



Assumption
University

SCHOOL OF
GRADUATE STUDIES

A photograph of a man with a beard and a young boy high-fiving. The man is on the right, wearing a maroon shirt, and the boy is on the left, wearing a blue shirt. They are both smiling and their hands are raised in the air. A green plant is visible in the background on the right.

5 CAREER PATHS TO THE **HELPING PROFESSIONS**

CAREERS THAT CHANGE LIVES

Helping professionals positively impact people every day—from young adults with autism to individuals dealing with depression.

If improving the lives of others sounds rewarding to you, consider pursuing a helping profession.



WHY CHOOSE A HELPING PROFESSION?



Make a difference
in the lives of others



Work with children,
veterans, or individuals
with physical or mental
challenges



Helping professionals
are in high demand
across the country



You can pursue an MA
in a helping profession
regardless of your
undergraduate major

PATHWAYS TO THE HELPING PROFESSIONS

Popular helping professions include:

1. Applied Behavior Analysis
2. Mental Health Counseling
3. Rehabilitation Counseling
4. School Counseling
5. Special Education



**Assumption University offers
a broad range of master's
and certificate programs that
enable you to embark on, or
advance, your career in the
helping professions.**

(See page 22 for a full list.)

1

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Helping a child with autism learn how to speak. Teaching an adult with an intellectual disability the skills to live independently. Using science to solve socially significant problems, Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) design and implement evidence-based interventions to teach skills, improve performance, and decrease behavioral challenges.



BECOMING A **BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST (BCBA)**



Look for an ABA master's program that:

- Meets the coursework and fieldwork requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination
- Enables you to put theory into practice under the supervision of Board Certified Behavior Analysts
- Has excellent pass rates on the BCBA exam
- Includes a comprehensive curriculum covering the applied, experimental, and conceptual branches of behavior analysis
- Teaches you the skills needed to design and evaluate individualized, evidence-based interventions

**Assumption University's
comprehensive ABA curriculum
and fieldwork placements provide
exceptional preparation for future
behavior analysts. Our students
graduate ready to succeed in both
clinical and research-based positions.**

2

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

Mental health counselors help clients deal with issues preventing them from living their best lives, such as anxiety, depression, addiction, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They may specialize in treating individuals, couples, families, or children, and work in settings ranging from private practice to schools, hospitals, and substance abuse clinics.



BECOMING A MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR



Look for a master's program that:

- Teaches proven, evidence-based treatment methods such as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT)
- Connects you to practical learning opportunities in a variety of settings
- Prepares you to meet the educational requirements for licensure as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC)
- Includes faculty who are expert practicing clinicians

Assumption's clinical counseling faculty have active research programs that engage graduate student fellows. **Our graduate fellowships offer 30 credits of tuition remission and the chance to work closely with a faculty member on important research.**

3

REHABILITATION COUNSELING

Assisting a disabled veteran in finding employment. Ensuring an elderly client has access to adequate medical care. Rehabilitation counselors work with a wide variety of people and wear many hats, providing the advocacy, practical assistance, and emotional support their clients need to thrive.



BECOMING A REHABILITATION COUNSELOR



The best rehabilitation counseling master's programs:

- Allow you to pursue areas such as vocational rehabilitation, psychiatric rehabilitation, working with veterans, youth in transition, and addiction
- Provide a rigorous, up-to-date curriculum
- Connect students to strong experiential learning opportunities
- Are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)

Assumption University is ranked nationally by *U.S. News & World Report* in the top 40 Best Graduate Schools in Rehabilitation Counseling. Graduates of our program are well-trained to assume leadership roles in rehabilitation, human services, allied health, education, and a variety of related settings.

4

SCHOOL COUNSELING

School-age children face many challenges, from peer pressure and self-esteem issues to balancing academics, extracurriculars, and other pursuits. School counselors support and advocate for students of all ages to help them reach their full potential as learners and as people.



BECOMING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR



A master's program in school counseling should:

- Provide a rigorous, up-to-date curriculum
- Allow you to choose between a school or adjustment counselor path
- Connect you to pre-practicum and practicum opportunities in urban and suburban settings
- Ensure you are eligible for certification as a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) should you wish to pursue these credentials
- Endorse for licensure in your state

Assumption is one of only four universities in Massachusetts to be “Approved with Distinction” by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)—the highest level of approval awarded by the Department.

5

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education teachers work side by side with students with special needs and their families. Special educators bring unique skills and expertise to support all students in learning, growing, achieving, and reaching their potential.



BECOMING A **SPECIAL EDUCATOR**



An exceptional special education program should:

- Prepare compassionate and reflective teachers
- Teach practical, evidence-based practices
- Provide school-based research opportunities
- Lead to eligibility for initial and professional licensure
- Advance expertise in specialized areas such as positive behavior supports or autism
- Be taught by professors with extensive experience in the field
- Offer courses and field experiences that bridge the gap between theory and practice

Assumption's special education program is "Approved with Distinction" by the DESE and can be completed in just one year. **Graduates are eligible for Massachusetts licensure as a teacher of students with moderate disabilities from PreK through 12th grade.**

THE HELPING PROFESSIONS AT ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY

Worcester's Premier Helping Professions Graduate School

There's simply no better place to prepare for success as a caring and impactful helping professional than Assumption University.

For more than 50 years, we've been preparing students to transform lives as helping professionals, in an enriching learning environment driven by Catholic ideals.



Our central MA campus is located in the heart of the Commonwealth

50

Years of experience



Students access education at our Professional Development Institute throughout their career

WHY STUDY A HELPING PROFESSION AT ASSUMPTION?

- **Unmatched range of programs**, from clinical counseling to special education
- **Expert faculty** with extensive professional experience and impressive research credentials
- **Catholic university** where helping others is integral to our mission
- **Access to practicum-internships** in Worcester and beyond
- **Vibrant helping professions community** that includes practitioners from around the world
- **Exceptional pass rates on certification exams** that surpass the national averages
- **Continued professional development** allowing you to stay current on the latest research and methodologies

HELPING PROFESSIONS PROGRAMS AT ASSUMPTION

Applied Behavior Analysis

On campus | M.A. | C.A.G.S.

Clinical Counseling Psychology

On campus | M.A.

Rehabilitation Counseling

On campus | Online | M.A. | C.A.G.S.

Resiliency in the Helping Professions

Blended (online/on campus) | C.A.G.S. | C.G.S.

School Counseling

Online | M.A. | C.A.G.S.

Special Education

On campus | M.A.

Special Education Positive Behavior Supports C.A.G.S. (with Licensure Option)

On campus

Special Education Autism Spectrum Disorders C.A.G.S. (with Endorsement Option)

On campus

Special Ops: Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF)

Online | C.A.G.S. | C.G.S.

Transition Specialist C.A.G.S. (with Endorsement)

Online

Ready to change lives? Let's start with yours.

SCHEDULE A CONVERSATION NOW!

[ASSUMPTION.EDU/EXPLORE-ACADEMICS/GRADUATE-STUDIES](https://assumption.edu/explore-academics/graduate-studies)



**Assumption
University**

SCHOOL OF
GRADUATE STUDIES

CONTACT

Susan M. Cahill

Associate Director of Graduate Admissions

508-767-7365

sm.cahill@assumption.edu

[Schedule a Conversation Now](#)