Equipping you for your calling

Students in Regent University’s School of Psychology & Counseling come from a variety of backgrounds, nationalities and denominational traditions, but what they all share is this: a heart for people and a deep desire to make a difference in their lives.

Perhaps you’ve noticed it in your own life. Maybe you’re the person everyone always comes to for counsel or someone who’s always been interested in why people do the things they do. Maybe you’ve noticed a talent for building relationships or helping others find ways to restore or repair their own broken ties.

Maybe what you’re really noticing are the signs of a calling—a calling to the mental health profession.

Here in Regent’s School of Psychology & Counseling, we’ll equip you with the knowledge, tools and competence you’ll need to develop your talents and build your professional skills and abilities. After all, at Regent University that’s our calling—preparing Christian leaders who are dedicated to excellence in their fields and ready to make a significant impact on their world.

A standard of excellence that’s anything but standard

As part of the Regent University School of Psychology & Counseling, you won’t just read about leading-edge mental health theories and treatment approaches. You’ll see them in practice through experiences and practicums in real-world settings. You won’t just sit passively through classes and lectures. You’ll be fully engaged and invested in them, thanks to a nationally recognized faculty of award-winning practitioners and educators who are clearly invested in you.
The power of passion when it’s connected to purpose

Regent University’s foundation is more than a date carved on a cornerstone. It’s a perspective that’s imprinted on every program, class and relationship you’ll experience. Our psychology and counseling programs will deepen your understanding of both the science of human nature and the spiritual truths that give it value and meaning in a curriculum that balances timeless Judeo-Christian principles with the highest standards in contemporary theory and practice.

Leaders prepared to put ideas and actions into practice

Today, in secular and faith-based settings across the country, you’ll find Regent-educated counselors, clinical practitioners, educators, key decision-makers in public policy, and respected voices in research and scholarship. When you graduate from Regent, you’ll hold more than an advanced degree in psychology and counseling. You’ll hold the knowledge and leadership skills you need for professional—and personal—success.

Faculty who serve as experts—and examples

Our faculty is made up of professional clinicians, researchers and educators who are dedicated to excellence in their own lives and in the lives of the students they teach. Faculty members, often partnering with students, give in national and international presentations; participate in conferences; and contribute to hundreds of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters and other scholarly works.

regent.edu/psychology/faculty
As one of the nation’s leading Christian universities, Regent University can give you the top academic credentials you need to build or advance your career in counseling or mental health treatment. But just as important, maybe even more so, you’ll learn how to put your knowledge and skills into practice with integrity, compassion and purpose. It’s an approach that can change the world.

It Starts With You

Students in the School of Psychology & Counseling are challenged to think more critically and purposefully about their faith and how it will relate to their professional identity. The relationships with fellow classmates, professors, clinical supervisors and even clients allow students to establish deep spiritual roots. Acquiring clinical skills in a safe place, with ample supervision and guidance, gives them the confidence they need to navigate the mission of integrating faith and science.

Integration of Faith and Clinical Science

Regent University is committed to the idea that science and faith do not oppose each other, but in fact complement one another. Regent-educated clinicians are solidly grounded in both the science of human behavior and the faith-based principles of restoration and renewal. Ours is a distinctively Christian approach, one that not only elevates individual practice, but also the standards of an entire field.

Ongoing Research on Integrative Topics

Regent’s award-winning faculty is engaged in progressive research on today’s big issues in mental health—from God-image and sexual identity to marriage and family relationships.
Mentorship

At Regent, professors don’t just stand in front of a classroom—they stand alongside their students as clinical supervisors and mentors who are invested in the overall academic, professional and personal development of those they teach. It’s an encouraging, collaborative environment where students are given opportunities to put their learning into practice and even participate with faculty in outside research and study.

Credentials

Regent University is the only Christian institution to offer programs accredited by both the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

regent.edu/psychology/accreditation

Diversity

Beyond our commitment to a diverse student population, the School of Psychology & Counseling sponsors the only student chapter of The Association of Black Psychologists (abpsi.org) within a Christian graduate school and sponsors an award-winning Cultural Diversity Luncheon Series where students and faculty discuss the mental health needs of a multicultural world.

regent.edu/psychology/diversity

Inclusiveness

Regent University has long been an institution that crosses denominational lines. We have a firm commitment to dialogue between the Christian traditions in order to seek truth and encourage one another in our professional callings.
Center for Trauma Studies

Regent University's Center for Trauma Studies was established to provide students and professional counselors with opportunities to integrate their Christian faith with crisis intervention strategies and trauma models for meeting people's needs at their moments of deepest distress. A partnership with the Green Cross enables students to become certified as traumatologists. The center also trains local leaders worldwide on intervention techniques and mental health practices and has led recent trips to Haiti, South Africa, Romania and Chile.

regent.edu/counseling/trauma

Mental Health and Missions

Through field experience, our students apply their clinical skills in a culturally sensitive manner. The Mental Health and Missions course features a short-term mission trip to provide assessment, psycho-education and psychotherapy services on-site under the supervision of a mental health professional. Previous teams have traveled to Jamaica, Kenya and Malaysia.

Global Impact.

"One of the most valuable things I've learned at Regent: how to be Christ-like with any population by honoring the people you work with as important, created beings. It's a value that is modeled by Regent faculty who are honest, authentic and compassionate."  

Erica Tan, Psy.D., '04 Clinical Psychology
Admissions & Financial Aid

Admission to the School of Psychology & Counseling is a detailed and carefully designed process. All the necessary forms and step-by-step instructions are available online at regent.edu/psychology/apply. In rendering an admissions decision, we utilize all of the information provided to make a good match between the student’s abilities and interests, and the capabilities and objectives of the program. For an overview of admission requirements for the various programs please visit: regent.edu/counseling/admissions.

Merit-based financial aid is available to qualified admitted students and is offered in conjunction with the offer of admission; no application is required. Details about merit awards and other financial aid options can be found at regent.edu/psychology/finaid. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for other forms of financial aid at the same time they apply for admission.

Quick Links

Admissions Application: regent.edu/psychology/apply
Tuition & Financial Aid: regent.edu/psychology/finaid
Homepage: regent.edu/psychology

Contact

1000 Regent University Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464-9800
757.352.4498 • 800.681.5906 • psycoun@regent.edu

Left: In response to a devastating 2010 earthquake, Regent’s Center for Trauma Studies provided care to children, families and pastors in Port au Prince, Haiti, as they worked to rebuild their communities.
The Human Services Counseling (HSC) program is designed to provide critical counseling and assessment skills to individuals who fulfill the role of counselor or mentor, but who work outside of areas where licensure in counseling is required. The HSC program has a strong ministry component which makes it ideal for those involved with church or outreach organizations. It can be completed in as little as one year.

- 30 Semester Hours
- Fall, Spring or Summer Start
- Online (with one five-day residency in Virginia Beach in May)
- Ideal as a joint degree

regent.edu/counseling/HSC
Jada Collins, M.A.

‘10 Human Services Counseling

Fashion model Jada Collins has always enjoyed helping others. Even while touring internationally with Ebony Fashion Fair, she says she frequently found herself counseling the other models—often hosting Bible studies in her hotel room. But she never considered counseling as a career until she finished her undergraduate degree in professional communication at Regent University in 2009.

Jada chose Regent because of its commitment to Christian values, and when she learned they also offered a master’s degree in Human Services Counseling, she knew it should be her next step.

She says she found the rigorous online program to be exactly what she needed. “My education prepared me and gave me not only the credibility, but also the courage to know what I’m saying … that I’m really speaking into their lives,” she explains.

Though she still models, Jada says she feels God has given her an even “greater work” to do now. Her degree has helped her answer that call. “Truthfully, Regent changed my life,” she says. “There’s an element of gratification that comes along with doing what I know that God has called me to do. I believe that being a counselor is part of that greater work for me.”

regent.edu/counseling/jada
Master of Arts in Counseling
Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Regent's professional counseling programs are designed to prepare students for professional licensure in either a school or community setting. The curriculum offers training in contemporary counseling techniques within the context of a Biblical worldview for a truly integrated approach.

Master of Arts in Counseling

- School or Community Emphasis
- On Campus in Virginia Beach
- 60 Semester Hours
- CACREP Accredited
- Fall or Spring Start

regent.edu/counseling/MA

Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

- School or Clinical Emphasis
- Online (weeklong residency in Virginia Beach each August)
- 60 Semester Hours
- CACREP Accreditation in Process (2012)
- Fall Start

regent.edu/counseling/MHC
Growing up in Siberia, Marina Kuzmina never imagined living or studying in America. At age 18 she met Regent M.A. in Counseling graduate Emory DeBusk Jr., who had traveled overseas to begin a ministry to addicts. Marina quickly felt that his plan was her plan too, and she soon became an integral part of his ministry.

In 2006, Marina’s mentor and friend tragically died. When she flew to America to deliver his ashes, Marina was encouraged by DeBusk’s sister to consider earning a degree from Regent as her friend had done. She applied and ultimately received a full scholarship. Because one Regent graduate traveled to the other side of the world to share a life-giving ministry, another life was inspired to walk in his footsteps.

Marina’s experience at Regent was a powerful one.

“During my internship in Newport News, I saw so many lives change,” she explains. “God put it on my heart to open a practice in Hampton Roads.”

So that’s what she did. Along with two other Regent graduates, Marina opened Renewal, a neurotherapy and counseling practice in Virginia Beach, Va., where she helps patients with sleeping disorders, migraines, depression and anxiety.
The Ph.D. in Counselor Education & Supervision is the terminal degree in the field of counseling. The program prepares students to assume leadership positions and teaching roles within the counseling profession. Regent’s program is the only one of its kind to include a Christian integration component and was the first-ever online doctoral program to be accredited by CACREP. Applicants must have a master’s in counseling or a closely related field.

- 66 Semester Hours
- Online (with a weeklong residency in Virginia Beach each summer)
- Fall Start
- CACREP Accredited

regent.edu/counseling/CES
Toni Gines-Rivera, Ph.D.

‘10 Counselor Education and Supervision

When Toni Gines-Rivera enrolled at Regent University she had no idea what God had in store for her. While pursuing her doctorate, a professor asked her to present her dissertation research in Honduras. Once there, she was invited to speak at a refuge for sexually abused girls. Having overcome a childhood of abuse, this ignited a passion within her.

“Had I not visited that refuge, I would have never understood how that is a part of my ministry—to teach inner healing to women in pain from sexual abuse,” Toni says.

Her dissertation has also provided other opportunities for her, including contributing to an upcoming book and training counselors overseas.

“I’ve literally been thrust into an international lifestyle—something I never imagined,” she says.

She believes it’s all a result of obeying God’s call.

“God is in the business of developing good, competent professionals to send out to the world because the world is so deprived of education, of love, of God,” Toni explains. “If you prove to be faithful, He is going to use you.”

She credits Regent for helping clarify God’s purposes for her. “I got more than a title here,” she says. “I received my vision for what’s to be the rest of my life.”

regent.edu/counseling/toni
Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.)

Following the scholar-practitioner model, the Psy.D. program prepares students for licensure and practice in clinical psychology. This five-year program combines both the master's and doctoral degrees into one curriculum, so a separate master’s degree is not required for admission. During their tenure, students amass thousands of hours in clinical practice under the supervision of a licensed clinical psychologist. This begins as early as the second year in our Psychological Services Center (regent.edu/PSC). The program culminates in a year-long pre-doctoral internship. Emphases include marriage and family, children and adolescents, health psychology, and consulting psychology.

» 125 Semester Hours
» On Campus in Virginia Beach
» Fall Start
» APA Accredited

regent.edu/psychology/psyd
It wasn’t until after a mission trip to India and the prompting of a college professor that Andy Yarborough considered graduate school at Regent University. Feeling called to minister to people—but not necessarily as a pastor—he was drawn to psychology.

Learning to integrate his Christian faith with psychology was important to Andy, and he found Regent’s approach to be a perfect fit.

“Regent is serious about you fostering your identity in Christ and expressing it through the identity of psychology,” Andy explains.

He says this is one of Regent’s strengths compared to other Psy.D. programs because it better equips students for clinical practice.

“Young students are coming out, and they have no idea how to handle the reality of faith in people’s lives,” Andy shares. “(At Regent) you come out trained to deal with and to conceptualize people in a way that other people don’t know how to do.”

Andy currently uses these skills working with adults with developmental disabilities and says he has been amazed how his education has helped fulfill God’s call on his life.

“It fit with what I felt like God was calling me to do, to basically shepherd people on a daily basis. I just love what I do.”

regent.edu/psychology/andy
The Committee on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association (Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20002-4242, Phone: 202-336-5979, Fax: 202-336-5978) has conferred accreditation on the Regent University Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, which offers the Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) Degree (effective March 2002). The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), has granted accreditation to the following programs: Counselor Education & Supervision (Ph.D.), Community Counseling (M.A.), and School Counseling (M.A.). Regent University is certified by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to operate campuses within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Regent University admits students without discrimination on the basis of race, color, disability, gender, religion or national or ethnic origin. COU110186