

NSU Master of Arts Counseling Program

Mission Statement

The mission of the Counseling Program at Northwestern State University is to prepare candidates with the knowledge, skills, professional dispositions, and practices to become caring, competent, reflective counselors within a dynamic and multicultural society. A key aim of the program faculty is to approach their pedagogy with intellectual vigor and enhance their students' preparation through quality research, scholarship, and service. The instructional efforts of program faculty are committed to ensuring a seamless integration of theory into practice.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the Counseling Program at Northwestern State University reflect current knowledge and projected needs concerning counseling practice in a multicultural and pluralistic society. Objectives were developed with input from program faculty, current and former students, and personnel in cooperating agencies, are directly connected to program activities, and are routinely assessed.

Objective 1:	Students will be able to apply and adhere to ethical standards of professional counseling organizations and credentialing bodies.
Objective 2:	Students will be able to articulate the impact of heritage, attitudes, beliefs, understanding, and acculturative experiences on an individual's views of others.
Objective 3:	Students will be able to recognize systemic and environmental factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior.
Objective 4:	Students will be able to apply theories and models of career development, counseling, and decision making.
Objective 5:	Students will be able to demonstrate essential interviewing, counseling, and case conceptualization skills.
Objective 6:	Students will be able to engage in all aspects of group counseling, including recruiting, screening, and selecting members.
Objective 7:	Students will be able to identify and use assessments for diagnostic and intervention planning purposes.
Objective 8:	Students will be able to articulate the importance of research in advancing the counseling profession, including how to critique research to inform counseling practice.
Objective 9:	Students will engage in professional development opportunities which directly contribute to their personal and professional growth.
Objective 10: For CMHC	Students will be able to demonstrate and apply techniques and interventions for prevention and treatment of a broad range of mental health issues.
Objective 11: For SC	Students will be able to critically examine the connections between social, familial, emotional, and behavior problems and academic achievement.