

NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Mental Health Counselors (Doctoral)

Note: Requirements listed below apply to the 2021 application cycle only. Dates and other eligibility requirements are subject to change for the 2022 application cycle.

The National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP) for Mental Health Counselors (MHC-D) is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The NBCC Foundation will administer up to 20 doctoral-level counseling fellowships of \$20,000, plus the travel expenses to participate in program-related trainings for mental health counseling students.

The NBCC MFP helps ensure that the behavioral health needs of all Americans are met, regardless of language or culture, thereby reducing health disparities and improving overall community health and well-being. Minorities include but are not limited to racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, sexual orientation, rural, or military groups. By strategically promoting and providing fellowships to master's-level counseling students, the NBCC MFP strengthens the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors.

Eligible applicants must demonstrate knowledge of and experience with one or more of the following: underserved minority communities, child/adolescent and geriatric groups, minority communities in inner cities and rural areas, minority persons (including LGBT), or those who are veterans or are from military families. Eligible applicants must commit to teach, administer services, conduct research, and/or provide direct mental health counseling to at least one of the above-listed populations.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have permanent resident status.
- Applicants must not work for a federal agency or receive any other federal funds (except for federal loans or work-study).
- Applicants must not already possess a doctoral degree in a behavioral health field.
- Applicants must currently be board certified by holding the National Certified Counselor (NCC) credential. If the applicant is not currently board certified, they must document all of the following:
 1. A full state license as a professional counselor.
 2. A passing score on the National Counselor Examination (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE).
 3. A commitment to apply for the NCC credential and to complete the application within the shortest possible timeframe after notification of the MFP award.
- Applicants must be currently enrolled full time and be in good standing in a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)-accredited doctoral-level counseling program. Applicants must be currently taking courses. Applicants may not have a pending status, deferred status, or other future start date for coursework.
- Applicants are expected to graduate by May 31, 2024 (within three years of the date of the fellowship funding).

- Eligible applicants must not have an anticipated academic program completion date before Dec. 31, 2021, which will be verified in writing by their academic department prior to the awarding of funds.
- Applicants must have demonstrated knowledge and experience with underserved minority communities, child/adolescent and geriatric groups, minority communities in inner cities and rural areas, minority persons (including LGBT), or those who are veterans or are from military families.
- Applicants must commit to teach, administer, research and/or provide direct mental health services to minority and underserved populations in the private, nonprofit, or public sectors within one year of graduation and for the duration of two years post-graduation.
- Applicants must be able to attend the 2021 NBCC Foundation’s Bridging the Gap Symposium to open their fellowship year the week of May 24–28, 2021, and to close their fellowship year at the 2022 Symposium during the week of May 23–27, 2022, and up to two other training events during their fellowship year.
- African Americans, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are especially encouraged to apply.*

To check the CACREP status of a program, search the [CACREP website](#).

NOTE: Applicants who are not already NBCC board certified counselors or do not hold the NCC AP are strongly advised to verify their eligibility for the NCC or NCC AP prior to applying. Requirements of the NCC certification can be found on NBCC’s website at nbcc.org/Certification/NCC.

For questions, please review our most recent [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or email foundation@nbcc.org.

*Eligibility requirements for MFP awards are defined by SAMHSA. The program is not limited to individuals from minority populations; however, SAMHSA does prioritize individuals from the following communities: African American, Alaska Native, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander. SAMHSA’s priority population decision is based on the documentation of significant mental health disparities within these communities and the SAMHSA-identified strategy of increasing the number of individuals representing these communities in counselor education and leadership. This priority is considered when there are applicants with equivalently strong results to the review process. In that case, those applicants who meet the SAMHSA priority are chosen.

The 2021 application cycle is closed.

The application cycle for 2022 MFP awards will open in September 2021.