on their website. These requirements and deadlines can be found at www.pace.edu/grad

For more information or to apply, visit www.pace.edu/PHDMHC.
Curriculum Outline

Students who have completed the requirements of the 60-credit MS in Mental Health Counseling program and meet all admission requirements may apply for admission to the doctoral program. An additional 50 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 year to advance to candidacy for the PhD degree.

**Year 1 Fall (12 credits)**

- MHC 705  Statistics and Research Design I  4
- MHC 731  Theories and Methods of Counselor Education  4
- MHC 723  Applied Social Psychology and Social Policy  4

**Year 1 Spring (12 credits)**

- MHC 732  Theories and Practice of Counselor Supervision  4
- MHC 706  Statistics and Research Design II  4
- MHC 830  Research Design: Special Topics Seminar  4

**Advancement to Candidacy for the PhD Degree**

At the end of the first year, all students will be required to pass a comprehensive written examination in order to attain formal candidacy for the PhD degree. The examination will be scheduled at the conclusion of the spring semester. If needed, a student can retake the examination in the summer. A second failure will result in dismissal from the program and an appeal will not be considered.

**Year 2 Fall (11 credits)**

- MHC 733  Leadership and Advocacy in the Counseling Profession  4
- MHC 831  Doctoral Dissertation Seminar I  4
- Elective  3

**Year 2 Spring (10 credits)**

- MHC 832  Doctoral Dissertation Seminar II  4
- Elective  3
- Elective  3

**Year 3 (Dissertation Phase)**

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Upon completion of coursework, students will then be eligible to propose and pursue their dissertation projects.
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Pleasantville, NY 10570

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Westchester (White Plains)
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E-mail: GradWP@pace.edu

For more information, contact Paul Griffin at pgriffin@pace.edu or to apply, visit www.pace.edu/PHDMHC.

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