

“The department of Counselor Education at Western Illinois University has provided me with the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill my dreams of becoming a counselor in order to help others. Dreams do come true!”

*-Marcy Aronson
Recent Graduate*



“The Department of Counselor Education gave me the education and personal development that helped me to grow into a competent and confident counselor. I was able to follow my passion and learn the skills that allow me to successfully help the students I work with today.”

*-Leslie Scheck
Recent Graduate*



The mission of Western Illinois University's Department of Counselor Education is to prepare a socially responsible, diverse student, faculty and staff population to lead in the global society. The curriculum emphasizes applied and conceptual skills; affirms diversity of values, ideas, and persons; and promotes educational excellence and ethical commitment. Faculty provide a challenging and supportive environment that encourages personal growth and development. The Department is committed to recruiting and selecting students that are representative of our varied and pluralistic society.

Contact Information

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College of Education and Human Services

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M.S.Ed. in Counseling



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Why Become a Professional Counselor?

Counseling can offer the right individual a rewarding career path in a health profession that is growing.

Individuals that choose to seek a career in counseling usually have one thing in common - a desire to help people work through life's challenges.

Choosing to become a professional counselor is a commitment to yourself, to others, and to society as a whole.

- Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs

Where Counselors Work

- Elementary Schools
- Secondary Schools
- Mental Health Agencies
- College Counseling Centers
- Rehabilitation Facilities
- Career Development Centers
- Addiction & Substance Abuse Facilities
- Private Practice
- Online Environments



Department of Counselor Education

Do you value serving others?

Are you fair and understanding?

Do you enjoy working with others and being part of a team?

Do you have a sense of empathy?

Are you kind, generous, warm, and friendly?

Do you consider yourself a good listener?

Then a degree in counseling may be for you!

School Counseling

The School Counseling option prepares graduate students to promote the academic, career, and personal/social development of all K-12 students, including collaboration, consultation, leadership, and counseling, prevention, and intervention skills.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC)

The CMHC option prepares graduate students in the development of professional knowledge, skills, and practices necessary for the diagnosis, treatment, referral, and prevention of mental and emotional disorders.



Organizations

The Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Counseling Association promotes counselor development through education and community involvement. This association is a Chapter of the Illinois Counseling Association (ICA).

Western Illinois University's Xi Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) is an international honor society for counseling students, counselor educators, and professional counselors. Its mission is to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership, and excellence in counseling.

Accreditation

The Counseling Programs are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The School Counseling option is also accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education.