Introduction

The Psychology Department at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) offers a Master of Education degree in professional counseling with concentrations in school counseling and mental health counseling. The Mental Health Counseling (MHC) program prepares students to work in mental health settings with children, adolescents, and their parents. Students who complete the program are eligible for licensure as professional counselors with mental health service provider designation (LPC MHSP), the highest level of licensure for counselors in the state of Tennessee.

MTSU is located 30 miles south of Nashville, Tennessee’s state capital. Students have access to personal computers, a state-of-the-art school library including relevant counseling and psychological journals, and a unique learning resources center. MTSU enrolls over 21,000 students with a strong, growing psychology department of 45 full-time faculty and seven graduate programs. A wide range of educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities are available to students.

Accreditation

The MHC program is modeled according to standards set forth by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the accrediting body of the American Counseling Association. The Professional Counseling faculty will seek accreditation of the program in the near future.

Application Deadlines & Admission Requirements

Review of applications begins on March 1 for admissions in summer and fall, and October 1 for spring admission.

Standards for unconditional admission into the MHC program include:

- A combined Verbal + Quantitative score of 1000 on the Graduate Record Exam;
- A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.00;
- An undergraduate major or minor in psychology;
- Undergraduate courses in statistics and abnormal psychology with a minimum grade of "B;"
- Positive letters of recommendations from three individuals (including a professor);
- High ratings obtained from faculty via participation in the “assessment center,” a quasi interview experience;

For more information, contact the program coordinator, Dr. Christopher Quarto (615-898-5933).
Faculty Areas of Experience and Interest

**Program coordinator**

Christopher J. Quarto, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Counseling Psychology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1992.

Dr. Quarto has 15 years of experience working in private practice, school, psychiatric hospital, and community mental health settings. He regularly consults with school personnel and pediatricians concerning children and adolescents who exhibit a variety of psychological disorders, in particular attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Dr. Quarto is a licensed psychologist (Health Service Provider) with a part-time private practice in Murfreesboro.

**Program faculty**

Virginia S. Dansby, Ed.D., Professor, Counseling Psychology, West Virginia University, 1989

Dr. Dansby was a secondary school counselor for six years, is a national certified counselor (NCC) and is a licensed psychologist (Health Service Provider) with a part-time private practice in Murfreesboro. Active in professional organizations, she has served as president of the Tennessee Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, as a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Counseling Association, and as a member of several national professional committees.

Brenda C. Rambo, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Human Developmental Counseling, Peabody of Vanderbilt University, 1982.

Dr. Rambo has over 28 years of experience working in schools as a secondary school counselor and psychological examiner, in private practice with multiple locations across middle Tennessee, and in community mental health settings. She is a licensed psychologist (Health Service Provider) who currently has a part-time private practice in Nolensville.

Ellen K. Slicker, Ph.D., Professor, School Psychology, Texas A&M University, 1991.

Dr. Slicker has served as president of the Tennessee Association for Counselor Education and Supervision and as an executive board member of the Tennessee Counseling Association. She was employed for 13 years as an outpatient therapist in a community mental health center, for seven years as an elementary school counselor, and for four years as a school psychologist consultant to elementary and secondary counselors. She is a nationally certified counselor (NCC), a nationally certified school psychologist (NCSP), and a licensed psychologist (Health Service Provider) with a part-time private practice in Murfreesboro.


Dr. West has been a visiting professor at universities in Texas, the People's Republic of China, and Russia, as well as the Sports Institute for China's Olympians. He is a licensed psychological examiner, certified school psychologist, professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, clinical member of AAMFT, and sport psychologist.

**The Curriculum**

The Mental Health Counseling program is a 61-hour degree program designed to train students to work with children, adolescents and their parents. The practicum and two internships require a total of 1000 hours of work in mental health settings with 400 hours of direct service. The following is the curriculum for the program:

**Core areas:**

1. Human Growth and Development
2. Social and Cultural Foundations
3. The Helping Relationship
4. Groups
5. Lifestyle and Career Development
6. Appraisal
7. Research and Evaluation
8. Professional Orientation

**Concentration areas:**

1. Foundations of Mental Health Counseling
2. Theories of Personality
3. Interventions with Children and Adolescents
4. Psychological Disorders of Children
5. Family Therapy
6. Play Therapy
7. Assessment & Treatment of Addictions
8. Diagnosis and Treatment Planning in Counseling
9. Internship in Mental Health Counseling

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, non-racially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. AA117-1197.