

ADVANCED SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

This post-master's certificate program equips mental health professionals to better impact positive psychosocial development of their student clients. Primary takeaways from the program will include: advanced training in fostering collaboration between schools and families, implementing strength-based interventions in schools, advocating for whole-school interventions, and becoming more data driven and evidence informed as School-Based Mental Health Practitioners (SBMHP).

Length of Program

The program begins in the Fall semester (August). Courses are offered during the fall and spring semesters. Average time to completion (full-time) is 2 years (4 semesters).

Note: The U.S. Department of Education requires any institution offering distance education/online programs to students outside of its home state to acquire authorization from the states in which students reside. Regulations vary from state to state. While Loyola University Chicago is authorized, exempt or pursuing authorization in most states, some restrictions apply. Please see our State Authorization (<https://www.luc.edu/online/aboutloyolaonline/state-authorization/>) page for the most up-to-date information.

Loyola University Chicago is registered as a private institution with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education pursuant to sections 136A.61 to 136A.71. Registration is not an endorsement of the institution. Credits earned at the institution may not transfer to all other institutions.

Curriculum

This program consists of 15 credit hours, including two synchronous courses, two asynchronous online courses, and one hybrid elective class. All courses are offered online with the exception of one in-person immersion weekend required. Courses are offered during the fall and spring semesters.

Code	Title	Hours
SOWK 780 / SOWK 781	Integrative Seminar I Advanced School Mental Health Program (online, taught over the full 1st year)	3
SOWK 782 / SOWK 783	Integrative Seminar III Advanced School Mental Health Program (online, taught over the full 2nd year)	3
SOWK 784	Evidence Based Practice in Schools (online, can take in either Year 1 or Year 2)	3
SOWK 785	Solution-Focused Brief Therapy Techniques (SFBT, MI) (online, may take in either Year 1 or Year 2)	3
SOWK 786	Special Topics in School Social Work (online & includes the summer immersion weekend)	3
Total Hours		15

Learning Outcomes

The learning goals for the SMHAPP are:

- To help SBMHPs further assist student clients in succeeding academically by teaching SBMHP evidence-informed methods to foster positive psychosocial development of their students.
- To enhance the overall sense of well being in school communities by strengthening SBMHP collaborations between students, families, faculty and communities, including the delivery of effective interventions across all three tiers of the RTI and PBIS models.
- To train SBMHPs to implement strength-based interventions in their practice, specifically interventions rooted in solution-focused brief therapy models and some of the ongoing solution-focused research being carried out at the FSPP.
- To reshape school practice by training school based mental health professionals to provide more systemic, whole school interventions and efficiently meet students' needs.
- To provide a cutting-edge program for school based mental health professionals to learn how to become more data-driven and evidence-informed in their school mental health practice.