Our Mission Statement

The UNI Counselor Education program prepares professionals mastering the art and science of counseling who advocate for and empower the healthy development of themselves and their clients, demonstrating multicultural competencies and ethical practice.

About Our Program

Our graduate programs in School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling have been nationally CACREP accredited since 1990.

UNI was also one of the first programs nationally to prepare K-12 and Elementary School Counselors.

Our Clinical Mental Health Counseling program was the first accredited program in the nation.

Our students have had a 100% pass rate for the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) and National Counselor Exam (NCE) since implementation in 2007.

Faculty & Staff

Dr. Roberto Swazo, Ph.D
Division Chair and Associate Professor in Counseling

Dr. Darcie Davis-Gage, Ph.D
Associate Professor in Counseling

Dr. Kristin Meany-Walen, Ph.D
Assistant Professor in Counseling
What is Counseling?

Counseling is a professional relationship that empowers diverse individuals, families, and groups to accomplish mental health, wellness, education, and career goals.  
[CACREP 20/20 Consensus Definition of Counseling]

Clinical Mental Health Program

- Prepares graduates with knowledge and skills in diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders.
- Includes a site-based practicum at a counseling center in the area.
- Includes a two-semester internship with a weekly seminar as well as individual and group supervision by the faculty.
- Includes 54 hours of CACREP-required coursework and 6 hours of electives (total, 60 semester hours).

School Counseling Program

- Prepares graduates for their Iowa Professional Service License in School Counseling, which provides greater job mobility because graduates can assume a position at any level.
- Includes a 100 hour practicum supervised by experienced professionals in the field.
- Includes a school-based internship with weekly individual supervision and group seminars by UNI faculty.
- Includes 51 hours of CACREP-required coursework (non-teachers may take more to meet state requirements)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need to be a teacher to be a school counselor?
A: No. A teaching degree or teaching experience is not required.

Q: Does the school counseling degree limit me to work at a specific grade level?
A: No. The degree allows school counselors to be employed at the k-12 levels.

Q: Do I need a psychology degree to apply to the clinical mental health program?
A: No. Any undergraduate degree from an accredited school will serve as a prerequisite. However, having some background knowledge about human behavior is beneficial.

Q: What kind of jobs can I find when I finish my clinical mental health degree?
A: Clinical mental health counselors are employed in hospitals, clinics, community agencies, non-profit agencies, H.R. offices, college counseling centers, and private practice.

Applications due February 2nd for Fall admission

Prospective students wishing to take courses prior to Level One: Admission to Coursework may take only the following courses:

- COUN 4103/5103 INTRODUCTION TO PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING
- COUN 4105/5105 COUNSELING SKILLS
- COUN 6227 COUNSELING THEORY (OR ANOTHER COURSE, AS APPROVED BY YOUR ADVISOR)

Contact Us

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