Virginia Tech Counselor Education Program Objectives

The School Counseling program provides experiences to educate graduates who:

- Know and apply the theories and practice of counseling
- Know the history, philosophy, theories, research findings, and trends in school counseling.
- Understand human growth and development across the lifespan, including physical, cognitive, emotional, and contextual development (e.g. social, academic, career, etc.).
- Understand how individuals’ unique cultural background, the environment in which they live, and other contextual factors influence their development.
- Understand the role and function of the school counselor in the larger context of the school, the school system, and the community.
- Understand how the family and other systems in which students live impact, and are impacted by, the student.
- Know how to coordinate efforts and make referrals for the benefit of students and their families.
- Demonstrate the ability to create and deliver the classroom curriculum as a part of the total school curriculum.
- Demonstrate effective classroom management skills.
- Know how to advocate for the counseling program to the various school constituencies.
- Design and use needs assessments, program development tools, and program evaluations to support a data-driven program.
- Demonstrate effective skills in counseling children and adolescents from diverse populations individually and in groups.
- Understand issues, including developmental, pathological, and societal, which affect school children and their families, including learning disabilities, mental illness, poverty, substance abuse, and addictions.
- Understand and communicate current educational and career planning options with students, families, school, and community.
- Know how to support students in transitions within K-12 as well as transitions to higher education, work, and life.
- Function with other professionals in a team approach.
- Understand and apply legal and ethical principles, including ACA and ASCA guidelines.
- Know the importance of professional association membership and other advocacy avenues.
The Community (Clinical Mental Health) Counseling program provides experiences to educate graduates who:

- Know and apply the theories and practice of counseling
- Know history, philosophy, theories, research findings, and trends in community counseling.
- Understand human growth and development across the lifespan, including physical, cognitive, emotional, and contextual development (e.g. social, academic, career, etc.).
- Understand how individuals’ unique cultural background, the environment in which they live, and other contextual factors influence their development.
- Understand the role and function of the counselor in the larger context of the agency, hospital, or other setting and the community.
- Understand how the family and other systems in which clients live impact, and are impacted by, the client.
- Know how to coordinate efforts and make referrals for the benefit of clients and their families.
- Demonstrates the ability to assess and intervene with threats to self and/or others.
- Present the counseling program to the various community constituencies.
- Design and use needs assessments, program development tools, and program evaluations.
- Demonstrate effective skills in counseling clients from diverse populations individually and in groups.
- Understand issues, including developmental, pathological, and societal, which affect clients and their families, including substance abuse.
- Know how to conduct client assessments intake interviews and mental health history.
- Understand principles of community intervention, consultation, education, and outreach
- Function with other professionals in a team approach.
- Understand and apply legal and ethical principles, including ACA guidelines.
- Understand the importance of maintaining effective boundaries and monitoring the counseling relationship for signs of transference and counter-transference.
- Is aware of the practical, legal, and ethical strengths and limitations of using technology to support the counseling process or deliver counseling services.
- Practice effective self-care as a strategy for avoiding burnout, and maintaining career vitality.
- Know the importance of professional association membership and other advocacy avenues.
The Counselor Education and Supervision program provides experiences to educate doctoral graduates who provide leadership in the field and:

- Know and apply the theories and practice of counseling in a variety of settings at an advanced level.
- Develop supervision skills for assisting other counselors or counselors-in-training with professional skill development.
- Devise and carry out research using appropriate methodology and analysis.
- Review and/or synthesize scholarly information available on a specific topic from a wide variety of sources, including reliable internet sources.
- Develop teaching skills appropriate for delivery of instruction in higher education.
- Understand and apply legal and ethical principles, including ACA guidelines.
- Demonstrate participation in the profession through professional association membership, service, and leadership.
- Practices effective advocacy on behalf of clients and the profession.