School of Community Health Sciences, Counseling and Counseling Psychology

Graduate Programs

The community health sciences program area offers graduate programs in Health and Human Performance, option in Health Promotion (MS degree) and Community Health Sciences (PhD degree). The counseling and counseling psychology program area offer graduate programs in Substance Abuse Counseling (Graduate Certificate), mental health counseling and school counseling leading to the MS degree in counseling as well as Counseling Psychology (PhD degree).

Community Health Sciences
Kelley Rhoads, PhD—Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator

PhD Program
The program prepares excellent, advanced-level community health scholars and practitioners who increase the quality of life for Oklahomans and beyond by utilizing evidence-based practices, social justice frameworks, and cultural competence. Graduates may serve in positions found within K – 12 schools, higher education institutions, medical facilities, governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and corporations. The program helps students to develop experiences that will allow them to meet career needs and goals through interactive and collaborative research, teaching experience, university and professional service, and outreach and extension.

Health and Human Performance, option in Health Promotion MS
Kelley Rhoads, PhD—Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator

MS Program
The program prepares students to address lifestyle and health issues across community settings using a behavioral social science lens. These lifestyle and health issues may include nutrition, physical activity, substance abuse, tobacco use, chronic disease, HIV/STI’s, diabetes and pregnancy. While our students enter our program from a variety of academic backgrounds such as public health; psychology; sociology; marketing; exercise physiology; political science; and biology, they all graduate with the same goal of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health.

Counseling Psychology
John Romans, PhD—Professor and Training Director

PhD Program
This program is accredited by the American Psychological Association and is based on the scientist-practitioner model of training. The program is designed to prepare students for counseling, consulting, teaching and research roles in various settings such as university counseling centers, academic departments, hospitals, public service settings such as prisons and Veterans Administration Medical Centers, business settings, mental health clinics and community settings. Students are required to follow a specified sequence of study in which academic coursework and practicum experiences are integrated. Students must also complete one year of full-time internship. Application materials for the counseling psychology program are due by December 1st for the following summer or fall enrollment.

Counseling MS
Lisa Beijan, PhD—Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator

Mental Health Counseling
This program is intended for individuals who wish to serve as professional counselors in a variety of human service and community mental health agencies. Students may choose elective courses in selected areas of specification such as youth counseling, substance abuse counseling and mental health counseling. The program is designed to meet the academic requirement for licensure as a professional counselor in Oklahoma and the standards set by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) for national accreditation. Application materials for this program are due January 25th for the following summer/fall enrollment.

School Counseling
MS Program
This program prepares students to work as counselors in public schools, serving students, teachers and parents. The role of the school counselor is to coordinate the comprehensive school counseling program, focusing on the educational, career, personal and social development of students. Within this comprehensive school counseling program, school counselors provide counseling, consulting, coordinating and appraisal services. The school counseling program is designed to meet the certification requirements for the State of Oklahoma as well as requirements of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Application materials for this program are due January 25th for the following summer/fall enrollment.

Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate
Valerie McGaha, PhD—Associate Professor and Program Coordinator

Certificate Program
This graduate certificate is designed for graduate students and working professionals from a range of mental health education backgrounds who wish to provide comprehensive mental health and substance abuse treatment through inpatient and outpatient care. The certificate helps meet an overwhelming national need within the mental health field by equipping future and current professionals with the specific tools to address and treat substance abuse and addictions. Those who complete this certificate may also pursue the Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC) credential.