



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS





Meet our Program Director
Azara L. Santiago-Rivera, Ph.D., NCC.

Dr. Santiago-Rivera is Director of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate program.

Dr. Santiago-Rivera earned a doctorate in Counseling from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan and holds a National Certified Counselor credential with the National Board of Certified Counselors. She is a co-author of three books, nearly 50 articles, and has given over 100 presentations/workshops at local, national and international conferences, universities, and organizations.

Dr. Santiago-Rivera has held numerous leadership positions in professional organizations such as the Vice-President of the Latino Interest Network of the Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD), and the President of Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) within the American Counseling Association. She is a past president of the National Latino/a Psychological Association, a Founding Editor of the *Journal of Latina/o Psychology* (APA journal), and a Fellow of Divisions 45 and 17 of APA. In 2014, Dr. Santiago-Rivera received the APA Presidential Citation for outstanding contribution to the profession.

The need for professionals in mental health counseling has never been greater. An increasing population, coupled with greater demand for mental health care, is fueling the need for qualified mental health counselors.

The Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling prepares candidates to meet the growing demand for mental health counselors who work in a variety of settings, including counseling centers, non-profits, and private practices.

Program Description

You will acquire the skills, insights, and hands-on experience necessary to successfully work with clients facing addiction, depression, anxiety, trauma, and other mental health challenges.

Built on the ideals of social justice, the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling trains you to empower clients using a strength-based, relational model that is trauma-informed. Through interactive coursework you'll explore a range of counseling and research methods, and develop clinical skills for assessing and improving overall mental health and well-being. You will have the opportunity to positively impact people's lives. Upon completion of our program, you will emerge as a compassionate, culturally-aware counselor prepared to make a difference in clients' lives.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

By 2022, employment opportunities for mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists are expected to increase by almost a third [1]—nearly three times faster than other careers [2].

Whether you're looking to change careers or are transitioning directly from an undergraduate program, you'll find the graduate preparation you need to become a skilled mental health counselor.

PROGRAM FORMAT

Designed with both recent college graduates and experienced practitioners in mind, the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling offers evening courses to accommodate students who work or intern during the day.

You may complete the program in two years with full-time study or choose part-time study to complete the degree in three years. Our program offers you the flexibility of completing the master's coursework at the pace that best fits your needs.

This program was designed to meet the highest standards of the national counseling accreditation councils and the Massachusetts licensing board for Licensed Mental Health Counselors.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Featuring a combination of coursework and fieldwork, the program curriculum provides a comprehensive framework in counseling theory and clinical methods. All students in the program will complete:

- 60 credit hours of classroom-based learning, and
- A 700-hour fieldwork placement, including 100 practicum hours and 600 internship hours.

As you explore advanced counseling techniques, you'll have the opportunity to apply your skills by working with clients both individually and in groups. During the 700-hour field placement, on-site supervisors will help you refine your clinical approach as you develop treatment plans to meet the needs of populations dealing with depression, anxiety, domestic violence, sexual assault, substance abuse, grief, and other challenges. You will learn to advocate for clients and maintain ethical principles as you develop your own self-care practice.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree.

Applicants deemed appropriate for the program based on the strength of their admission materials will be granted an interview, an important and required part of the application process. Final decisions are made after the interview and after a final review of application materials.

Visit merrimack.edu/healthcounsel for information on application materials.

FINANCIAL AID

Merit based scholarships 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 merrimack.edu/financialaid.

[1] Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

[2] Source: Careersinpsychology.org



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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. At Merrimack, 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.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT

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