The Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is designed for students planning careers as clinical mental health counselors. The program offers an emphasis on marriage and family therapy, allowing for dual licensure.

Our program is designed to provide comprehensive training for individuals who wish to counsel diverse populations in a variety of mental health settings. The specialized curriculum provides students with the experiences and opportunities to explore the developmental, social, and cultural foundations of behavior across the life span. Students will gain the knowledge and skills needed to improve mental healthcare delivery and outcomes for complete patient wellness.

We welcome students from a variety of educational backgrounds including psychology, biology, sociology, education, public health, nursing, and health administration.

Job Outlook
Employment in both mental health counseling and marriage and family therapy is expected to grow 23% from 2016 to 2026, much faster than average for all occupations. Industry and job growth is expected as the healthcare field shifts toward an integrated care model, with an emphasis on mental health.

Hybrid Format
The program offers a unique hybrid format of coursework, offering classes both online and in person. The hybrid format combines the convenience of online classes with the benefits of in-person instruction and lab simulation.

Program Highlights
- 100% pass rate on the Clinical Preparation Counseling Exam (required for graduation)
- 100% employment rate or acceptance to doctoral programs for graduates of the CMHC program
- Over 50 clinical affiliations for clinical practicum and internships

Deadlines
Application Deadline: March 1
The MS-CMHC program admits approximately 24 students once per year for a fall-term cohort.

Admission Requirements
- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university (no specific major)
- Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or GRE will be requested)
- Essay (1-2 pages) on personal professional goals
- Resume
- Three letters of recommendation
- Interview

Accreditation
The MS-CMHC program is SACS approved and JU is seeking accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).
#MISSION

The mission of the JU Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is to provide an academically rigorous and supportive environment in which to prepare professional counselors to work in a variety of mental health settings including, but not limited to, private practice, hospitals, community counseling centers, for profit and non-profit agencies, public health departments, and schools that offer therapeutic services. This preparation emphasizes creative learning, excellence in counseling skills and techniques, and ethical and professional integrity.

STUDENT PROFILES

Brianna Kane grew up outside of Chicago, IL and is a current resident of Neptune Beach, FL. In 2015, she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and double-minors in Family, Youth and Community Science, and Educational Studies from the University of Florida. As an undergraduate student, she worked with survivors of domestic violence, conducted research with children with disabilities and volunteered at the Alachua County Crisis Center.

In Jacksonville she has worked as a Registered Behavior Technician and Mental Health Intern before continuing her education in the CMHC program at JU. During her time in the program, Brianna has served as an intern at the Jacksonville University Student Counseling Center and has worked as a research assistant in the CMHC program. This experience has allowed her to explore her interests with the emerging adult population, women’s issues, and animal-assisted therapy. Brianna is continuing her education in the doctoral program for Counseling and Counselor Education at the University of Florida.

Willie Stocker is a Hopkins, South Carolina native who received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Limestone College in Gaffney, South Carolina. He is currently serving on active duty in the United States Coast Guard. He chose to complete his master’s degree in CMHC at JU because of the respected reputation of the University, as well as, having the opportunity to be a part of the inaugural CMHC Program.

Lastly, he believes that the hybrid format of the program has given him the opportunity to complete his degree while continuing to serve on active duty in the military. Willie chose the profession of counseling because he wants to make a positive impact in the community and to help bring awareness to the importance of mental health and well-being.