Our Faculty

Casey Barrio Minton  
Professor & Program Coordinator

Sharon L. Bruner  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Jeff L. Cochran  
Professor & Department Head

Joel F. Diambra  
Associate Professor

Melinda M. Gibbons  
Professor & Program Coordinator

Shawn L. Spurgeon  
Associate Professor

Laura S. Wheat  
Assistant Professor & Program Coordinator

How to Apply

Applications are due each year on February 1 for fall or summer admissions.

Application requirements can be found on the websites listed below.

Contact Us

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Website  
epc.utk.edu/clinical-mental-health-counseling/

Program Coordinator  
Casey Barrio Minton, PhD  
Professor & Program Coordinator  
444 Claxton Education Building  
1126 Volunteer Blvd.  
Knoxville, TN 37996-3452  
865-974-8382  
cbarrio@utk.edu

School Counseling

Website  
epc.utk.edu/school-counseling/

Program Coordinator  
Laura S. Wheat, PhD  
Assistant Professor & Program Coordinator  
443 Claxton Education Building  
1126 Volunteer Blvd.  
Knoxville, TN 37996-3452  
865-974-3845  
lwheat@utk.edu
About our Programs

The Master of Science degree in counseling offers two concentration programs - clinical mental health counseling and school counseling. Each program requires 60 credit hours and can be completed in two years, including summer semesters. Courses are offered face-to-face in a high-energy, open-door, positive learning environment.

Program Features

- Long-standing CACREP accreditation that adds rigor to your professional preparation
- Dual-track licensure preparation – an optional, (post admission, selection by faculty after application review) three-year, 63-credit sequence allowing candidates to complete all educational requirements and internships in both clinical mental health and school settings for Licensure as a Professional Counselor (LPC) and Licensure as a School Counselor in TN
- Faculty members who are moving the counseling profession forward by writing cutting-edge articles and books and are highly involved in professional organizations, such as Chi Sigma Iota International, American Counseling Association, and Tennessee Counseling Association
- Departmental outreach programs to enhance your learning and skills:
  - FUTURE Postsecondary Education Program (FUTURE)
  - Grief Outreach Initiative (GOI)
  - Imagining Possibilities (IP)

Personal Opportunities

- Establish a network of counseling professional relationships that are sustained beyond graduation
- Create a counselor-first identity, focusing on the skills needed for effective counseling across different types of sites
- Work with faculty on research, advocacy, and professional development projects
- Join an award-winning Upsilon Theta Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, an international honor society focused on promoting academic and professional excellence in counseling

Core Values

Throughout our program we work toward culturally sensitive, developmentally appropriate, and ethical relationships. This is accomplished by embracing our core values, our CORIS:

- Commitment
- Openness
- Respect
- Integrity
- Self-awareness