

Our Mission

The mission of the Piedmont University Department of Counseling is to offer a high-quality graduate education program to students, helping them develop the skills and knowledge necessary to be highly competent and committed professional counselors in a variety of careers in the field of clinical mental health service. Our curriculum is culturally inclusive, focusing on the development of competencies necessary to address developmental, emotional, psychological, social, and environmental barriers to educational achievement and personal development. We are dedicated to training our students with the skills, knowledge, and awareness to work within a diverse society, including engagement in social justice and advocacy.

Program Objectives

The Department of Counseling advances its mission by preparing graduates to:

1. Demonstrate clinical counseling competence by assessing client needs, formulating diagnoses, developing treatment plans, establishing effective therapeutic relationships, and delivering appropriate individual and group counseling interventions.
2. Apply ethical and legal standards by incorporating professional codes of ethics, relevant laws, and regulatory requirements into counseling practice and ethical decision making.
3. Demonstrate multicultural and socially responsive practice by applying culturally responsive counseling skills with clients from diverse backgrounds, identities, worldviews, and lived experiences while recognizing the developmental, emotional, psychological, social, and environmental barriers affecting client well being and personal development.
4. Promote wellness and prevention by designing and applying developmentally appropriate prevention, intervention, and wellness strategies that support the mental health of individuals, families, groups, and communities.
5. Integrate evidence-based counseling practices by evaluating relevant research and combining research findings with clinical expertise, client needs, and client preferences.
6. Engage in professional growth and reflective practice by evaluating personal and professional development needs, using feedback to improve counseling practice, and participating in continuing education and professional development.
7. Advocate for social justice and mental health equity by promoting mental health awareness, reducing stigma, addressing systemic barriers, and improving equitable access to counseling services.