



Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology Mental Health Counseling Program (MA) FAQs

Q1. What jobs are available for graduates of Ferkauf's Mental Health Counseling program (MA)?

Ferkauf Graduates of the Mental Health Counseling program practice in a variety of settings, including independent private practice, community mental health agencies, managed behavioral health care organizations, integrated delivery systems, hospitals, employee assistance programs and substance abuse treatment centers. Our graduates are highly skilled professionals who provide a full range of services including assessment and diagnosis, psychotherapy, treatment planning and utilization review, brief and solution-focused therapy, alcoholism and substance abuse treatment, psycho-educational and prevention programs, and crisis management. Graduates of our program get jobs as Mental Health Counselors, Psychotherapists, Child/Adolescent counselors, Community Counselors, Substance Abuse and Addiction Counselors, Emergency Mental Health Therapists, Life Transitions Counselors, Group Counselors, Behavioral Health Counselors, and Outpatient Mental Health Therapists.

Q2. When is the application deadline?

Applications, including all related documents, must be received by **February 15th** of each year for Fall admission.

Q3. I applied to one of the doctoral programs at Ferkauf but was given an acceptance to the Mental Health Counseling MA program. Why?

In some cases, applicants to Ferkauf who do not receive acceptances to one of our doctoral programs are given an alternative acceptance to our Mental Health Counseling program (MA) for their consideration. These candidates are invited to an Open House in May where they can meet with the MHC Program Director, members of the MHC Faculty and current MHC Students – to learn more about the program and have their questions answered.

Q4. If I accept the Mental Health Counseling program (MA), can I then re-apply to one of your doctoral programs?

All students in our Ferkauf Mental Health Counseling MA program can apply to our doctoral programs upon completion of the MA degree. These students are also given a guarantee of an interview with the admissions committee of each of the doctoral programs.

Q5. If I come to the Mental Health Counseling MA program and then get into one of the Ferkauf doctoral programs do all of the credits transfer?

The Ferkauf Mental Health Counseling MA program is a terminal degree, and each student's individual MA coursework will vary depending on their electives and interests. The PhD and PsyD

programs' coursework also varies, depending on the electives and focus of the individual doctoral student. Ferkauf's policy is to include all of the MHC coursework on the students transcript, but this does not mean that the time to complete a doctoral program is necessarily shortened/that the student will take fewer credits toward the doctoral degree. The determination of how many and which specific courses need to be taken to earn the doctorate is an individual one, made by the student in consultation with their doctoral program director. Applicants who have an MA from another institution may be able to transfer up to 12 graduate credits towards their doctoral work in consultation and approval from their doctoral program director.

Q6. Are scholarships available to the Mental Health Counseling MA students?

There are limited scholarship funds each year. After you have been admitted to the program you can discuss the possibility with the Admissions Office and the Office of Student Finance. At the end of the first year, MHC students can then apply for additional scholarship funds for their second year.

Q7. What is the association that represents Mental Health Counseling Graduates?

Mental Health Counseling is a distinct profession with national standards for education, training and clinical practice. New York Mental Health Counselors Association is the state organization that represents the interests of the clinical counselors of New York.

Q8. Where do the Mental Health Counseling students find field placements?

Ferkauf's Mental Health Counseling students have a multitude of opportunities for fulfilling the required 600-hour supervised field placement/internship experience. New York City offers many advantages for counseling students with a diverse array of community based Mental Health Counseling institutions and agencies. Ferkauf keeps an active directory of contacts where previous Mental Health Counseling Students have fulfilled their experiential requirement. Ferkauf is also very fortunate to have many of our alumni working in these many agencies who are familiar with our graduate training which gives our Mental Health Counseling Students an advantage.

Q9. What does the Mental Health Counseling program coursework and field placement experience involve?

A typical courseload for an MHC graduate student at Ferkauf would be 12-15 credits (4-5 graduate courses per semester). Generally classes are scheduled for 2 full days per week during the semester. Typically graduates are working at their field placement sites an additional 2 days (15 hours) per week.

Q10. What are the core areas of training?

Ferkauf's Mental Health Counseling program covers all the core areas of counseling as recommended by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs including:

- Diagnosis and psychopathology
- Psychotherapy
- Testing and assessment
- Group counseling
- Human growth and development
- Counseling theory
- Supervised practicum and internships

Q11. What are the requirements LMHC licensure for New York State?

Ferkauf's Mental Health Counseling program is registered with the New York State Education Department as a program that meets the educational requirements for LMHC (Licensed Mental Health Counselor) licensure. Upon graduation from Ferkauf, MHC graduates will then need to register for a limited permit to complete three thousand hours of post-master's-supervised experience and pass a licensure exam, before they are officially a LMHC. New York State has one of the most comprehensive licensure laws in the country.

Q12. What is the difference between mental health counseling and social work?

Ferkauf's Mental Health Counseling program prepares graduates to work in direct clinical mental health settings with clients. Social Work graduate education is focused on either MSW or LCSW tracks. Licensure requirements for mental health counselors are equivalent to or exceed those for clinical social workers. For more information on social work please refer to Yeshiva University's Wurzweiller School of Social Work at <http://www.yu.edu/wurzweiler/>.

Q13. Will I be able to bill for services once I am licensed?

Graduates of the Mental Health Counseling program who ultimately establish their own private practices can establish relationships and contracts with most of the major insurance companies who accept LMHC's as part of the treatment plans for their clients.

Q14. What are the experiential requirements of the licensure law?

After graduating from Ferkauf's Mental Health Counseling program you will need to fulfill a minimum of 3,000 hours of post-master's-supervised experience in order to be licensed. At Ferkauf we work closely with the Yeshiva University Counseling Center to assist our graduates with employment opportunities. 90% of our graduates have found their first positions by the time of graduation, and at least 95% have found employment by 6 months following graduation.

Q15. What exam is New York State using to test counselors for the license?

The national exam that New York State requires for Licensed Mental Health Counselors is the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE). At Ferkauf we assist our graduates with information and practice exams to assist them with their preparation for this exam.

Q16. What will the educational requirements be for the Mental Health Counseling program in order to be licensed?

Ferkauf meets the national educational requirements for licensure with training in the following areas:

- Human growth and development
- Social and cultural foundations of counseling
- Counseling theory and practice and psychopathology
- Group dynamics
- Lifestyle and career development
- Assessment and appraisal of individuals, couples, and families and groups
- Research and program evaluation
- Professional orientation and ethics
- Foundations of mental health counseling and consultation
- Clinical instruction and a minimum of one-year supervised internship or practicum in mental health counseling

Q17. How long does it take to finish the Mental Health Counseling program?

Ferkauf's Mental Health Counseling program is a 2 ½ year program. The first year emphasizes the theoretical basis of Counseling; the second year has more of an emphasis on practicum counseling experience and the final ½-year provides an opportunity for a rich array of MHC electives which can help our students focus on specialized areas within the counseling profession. (Examples of electives include: Neuropsychology Basic Principles; Counseling in Public Settings; Crisis Counseling; Sexuality and Gender Counseling; Cognitive and Behavioral Therapy Principles for Counseling; Principles of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy for Counseling; Couples and Family Counseling; Counseling with Children and Adolescents; Grief, Loss and Bereavement Counseling; Attachment Across the Lifespan; The Resilient Counselor; and Psychopharmacology). Students coming to our MHC program with previous graduate coursework may be able to transfer up to 12-credits and therefore be able to complete the program within two years working closely with the MHC Program Director to ensure all program educational and experiential requirements have been met.

Q18. Whom can I contact for more information about my application?

Contact the Ferkauf Office of Admissions at 718.430.3820 or ferkaufadmissions@yu.edu with any questions regarding your application.