New Student Orientation
Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Welcome to Montreat College

You’re here because you’re dedicated to growth. To a life of connection and clear purpose. And because you’re ready for learning experiences that are as impactful as they are accommodating, all guided by a commitment to Christ. We welcome you to a life of passion, enthusiasm, and intention.

New Student Orientation

The School of Professional and Adult Studies offers accelerated programs with classes meeting one night per week. Our students are challenged and rewarded both academically and spiritually. The faculty and staff of Montreat College are delighted and encouraged by your decision to further your education and we are dedicated to helping you achieve your educational goals.

This “New Student Orientation” is the first step you will take during your initial registration process with the College. Read through this document and learn all about YOUR college. Next, download the acknowledgement form and send a signed copy over to your Admissions Specialist in the Enrollment Office. They will forward it on to your assigned Academic Advisor who will soon be contacting you to schedule your registration meeting. At this meeting you will receive your individualized degree plan and transfer credit evaluation. You will also choose your classes for your first term with Montreat College at this appointment.

Should you have any questions about the contents of this document, please be prepared with your questions for your Academic Advisor at your registration meeting. Of course, you are always more than welcome to contact your advisor with questions, concerns, etc. during your educational journey with Montreat.

Again, we welcome you to Montreat College and the School of Professional and Adult Studies!
General Information

Although students do not need to be of the Christian faith, we ask that students have an openness to the College’s mission: Christ-centered, Student-focused, Service-driven.

Academic Catalog

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the academic policies contained in the Montreat College Catalog. Failure to do so does not excuse students from the requirements and regulations outlined within the catalog. The academic catalog can be viewed at any time on the Montreat College website.

Graduate Courses

Our graduate seated courses are held one night per week from 6:00PM to 10:00PM and are offered Mondays through Thursdays. There are no Friday or weekend courses available at this time.

There are 3 academic terms (spring, summer, and fall) each comprised of 3 sessions. Courses are 8 weeks long.

Online courses run from the Sunday start date of the session through the Saturday end date of the session.

Study group participation may be required and will be determined by each instructor.

Students must finish coursework within 5 years of beginning program.

Course Registration

Students are pre-registered for courses. Any adjustments to the schedule must be completed with your Academic Advisor.

Drop/Add Policy -

Adding a course: Students may add courses no later than the first week of the session for seated courses. Students may add courses no later than the Friday prior to the start of the session for online courses.

Dropping a course: Students enrolled in 8-week Master level classes may withdraw through the 4th week of the session before receiving a WF.

NOTE: If students attend a course or session for which they are not officially registered, they will not receive credit for the work.
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Class Attendance

The Department of Education requires Montreat College faculty to adhere to a strict policy for class attendance to maintain Title IV funding. The SPAS programs emphasize group interaction in the classroom as well as in study groups. If students are absent, they do not gain the benefit of learning from their peers, nor do they have the opportunity to contribute to other students’ learning. Classes meet for a minimum of four hours per week of instruction, not including the time required to complete individual homework for each class. The instructor must turn in attendance records of class meetings each week through our course management system.

Montreat College SPAS allows one absence from class without grade penalty. If a student misses a second class, the final grade can be lowered a letter grade at the discretion of the instructor. Instructors may have a stricter policy, but they must clearly indicate any other specific consequences for absences in their course syllabus. If it is not indicated, it is assumed that the penalty will occur according to the policy above.

Inclement Weather Policy

The College will normally make a decision regarding class cancellation by 1:00pm. Students can learn if classes are canceled on a questionable evening by the following methods:

- Calling the main campus switchboard at (828) 669-8011, option 3. The Asheville and Charlotte campus switchboards will also be updated
- Visiting the Montreat College website home page
- Checking the Montreat College student email for an e-blast from SPAS Administration
- Checking with local TV stations:
  - Asheville: WLOS (via text message, email, WLOS website, and on-air)  
    “Montreat College Evening Classes”
  - Charlotte: WSOC (via text message, email, WSOC website, and on-air)  
    “Montreat College – Charlotte”
  - Morganton: WSOC (via text message, email, WSOC website, and on-air)  
    “Montreat College – Morganton”
  - Raleigh: WRAL (via email and WRAL website)  
    “Montreat Coll Evening Classes/Rky Mt”
Continued...

Inclement Weather Policy continued

Rocky Mount: WRAL (via email and WRAL website)
“Montreat Coll Evening Classes/Ral”

To sign up for text message and/or email alerts from an individual news station, please visit the station’s website for more information.

Arrangements for making up a missed class due to inclement weather will be determined by the instructor and the students with guidance from Faculty Services Office. Arrangements can be made to hold class virtually online or by rescheduling a class meeting for a different night of the class week.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Graduate students are expected to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 throughout their program of study. If at any time a student receives a grade less than B- on course work taken for graduate credit, the student will need to meet with the academic program director. Each academic program will determine the consequences for receiving less than a B- in a course.

Administrative Withdrawal

If an enrolled student does not attend class during the first 3 weeks of a course and does not contact their Academic Advisor regarding an academic plan, the College will assume the student no longer wishes to attend the College. The student will be dropped from that course and any other pre-registered courses and withdrawn from the program. If the student wishes to continue his/her education at Montreat College, he/she will need to subsequently contact their Academic Advisor in order to be readmitted and registered for future courses. Students will be charged in full for any courses they were administratively withdrawn from.

Course Materials

Books for the program are included and will be provided to students by the College prior to the start of the course. Students will be required to download course modules prior to starting each course.
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Computer Requirement

All students are required to have access to a computer that meets the listed minimum specifications for all courses in their degree program. In addition, students will be required to have a notebook computer/laptop meeting minimum specifications during class time for certain courses. Ask your Academic Advisor during your registration meeting for the SPAS Student Computer Policy for additional information.

Enrollment Verification

Students, for various reasons, may need official written proof that they are currently enrolled. Montreat College is a member of the National Student Clearinghouse, which acts as an agent for all verifications of student enrollment. Please visit the Clearinghouse online or contact them by phone at (703) 742-4200 to obtain an official enrollment verification certificate at any time.

Graduation

All candidates for graduation must submit a formal application for graduation to the Records and Registration Office. Graduation application deadlines are March 1 for spring, June 1 for summer, and October 1 for fall. There are 3 conferral dates per year; May, August, and December. There are 2 commencement ceremonies per year; May and December.

Disability Services

The College will provide reasonable accommodations for known disabilities whether visual, hearing, mobility, medical, learning, or for other qualified applicants and students. Eligible students should complete the following steps.

1) Identify yourself to your Academic Advisor and submit current documentation of your disability.
2) Be willing to participate in additional evaluation to confirm the disability, if requested.
3) Provide clear recommendations for accommodations from a professional care provider.
4) Request in writing the specific accommodations needed to enable your academic success.
Continued...

Disability Services continued

Your Academic Advisor, in conjunction with Student Health Service and other appropriate personnel, will access the documentation and determine the reasonableness of the requested accommodations. This group of personnel serve as liaisons between students and faculty/staff, working individually with students to develop and implement a plan for academic accessibility.

Rights Reserved

The College reserves the right to add or delete courses, to change academic policies, practices and requirements or to alter the academic catalog at any time. Courses with fewer than seven students may be canceled due to low enrollment.
Program Details

Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree offered at Montreat College educates students in the history and development of the counseling profession, theories of counseling, and theories and ethical practices of counseling. Through the MCMHC program, students become competent counselor practitioners who are life-long learners, critical thinkers, and agents of social justice. Program graduates leave Montreat with the competencies required for working with multicultural and diverse groups, and strategies for working with individuals across the lifespan in everyday developmental, behavioral, psychological, social, emotional, and career challenges and crises.

A practicum course allows students to participate in a supervised clinical counseling practice. Two internships give students supervised practical experience, focusing on assessment and consultation.

Graduates of the program meet the education requirements set forth by the NC Board of Licensed Professional Counselors required of applicants for the Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA) license. The LPCA license is the required first step in becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

This is approximately a 3 year master’s program due to required coursework as well as the practicum and internships (18 courses; 60 semester hours).

MCMHC Courses

- CN 600: Professional Orientation to Counseling
- CN 605: Ethics and Ethical Practice in Counseling
- CN 610: Theories and Techniques in Counseling
- CN 615: Counseling Skills
- CN 620: Spirituality and Religion in Counseling
- CN 625: Counseling Across the Lifespan
- CN 630: Multicultural Counseling
- CN 635: Mental Health Diagnosis and Treatment
- CN 640: Career Counseling
- CN 645: Assessment in Counseling
- CN 650: Group Counseling
- CN 655: Research Methods in Counseling
- CN 660: Crisis Intervention/Crisis Counseling
- CN 665: Substance Abuse Counseling
- CN 670: Gender Issues in Counseling
- CN 675: Counseling Practicum
- CN 680: Counseling Internship I
- CN 685: Counseling Internship II

Programs are eligible to apply for CACREP accreditation during the final internship course of the first program cohort. Upon receiving accreditation, graduates within a year’s time frame prior are grandfathered into the accreditation status. Montreat College’s program has used CACREP standards to guide its curriculum development and requirements, as well as faculty hiring practices, and will seek accreditation once it is eligible.
Degree Information

Transfer Information

- A maximum of (9) six semester credits of graduate course work can transfer into the CMHC program.
- All Transfer credit must have been earned at a regionally accredited graduate program, must have been at the same level and must duplicate the content of the Montreat College course. A grade B or above must have been earned (3.0 on a 4.0 scale).
- All transcripts must be submitted before students can begin the program.

Internship and CPCE Information

- Successful completion of clinical counseling internship hours is required.
- Successfully passing the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) is required.
Financial Aid

If a student chooses financial aid as a method of meeting the financial obligations of a SPAS program, all forms must be completed and returned to the Financial Aid Office prior to the start of their first course. All financial aid funds are posted directly to student accounts.

Getting Started -

To start the financial aid application process, students must first be accepted into Montreat College and have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid online at www.fafsa.gov.

Students who are interested in borrowing to finance their education should complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Counseling for the William D. Form Direct Loan through the Department of Education at www.studentloans.gov.

Students will be notified on an individual basis of any additional forms needed to complete their financial aid file. You are encouraged to reach out to our office to start the financial aid process or that we may answer any questions you might have.

Eligibility Criteria -

To maintain financial aid, students must remain in at least six credit hours per semester in order to remain eligible for student loans. Eligibility for Pell Grant may also be affected by any changes in enrollment. Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress (refer to policy for details) and must reapply each academic year for financial aid. To be considered full time, an undergraduate student should be enrolled a minimum of 30 weeks (15 per semester) of instructional time and a minimum of 24 credit hours (12 per semester) attempted.

Students who are in default on federal student loans will not be eligible for any financial aid until the default is cleared through the National Student Loan Database System, or proof is submitted and accepted that the default has been cleared.

Satisfactory Academic Progress -

Students receiving financial aid must maintain satisfactory academic progress. This determination of progress is made at the end of each semester including the summer semester, and before the Financial Aid Office disburses any federal aid funds for the subsequent semester. To be eligible to receive Title IV federal funds, Pell Grants, SEOG, Federal College Work Study, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Direct Loans or state and institutional aid, students must maintain satisfactory progress.
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Student Loan Grace Period

Students must maintain at least ½ time enrollment or 6 credit hours per semester in order to qualify for the Federal Student Loan program. All student enrollment status is reported monthly to the National Clearinghouse, who then submits this information to student loan lenders. Lenders receive this information regardless of whether or not the loans are received at Montreat College.

Each student loan has a six (6) month grace period associated with both subsidized and unsubsidized student loans. When a student’s enrollment status drops below ½ time for the semester, regardless of what point in the semester it happens, this information is reported to the lenders. Dropping below ½ time in any given semester initiates the grace period. Each time period of enrollment where a student drops below ½ time counts toward the overall grace period on each loan. To prevent using all of the grace period prior to graduation, it is recommended that students maintain at least ½ time enrollment each semester.

Types of Financial Assistance -

William D. Ford Federal Direct Student Loan Program: Federal Direct Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized) are low-interest loans available to assist eligible students. Completion of the Direct Loan Entrance Counseling Interview and Master Promissory Note are required to receive federal loan funds.

Educational Benefits through the Veterans Administration or Vocational Rehabilitation: Veterans benefits are applied for directly through the Veterans’ Administration. To check on the status of benefits, students can contact the Veterans Administration at 1-800-827-1000. You can reach the Montreat College School Certifying Official at va@montreat.edu.

Employer Reimbursement: Many employers offer tuition reimbursement to employees in academic programs. Students should contact their employer for more information and notify the Financial Aid Office of any awards made.

Contact Information -

SPAS Financial Aid Office

Email: spasfinancialaid@montreat.edu

Phone: 1-800-545-4656
Student Accounts

The payment of all tuition and fees becomes an obligation upon registration at Montreat College. Students may view their accounts online using Self-Service on the main page under Current Students. Instructions on how to use Self-Service are available on the Student Accounts Office web page.

Forms -

All Student Financial Services forms are available for download on the SFS Forms web page.

Payment of Tuition and Fees -

Students who anticipate that all or part of their expenses will be paid by employer tuition reimbursement are expected to pay at least two weeks prior to the start of each course with their own funds.

Students that will be using VA benefits and do not receive 100% coverage from the VA are expected to pay their portion of the tuition at least two weeks prior to the start of each course.

Self-Pay student’s tuition and fees are due at least two weeks prior to the start of each course.

A $50 late fee is charged each time a payment is received after the due date. All outstanding balances must be cleared before future course or program registrations will be approved. The College reserves the right to withdraw students from current and all future courses for failure to meet financial obligations.

Receipt Requests -

Students may request receipts for reimbursement purposes by submitting a receipt request form to spasstudentaccounts@montreat.edu. Students who receive financial aid will only be able to receive a receipt after the posting of the grade.

Withdrawal/Refund Policy -

The following Withdrawal/Refund Policy will be in effect for each student enrolled in standard terms:

- If the student drops a course before the first week of class or during the drop/add period, the student will not be charged for tuition or fees.

- If a student drops a course after the last drop/add date, the student will be charged the full tuition rate and fees for that course.
Continued...

Withdrawal/Refund Policy continued -

The following Withdrawal/Refund Policy will be in effect for students in non-standard terms.

- If the student drops a course before the second class meeting, the student will not be charged tuition, but will be charged a $50.00 drop/add processing fee.
- If a student drops a course after the second class meeting, the student will be charged the full tuition rate and fees for that course.

Credit Balance/Refund Process -

Students may receive a distribution of a credit balance from their account during the term, though not prior to the conclusion of the first week of the term or the actual receipt of funds. The Funds Request form can be emailed to your Montreat email by request or obtained from the Montreat College website on the Student Accounts web page. Pell Grant recipients can request a book voucher for upcoming courses by filling out a Bookstore Charges Authorization form for continuous book vouchers.

Contact Information -

SPAS Student Accounts Office

Email: spasstudentaccounts@montreat.edu

Phone: 704-357-3390 or 828-669-8012 ext. 1019.

Fax: 828-419-2298

Next Steps

You’re almost there! Your next step is to download, print, sign, and return the New Student Orientation Acknowledgement Form to your Admissions Specialist.

Once your acknowledgement form is received, it will be sent to your assigned Academic Advisor and she will contact you at the email address and/or phone number on file to schedule your registration meeting.

This meeting needs to be completed at least 2 weeks before the start of classes, so don’t delay! Send in your form today!