

The operation and functioning of the counseling program at Lincoln Memorial University are guided by the mission statements of the University, the Carter & Moyers School of Education, and the LMU Counseling Program, as well as the Counseling Program Objectives, which are posted below.

Masters of Education in Counseling Program – Mission Statements and Program Objectives

University Mission and Purpose Statement

Lincoln Memorial University is a values-based learning community dedicated to providing educational experiences in the liberal arts and professional studies. The University strives to give students a foundation for a more productive life by upholding the principles of Abraham Lincoln's life: a dedication to individual liberty, responsibility, and improvement; a respect for citizenship; recognition of the intrinsic value of high moral and ethical standards; and a belief in a personal God.

The University is committed to teaching, research, and service. The University's curriculum and commitment to quality instruction at every level are based on the beliefs that graduates must be able to communicate clearly and effectively in an era of rapidly and continuously expanding communication technology, must have an appreciable depth of learning in a field of knowledge, must appreciate and understand the various ways by which we come to know ourselves and the world around us, and must be able to exercise informed judgments.

The University believes that one of the major cornerstones of meaningful existence is service to humanity. By making educational and research opportunities available to students where they live and through various recreational and cultural events open to the community, Lincoln Memorial University seeks to advance life in the Cumberland Gap area and throughout the region through its teaching, research, and service mission.

Approved by the Board of Trustees May 5, 2006

School of Education – Unit Mission Statement

The School of Education is dedicated to preparing professional educators of distinction who embody the three core ideas of Lincoln Memorial University. We accomplish our mission through instilling the core ideals of **Values**, **Education** and **Service** in candidates who:

- demonstrate the disposition of the education profession – **Values**
- articulate and live by the knowledge base and understands of moral, social, and political dimensions which will impact individual students, schools, districts, and communities for the enrichment of society – **Values**
- demonstrate the teaching skills and learning strategies acquired through rigorous academic studies and active engagement in real life classroom experiences while involved in field and internship placements in partner P-12 schools – **Education**
- promote lifelong learning through continued professional development and scholarship – **Education**

- assist in meeting the educational needs of an ever-increasing global society, especially the underserved – **Service**
- articulate an understanding that all students can learn as well as demonstrate the disposition to serve and teach diverse student populations – **Service**

Counseling Program Mission Statement

The Counseling Program has as its primary mission the preparation of culturally and ethically competent counselors to serve the historically underserved peoples of the Appalachian region, and increasingly interlinked global community beyond. Program graduates will be able to utilize psychological principles, developmental understandings, and counseling techniques in a strengths based, solution-focused paradigm to assist students and clients with the best opportunity to achieve healthy functioning in the areas of educational, personal, social and vocational development.

Program offerings, service learning activities and field experiences are designed to encourage personal, professional, and social growth. Graduates of the Counseling Programs are prepared to provide counseling and consultation services in school, mental health, or community agency settings and are eligible to stand for licensure or certification in their respective area of specialty.

Counseling Program Objectives

The Counseling Program Objectives below reflect the current professional thinking and state and national requirements certification, licensure and accreditation requirements.

As a result of successfully completing the graduate program in counseling, students can expect to have gained didactic knowledge and supervised experience in skills, functions, beliefs and characteristics of effective counseling. The following broad goals have been developed to assist students in gaining an overview of expected accomplishments:

1. *Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice* – Demonstrate an understanding of the counseling profession, develop an identity as a counselor and demonstrate a willingness to provide counseling services within the ethical guidelines of the counseling profession.
2. *Social and Cultural Diversity* - Develop an awareness of, and an appreciation for, social and cultural influences on human behavior and to recognize the impact of individual differences on the counseling process.
3. *Human Growth and Development* - Develop an understanding of developmental aspects of human growth and appreciation for the nature of human developmental behavior.
4. *Career Development* - Develop an understanding of career development and related life factors and the effects on an individual's mental health and lifestyle.

5. *Helping Relationships* - Demonstrate effective individual and group counseling skills which facilitate client growth and to demonstrate the ability to evaluate progress toward treatment goals.
6. *Group Work* - Develop both theoretical and experiential understandings of group purpose, development, dynamics, counseling theories, group counseling methods and skills, and other group approaches.
7. *Assessment* - Gain knowledge and skills in assessment techniques and apply basic concepts to individual and group appraisal.
8. *Research and Program Evaluation* - Develop the ability to read, critique, evaluate, and contribute to professional research literature.
9. *School Counseling* - Students preparing to specialize as school counselors will demonstrate the professional knowledge and skills necessary to promote the academic, career, and personal/social development of all P–12 students through data-informed school counseling programs.
10. *Clinical Mental Health Counseling* - Students preparing to specialize as clinical mental health counselors will demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to address a wide variety of circumstances within the context of clinical mental health counseling.