



CAREER PATH

Human Services

CAREER CLUSTER
Human Services

CAREER PATHWAY
Counseling and Mental Health Services



MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

Counsel with emphasis on prevention. Work with individuals and groups to promote optimum mental health. May help individuals deal with addictions and substance abuse; family, parenting, and marital problems; suicide; stress management; problems with self-esteem; and issues associated with aging and mental and emotional health.

Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a mental health counselor are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)

Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Mental health counselors	8.9%	18.3%	72.8%
Counselors, social workers, and other community and social Service Specialists	10.3%	19.8%	69.9%
Community and social services	10.5%	20.5%	69.9%

Most Common Educational Level: Master's degree

Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing. Apprenticeships are available for more than 240 occupations. Visit www.oa.doleta.gov/bat.cfm

National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2007		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$13.51	\$17.31	\$22.83
	Yearly	\$28,100	\$36,000	\$47,500
Missouri	Hourly	\$14.26	\$19.01	\$24.01
	Yearly	\$29,700	\$39,500	\$49,900

Based on (*) lower 25% and (**) upper 25% percentile of wages

National and State Employment Trends

Mental Health Counselor	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2006	2016		
United States	99,800	129,800	+ 30 %	4,970
Missouri	920	1,100	+ 20 %	40

*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

Educational Opportunities

Note: This list may not be all inclusive. For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit www.dhe.mo.gov

Missouri Valley College

Marshall, MO
(660) 831-4000
www.moval.edu



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