Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision

Counselors on the front lines touch the lives of countless people. University professors of counseling and clinical supervisors can multiply that number endlessly. Our Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision will develop your expertise in teaching, research, leadership and advocacy, and supervision. You’ll develop critical thinking through personal and professional growth experiences that promote awareness of self and impact on others. You’ll also generate new knowledge and skills through meaningful research to promote social justice and advance the field. We are nationally accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Admission Requirements

You must apply to our program through the NIU Graduate School, and if invited, attend the Pre-Admissions Workshop. For admission to Graduate School, you’ll need to submit an application, a written statement of goals, official transcripts, your GRE score and three letters of recommendation (two from individuals holding a doctoral degree). If you’re an international student, you must also submit official English translations of your academic records and all test scores, including the TOEFL or IELTS. You’ll need to complete the Ph.D. applicant essay and submit a résumé or CV.

Learning Outcomes

The program requires a minimum of 84 semester hours, including a maximum of 30 semester hours from the master’s degree. During your program of study, you will:

- Demonstrate knowledge in advanced counseling skills.
- Demonstrate knowledge in advanced teaching skills.
- Demonstrate knowledge in advanced supervision skills.
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent scholarly research.

Real-world Learning

- Our Community Counseling Training Center provides comprehensive training for counselors and counseling supervisors in training through delivery of outstanding, culturally responsive counseling services to NIU students, faculty, staff and community members.
- In our counselor education and supervision program you’ll put your instructional knowledge to practical use through working with clients in a clinical setting and with master’s level students through co-teaching in the classroom. You’ll also facilitate weekly individual and group supervision sessions and conduct counseling-related research under faculty mentorship.
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Innovative Experiences

We promote best practices in the preparation of educators, advocates and leaders. Our alumni are committed to what graduate preparation should encompass: understanding the past, advancing the present, and modeling for the future. Your program will include concurrent internship experiences with academic courses and a dissertation (a minimum of 15 semester hours) that reflects your original scholarship and independent research. A graduate certificate is available in Trauma-Informed Counseling.

Coursework Highlights

- CAHC 700 Professional Orientation to Counselor Education: Identity and Ethics
- CAHC 701 Professional Seminar in Counselor Education and Development
- CAHC 730 Advanced Theories of Counseling
- CAHC 740 Leadership, Advocacy and Mentoring
- CAHC 750 Advanced Practicum in Individual Counseling
- CAHC 752 Supervision in Counseling
- CAHC 786 Internship in Counseling
- CAHC 790 Research and Scholarship in Counseling Education
- ETR 521 Educational Statistics I
- ETR 522 Educational Statistics II
- ETR 525 Qualitative Research in Education
- CAHC 799 Doctoral Research and Dissertation

Why NIU?

Our Counselor Education and Supervision faculty provide knowledge and mentorship in counseling-related research, clinical supervision and instruction in counselor preparation programs.

Our program is designed to help you develop awareness, knowledge and skills in counseling, supervision, teaching, research and professional leadership if you’re intending to become a university professor of counseling and clinical supervisor.

Our faculty and current students work consistently to create a collegial and collaborative community of acceptance, mentorship and professional networking within the university, regionally and nationally.

Apply online

Are you ready to become a leader in counselor education and supervision?
Are you eager to learn how to help others prepare for professional counseling practice in our world?

Priority admissions deadline: December 1
General admissions deadline: February 1
Late admissions deadline: April 1

go.niu.edu/gradapply