

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Master of Science (MS) in Mental Health Counseling

Admission Requirements

MS in Mental Health Counseling admission requirements

Applicants to the MS in Mental Health Counseling program must have completed a bachelor's degree in psychology, counseling, education, social work or nursing from a regionally accredited institution.

Bachelor's degrees in other specialty areas will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

No standardized exams (GRE, MAT, etc.) are required for this program.

GPA requirement

The Mental Health Counseling program prefers that applicants have a 3.0 GPA (B average) or better, but applicants with a GPA lower than 3.0 may still be considered.

Coursework requirements

In order to ensure that program courses are taught at the highest possible level, applicants without a major or minor in psychology must have completed, prior to admission, at a bachelor's level or above, the following courses:

- Introduction to Psychology
- Research/Statistics
- Abnormal Psychology/Psychopathology

Application Process

When is the deadline to apply?

This academic program operates on a rolling admissions basis. The application closes on August 22nd, 2025, but an early application is highly recommended.

How to apply

Prospective students may submit their application through PCOM's online application management system. Additional details, including application availability and instructions, are available at explore.pcom.edu/apply (<https://explore.pcom.edu/apply/>).

Next steps

Once your application has been submitted, you will be contacted via email with a confirmation of its receipt including reminders of the appropriate steps to complete the application process.

Note that there is no application fee to PCOM.

Where do I send my college transcripts?

Official college transcripts from all colleges/universities/schools attended must be sent directly to:

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Office of Admissions
4170 City Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131

We will accept electronic transcripts via mail, eScript and/or Parchment Services and National Student Clearinghouse.

Where do I send my letters of recommendation?

Letters of Recommendation can be submitted through PCOM's application portal or sent directly to PCOM Admissions in .pdf format to recommend@pcom.edu.

Additional application requirements

Your application will be processed and assessed by the Faculty Committee on Admissions only after the receipt of:

- Three letters of recommendation (one faculty letter of recommendation is strongly recommended).
- A resume.
- A general autobiographical statement explaining your interest in this academic program as it relates to your desire to become a professional counselor (in 500 words or less) should be uploaded to your PCOM application portal.
- Writing sample that is 5-25 pages (Preferences: APA format, graded, subject matter related to the counseling field).

Admissions Process

What happens after I apply to the Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling program?

This program utilizes a rolling admissions policy, so applications will be considered throughout the year as they are received. Students will be accepted into the program until the desired class size is reached. Classes begin in the fall term (early September).

The Admissions Committee screens applications, invites some applicants for an interview, evaluates the applicants and selects new students.

Following the completion of the admission process, each applicant will be notified of the Admission's Committee decision in writing, including any conditions that must be satisfied prior to or following enrollment.

Interviews for this program will be offered both virtually and in-person for the 2024-2025 application cycle.

As an applicant to PCOM's Master of Science program in Mental Health Counseling, you are responsible for ensuring that all admissions materials are completed accurately and submitted in a timely manner.

Background check requirement

The College requires a criminal background check for all program applicants and enrolled students. The PCOM Office of Admissions will facilitate a criminal background check prior to matriculation processed by a PCOM vendor of choice. Subsequent criminal background checks can occur during enrollment, including but not limited to, when the student is conducting internships, clerkships, clinical coursework, or other types of coursework that occur off campus. Any student charged, convicted of, or who pleads guilty or no contest to a misdemeanor or felony crime after the date of the original application submission is required to notify the Dean of the program in writing within 10 business days of the occurrence. This communication should be sent by certified mail to the Dean at the address on the acceptance letter.

Prior to enrollment, all candidates are required to complete the College's Technical Standards for Admission and Matriculation (PDF) (<https://>

www.pcom.edu/admissions/apply/forms/psychology-programs-technical-standards.pdf).

Should you have any questions, please contact us via email at admissions@pcom.edu.

Psychology Certificate Programs

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Cognitive Behavior Therapy

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Professional Counseling

Applicants for a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Cognitive Behavior Therapy and/or Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Professional Counseling must have completed a master's degree in psychology, counseling or a related discipline from a regionally accredited institution with a B average (3.0) or better. Master's degrees in other specialty areas will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Students will complete 12 graduate credits to earn the certificate for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy or Professional Counseling.

Prospective students may review application requirements and link to the PCOM on-line application at: <https://www.pcom.edu/admissions/apply/>

These programs utilize a rolling admissions policy, so applications will be considered throughout the year as they are received. Students will be accepted into the programs until the desired class size is reached. Classes begin in the fall term (early August).

The Admissions Committee screens applications, invites some applicants for an interview, evaluates the applicants and selects new students. Following the completion of the admission process, each applicant will be notified of the Admission's Committee decision in writing, including any conditions that must be satisfied prior to or following enrollment.

An application will be processed and assessed by the Faculty Committee on Admissions only after the receipt of:

- Completed PCOM application
- Official transcript(s) from all undergraduate and graduate course work
- Two letters of recommendation
- Curriculum vitae or resume
- A general autobiographical statement explaining one's interest in the academic program as it relates to career goals (in 500 words or less)
- Writing sample (preferably graded)

Note that official college transcripts from all colleges/universities schools attended must be sent directly to:

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Office of Admissions
4170 City Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131

We will accept electronic transcripts via email, from Parchment Services and National Student Clearinghouse to admissions@pcom.edu. (admissions@pcom.edu)

Letters of recommendation can be sent directly to PCOM Admissions in .pdf format to recommend@pcom.edu. All other admissions documents may be sent to admissions@pcom.edu.