THE SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL AND
BEHAVIORAL
SCIENCES

The Mercy College School of Social and Behavioral Sciences fosters caring in our global community. From helping individuals and families better manage everyday issues to working within a large organization, the Mercy College School of Social and Behavioral Sciences provides an education that can lead to a successful career of caring in our global community.

DISTINCTIONS:
► The School of Social and Behavioral Sciences includes world-renowned faculty in the area of family therapy.
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Counseling
Department of Counseling
The Master of Science Degree in Counseling is designed to prepare you to work in a school setting as a school counselor. You’ll have the opportunity to follow any of several career paths in the counseling field. Additionally, completing the 48-credit School Counselor program will likely earn you provisional certification as a school counselor. (Same with the 54-credit Bilingual School Counselor Program, too).

Graduate students who complete the 60-credit Mental Health Counseling Program are eligible to sit for the professional licensing examination.

SPECIALIZATIONS:
► Counseling
► Counseling with a specialization in School Counseling and Bilingual Extension

Additionally, if you’re interested in mental health, Mercy’s Mental Health Counseling Degree will earn you the license that has become the new entry-level standard for the field.

Both counseling programs may be taken part-time or full-time.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:
The MS in Counseling will prepare you to become a school counselor in urban and suburban schools. The MS in Mental Health Counseling will prepare you to become a mental health counselor in other public and private agencies.

COURSES OF INTEREST:
Counseling students study a wide array of courses, including: Counseling and Ethics, Career Development and Counseling, Multicultural Perspectives in Counseling and Human Development to name a few.

DID YOU KNOW?
An advanced certificate in Advanced Certificates in Alcohol/Substance Abuse Counseling and in Retirement Counseling (CASAC) is also available.

CAMPUSSES:
Dobbs Ferry, Bronx and online

FINANCIAL AID:
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Mercy also works hard to help you identify and secure all the funding available to you, including New York State and federal grants. We offer a variety of programs to help you pay for your education — from scholarships to grants to work-study programs — and our team of financial experts are here to work with you to help you reach your goals.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Are certification and licensure the same?
No. Certification is done by specific certifying bodies like the National Board of Certified (continued on back)
Counselors (NBCC). Licensure is established by individual states. Some states (such as Virginia and Tennessee) require 60 graduate hours for licensure. However, most of these will allow you to graduate with a 48-credit degree, and then take 12 post-graduate credits. You should read the licensing law for the state(s) in which you wish to become licensed to ensure that your academic work will meet those requirements.

**Besides certification and licensure requirements, what else should I consider?**

You need to decide what type of counseling you want to do in order to focus your work activities, practicum and internship courses. There are several specialties. First decide whether you wish to pursue school counseling or to counsel in an agency or hospital setting. This will help you decide upon a Master's Degree in Counseling or a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling.

**What is the difference between matriculation to the Counseling Program and probationary admission?**

Admission to the graduate program requires: (1) two professional letters of recommendation, (2) a two- to three-page essay stating the applicant's reason(s) for pursuing a degree in counseling with a specialization in School Counseling, (3) a résumé, (4) completion of a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an approved institution, (5) an undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale). If you do not meet all these requirements you may be admitted on a provisional basis until you have demonstrated your ability to do adequate graduate-level work by earning grades of B or better in at least the first 18 credits.

**How long does the counseling program take?**

Typically, two to three years. (Five years is the maximum allowed - excluding time spent in the armed forces).
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Health Services Management
Department of Social Sciences
The Master of Science is a 36-credit program of study for those who already have management-level experience in health care organizations. This degree consolidates and strengthens students’ abilities, preparing them for higher level administrative positions.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:
The MS in Health Services Management enables an experienced health care manager to advance in the field of health services management. Such career paths/titles include: Health Services Administrator, Medical Center/Health Agency Director and Department Head/Coordinator.

Our alumni hold positions at facilities such as: Montefiore Health System, Northwell Health, Health and Hospitals Corporation, New York Presbyterian Hospital, The Veterans’ Administration, Hospital for Special Surgery and Guidance Center of Westchester.

COURSES OF INTEREST:
Health Services Management students study a wide array of courses, including: Health Care in the U.S., Health Care Financing, Health Care Management and Managerial Communication/Leadership to name a few.

DID YOU KNOW?
This program has a flexible schedule with classes offered on nights, weekends and is available online.

CAMPUSSES:
Dobbs Ferry and online

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
How is this program different from the MPA program?
It’s designed for health care managers with considerable experience (eight or more years).

How often do special speakers or industry professionals conduct seminars?
In addition to classes being taught by health care professionals with extensive experience, many courses have speakers from the health care field.
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Health Services Management
Department of Social Sciences

This is an exciting time for health care management. The field is growing and changing every day, and few schools get you prepared for it quite like Mercy. The MPA is a 48-credit program intended for students seeking a broad multidisciplinary education in health services management. The program has been designed to prepare graduates for roles as health care managers in a rapidly changing health care environment. The program is suitable for students who anticipate careers in a variety of health care facilities in public, private and not-for-profit settings.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

The MPA in Health Services Management prepares the graduate for management positions in a variety of health care organizations including hospitals, health centers, physician’s offices and other health and human service agencies.

Examples of career titles include: Health Service Administrator, Medical Center/Health Agency Director, Department Head/Coordinator, Manager/Registration and Scheduling.

Our alumni hold positions at facilities such as: Montefiore Health System, Northwell Health, Health and Hospitals Corporation, New York Presbyterian Hospital, The Veterans’ Administration, Hospital for Special Surgery and Guidance Center of Westchester.

COURSES OF INTEREST:

Health Services Management students study a wide array of courses, including: Health Care in the U.S., Health Care Financing, Health Care Management and Managerial Communication/Leadership to name a few.

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This program has a flexible schedule with classes offered on nights, weekends and is available online.

CAMPUSSES:

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the pre-requisites for this program?

There are no specific pre-requisites for this program. Applications are welcomed from graduates of baccalaureate programs in a variety of fields.

Do you offer night and/or weekend classes?

Yes. All classes meet one night or a weekly Saturday morning for 11 weeks. Most classes also have an additional hour of online work.

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Will I receive career development assistance?
Yes, faculty have much experience in health care and will be available as mentors. We also have an excellent career development center.

How quickly can I complete the program?
Usually two years. The program is designed to accommodate working students. Courses are offered on evenings and weekends. The program is arranged so that students may take two courses per quarter (including the summer session).

How often do special speakers or industry professionals conduct seminars?
In addition to classes being taught by health care professionals with extensive experience, many courses have speakers from the health care field.
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Psychology Department of Psychology and Social Work

The Master of Science in Psychology program at Mercy College provides graduate education in psychology through coursework, research, supervised clinical internships, and professional colloquia. Your course of study is designed to extend your knowledge of psychology in general, as well as to provide specific experiences in psychology graduate education to fit your individual interests. Both clinical and research opportunities exist within the program. Required coursework surveys all aspect of advanced psychological study, including theory, history, ethics, methodology and clinical practice, and prepares the student both for employment requiring psychological study as well as eventual doctoral study.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

Career opportunities include psychology research assistant, casework manager, industrial organizational consultant, and mental health worker.

COURSES OF INTEREST:

Psychology students study a wide array of courses, including: Contemporary Theories in Psychology, Statistics and Research Methodology, Physiological Psychology and Psychopathology to name a few.

DID YOU KNOW?

Students in the MS Psychology program at Mercy College will be trained to critically evaluate psychological research, design and conduct their own research studies with faculty mentors, and have the opportunity to share their research at professional conferences. Many Mercy College faculty members have ongoing research programs and welcome student involvement.

CAMPUSSES:

Dobbs Ferry, Bronx, Manhattan, Yorktown Heights and online

FOUR-PLUS-ONE PROGRAM:

The Psychology Program's Four-Plus-One option offers a unique opportunity to qualified undergraduates in Psychology who wish to pursue their master's at an accelerated pace. If they meet the admissions criteria for the master's program in psychology, including a 3.0 GPA, a grade of B or better in statistics, and completion of 90 undergraduate credits. Students may apply in their junior year to the M.S. in Psychology at Mercy College. If accepted these students may then take three graduate credits each semester of their senior year (a total of six credits), which will apply to both their undergraduate and graduate degrees. Upon completing their bachelor's in psychology within a single year of full-time enrollment.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What can a student do with a MS Psychology degree?
Typically, students become providers of psychological services in the workplace, under supervision, in agencies, hospitals and other therapeutic environments.

What is the main goal of this program?
To offer a broad understanding of prominent theories and practices of psychologists who seek to identify, understand and explain behavior and events in the general and specific populations.

Will this degree prepare me for doctoral study?
Yes. There are two main reasons why students choose the M.S. Psychology program at Mercy College. First is to prepare for admission into a Ph.D. program for Psychology. The second is for career advancement.
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School Psychology
Department of Psychology and Social Work
Mercy College’s Master of Science in School Psychology Program prepares students for a rewarding career exploring their passions and working with children to help them succeed. The degree offers a general School Psychologist track, School Psychologist with a bilingual extension track and School Psychologist with a specialty in early childhood. Students who complete either program will be recommended for provisional certification as a school psychologist through the New York State Education Department upon graduation*.

*Courses of Interest:
School Psychology students study a wide array of courses, including: Neurological Factors in Behavior, Developmental Psychology, Developmental Psychopathology and Consultation in School Setting to name a few.

DID YOU KNOW
The Master of Science in School Psychology Program offers three tracks to your career as a School Psychologist:
1. School Psychologist
2. School Psychologist w/a bilingual extension
3. School Psychologist w/a specialty in early childhood

CAMPUS:
Dobbs Ferry

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
What does a School Psychologist do?
*School psychologists work with students in elementary and secondary schools. They collaborate with teachers, parents,
and school personnel to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments for all students; address students' learning and behavior problems; improve classroom management strategies or parenting skills; counter substance abuse; assess students with learning disabilities and gifted and talented students to help determine the best way to educate them; and improve teaching, learning, and socialization strategies. They also may evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs, prevention programs, behavior management procedures, and other services provided in the school setting. (Occupational Outlook Handbook 2006-2007) For more information on the occupation of school psychologist visit www.nasponline.org

**What can I expect as a starting salary?**

It varies. One example, for 2017 the NYC Department of Education Salary for a School Psychologist (for those with a Master’s degree), was $63,722.00***. The contract for the position of school psychologist in the NYC school system and most other districts is based on a ten-month school year with July and August off. (*** Psychologist and Social Workers Salary Schedule)
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Mental Health Counseling
Department of Counseling
The M.S. in Mental Health Counseling Program at Mercy College provides students with a foundation in mental health counseling, including topics such as: human growth and development, research and program evaluation, professional orientation and ethics and theories of counseling.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:
The Master of Science Degree in Mental Health Counseling qualifies students to sit for the national counseling examination and to apply for a New York State license as a mental health counselor.

COURSES OF INTEREST:
Mental Health Counseling students study a wide array of courses, including: Counseling and Ethics, Human Development, Crisis Counseling/Mental Health and Diagnosis and Treatment to name a few.

DID YOU KNOW?
After completing this program students are eligible to sit for the professional licensing examination.

CAMPUS:
Dobbs Ferry and Bronx

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
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Certification and licensure are not the same. Certification is done by specific certifying bodies, such as the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). Licensure is established by individual states.

What is the difference between matriculation to the Mental Health Counseling program and probationary admission?
Admission to the graduate program requires: (1) two professional letters of recommendation, (2) a two to three page essay stating the applicant's reason(s) for pursuing a degree in counseling, (3) a resume, (4) completion of a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an approved institution, (5) an undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale), including grades of B or better in one three-credit mathematics or statistics course. If you do not meet all these requirements you may be admitted on a provisional basis until you have fulfilled the prerequisites or (in the case of GPA), demonstrated your ability to do adequate graduate-level work. You must complete the prerequisites within the first two semesters (or nine credits) of study. Master's degree in Counseling or a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling.

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Is Mercy College a nonsectarian institution?
Yes. Qualified applicants are admitted without regard to race, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age or physical disability.

What will this degree prepare me to do?
Fulfill partial requirements for licensure as a Mental Health Counselor. The 60-credit course of study prepares you for licensure in counseling at public and private agencies or in private practice. The Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling is a licensure-qualifying 60-credit program. Graduates are eligible to seek initial employment towards meeting the 3,000-hour externship required for licensure as a mental health counselor in New York State.

How long does the Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling usually take?
Generally, two to three years with a maximum of five years allowed for degree completion (exclusive of time spent in the armed forces).