




MERRIMACK COLLEGE

# MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL POLICY







This program is approved by the  
Massachusetts Department of  
Education for guidance counselor  
licensure for grades K-8 and 5-12.







**The M.Ed. in School Counseling program prepares candidates for rewarding careers in school- or community-based counseling, college readiness, career guidance, or transitional services.**

Students emerge with the tools needed to help today's youth navigate 21st century challenges—and ready to embark on a rewarding career as a school counselor.

Graduates also have the skills and knowledge competencies to work in the field of community services and higher education advising and student support.



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Featuring a dynamic combination of course work and field work, Merrimack's M.Ed. in School Counseling empowers students to confidently meet the needs of today's youth. Our program offers an accessible yet rigorous curriculum aligned with Massachusetts licensure requirements and the American School Counselors Association standards.

An ongoing, progressively intense field experience requirement is the hallmark of our program. Through a pre-practicum and full-year practicum in schools and community-based organizations, students will develop a valuable, more holistic understanding of the school counseling profession.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. News & World Report recently included school counseling on its 100 Best Jobs list. By 2022, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the field will see nearly a 12 percent increase in demand—resulting in over 31,000 new job openings. School counselors continue to be drawn into the field by the satisfaction of working with youth from elementary school through college entry, and watching them achieve.

## PROGRAM FORMAT

Courses are offered in the evenings to accommodate students who work or intern during the day. Our program is designed with both recent college graduates and experienced practitioners in mind. Students can complete the degree at a pace that works for them:

- **Full-time students can complete our program in two years.** This option is ideal

for human development or social service professionals, or career changers who wish to work in school environments.

- **Part-time students can complete our program in three or more years.** This option is designed for current teachers or social workers, or master's degree holders who need course or field work for a school guidance license.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A Bachelor's degree in Human Development, Psychology, or related major is required. Individuals with other majors may request a transcript audit to determine if their course work meets the minimum course content in: Introduction to human development or psychology; Human behavior, Developmental psychology (Ex. child development, adolescent development, lifespan); and Research or Statistics.

- Passing scores on MTEL communication tests (both reading and writing)
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statement
- Possible interview

Standardized test scores are optional.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Merit based scholarships are available and are awarded based on the overall strength of the application materials. Graduate students enrolled at least half-time (a minimum of four credits per semester) may also qualify for financial aid in the form of Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans. For additional information, visit [www.merrimack.edu/financialaid](http://www.merrimack.edu/financialaid).



## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Aligned with the American School of Counselors Association National Model, our program curriculum emphasizes diversity, community, and humanity through innovative, relevant content.

Students complete three clusters of progressive courses, covering content designated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, to build a foundation of theoretical understanding. Throughout the program, students concurrently engage in 75 hours of pre-practicum and a full-year, 500-hour practicum to gain experience they can put into practice.

Students complete:

- 44 credit hours in advanced counseling, education and school counseling course work
- 575 hours of direct field based learning through guided practicum experiences (4 credit hours)
- A professional portfolio

## SAMPLING OF COURSES

- Foundations of School Counseling
- Challenges in Learning and Development (pre-practicum)
- Critical Issues in Education
- Psychology of Learning (educational psychology)
- Psychopathology
- Counseling Theory
- Sheltered English Immersion (SEI endorsement course)
- Career and College Counseling and Placement (linked to practicum)
- Research and Leadership in School Counseling (linked to practicum)
- Group Counseling Methods
- Adolescent and Addiction
- School Family Community Partnerships (PreK-8)
- Diversity & Culture (pre-practicum)
- School Counseling Practicum I (Fall)\*  
Min. of 250 Hours: with Seminar
- School Counseling Practicum II (Spring)\*  
Min. of 250 Hours: with Seminar



# MERRIMACK COLLEGE

315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845

**Merrimack College** is a selective, independent college in the Catholic, Augustinian tradition whose mission is to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives. The College offers undergraduate degrees in the liberal arts, business, science and engineering, and education programs; it also offers master's programs and part-time degree completion programs.

At Merrimack, we live the Augustinian values of hospitality, truth, and social justice. By working together for the greater good, our students, alumni, and faculty have made a measurable impact on our community and our world. We believe there are many paths to success. That's why we empower our students to choose their own direction—and then give them the support they need to excel. By understanding their unique needs, interests, and aspirations, we enable them to grow intellectually, spiritually, and socially.

In the **School of Education & Social Policy** at Merrimack College, we believe that education is a transformative practice that changes the world. The curricular focus of the school—rooted in our Augustinian mission—is to impact social justice and engage citizens for the greater social good.

Our dynamic programs transform individuals and communities by linking theory, research and practice. The school collaborates with over 100 regional partners. We provide students a breadth of offerings in field-based experiences based in schools, community-based organizations, non-profits, legal, social service and local agencies. The work of our students can provide children access to effective schools, and it can help strengthen families and their respective communities.

The school offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs including the Master of Science in Criminology & Criminal Justice.

All of the school's educator preparation programs are approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Our goal is to provide students with fundamental skills that would qualify for a wide range of employment opportunities—benefits that are practical and personally satisfying.

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## FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT

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