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**Master of Arts in Counseling & Master of Arts in Human Services**

**Fact Sheet**

Skilled, compassionate people make a positive difference in the lives of others, a belief well supported by research in the field of helping professions. Humanity always benefits from supportive individuals but in these times when so many in our society are experiencing hardships, we need caring counselors and human services professionals more than ever.

Well respected across the world, the Wake Forest counseling program prepares students for rewarding careers in clinical mental health and school counseling, as well as nonprofit and human services administration. Students in this program will have the opportunity to learn from some of the most recognized scholars and professional leaders in the counseling profession and to interact with other students committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Nationally recognized counseling department professors [Dr. Donna Henderson](http://media.news.wfu.edu/experts/donna-henderson/) and [Dr. Sam Gladding](http://media.news.wfu.edu/experts/samuel-gladding/) steward the programs and are both available to comment on a myriad of counseling issues affecting the world today.

**Master of Arts in Counseling**

Wake Forest University’s Master of Arts in Counseling online program prepares students to become school counselors or clinical mental health counselors – depending on how they choose to specialize. Either track consists of a common core of courses to provide knowledge in eight areas: human growth and development, social and cultural foundations, helping relationships, group work, career and lifestyle development, appraisal, research and program evaluation, and professional orientation. The program also supplies clinical instruction with practicum and internship experiences that are local to online students.

The School Counseling Program is designed to provide prospective school counselors with the knowledge, skills, and competence necessary to establish and conduct effective developmental guidance and counseling programs in schools, kindergarten through the twelfth grade.

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialty provides students with professional knowledge, skills, and practices necessary to address a wide variety of circumstances within the clinical mental health counseling context.

The Masters of Arts in Counseling is a 60-credit program and can be completed in three years online.

**Master of Arts in Human Services**

Wake Forest University’s Master of Arts in Human Services was developed for service-minded individuals who are looking to develop their administrative & management skills to take on leadership roles in a counseling or non-profit environment. Human services professionals work in such diverse settings as group homes and halfway houses; correctional and community mental health centers; family, child, and youth service agencies, and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence, and aging.

The first part of this degree mirrors the Counseling program and the last third focuses on administration and planning. The Masters of Arts in Human Services is a 39-credit program and can be completed in 2.3 years online.

**Accreditation**

The Wake Forest online Master of Arts in Counseling program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), while the School Counseling track of Master of Arts in Counseling is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

**Certification and Licensure**

Graduates of the Master of Arts in Counseling program are eligible to take the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE) which leads to certification as a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC) by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), and graduates of the Master of Arts in Human Services program are eligible for the Human Services-Board Certified Practitioner (HS-BSP) credential.

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