

Program Mission Statement

The mission of the master's degree programs in mental health counseling and school counseling is to prepare highly competent professional counselors for work in Indiana, the nation, and beyond, who are able to work effectively with diverse client populations in school, community, mental health, and related settings. Our program emphasizes the application of evidenced based practices in the context of equity, social justice, and civic engagement. Program faculty express a deep commitment to inclusivity, particularly with respect to voices and experiences that have been traditionally marginalized or left out. A related core value is oriented toward reflection and continuous quality improvement. We are committed to training students who represent diversity in age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, culture, socioeconomic status, religious affiliation, national origin, and disability status. Our training mission includes:

1. promoting a strong sense of professional identity in students;
2. preparing professional counselors who understand counseling and related theories and can effectively translate such theory into effective practice with diverse client populations;
3. preparing reflective and ethical practitioners who are knowledgeable about human development and skilled in the most current methods of evidenced-based practice, including counseling, consultation, collaboration, leadership, and advocacy;
4. preparing professional counselors who are committed to helping others fulfill their human potential through the use of facilitative, consultative, collaborative, strengths-based, and evidence-based helping strategies;
5. emphasizing a commitment to the value of inquiry and research-informed best practices in the counseling field; and
6. working in partnership with a range of constituents to effect thoughtful change at local, national, and international levels.