Degree Details
Center for Graduate Studies

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

ADULT EDUCATION YOU CAN HAVE FAITH IN.

MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN SERVICES

The Masters of Arts in Human Services (MAHS) program is an applied non-licensure degree designed for individuals who desire to work (or are currently working) in private or public social services settings, providing non-therapeutic assistance to people in need. Students will complete coursework that focuses on the foundations of human services, human development, world view and ethics, legal issues, diversity issues, interviewing skills, and research methodology. Students will develop an understanding of how to assist people experiencing complex, problematic situations, how faith and science intersect, and how research can facilitate understanding people and their needs. The program offers one concentration in family studies.

Program Cost

Academic year 2013–14

- Tuition: $490 per credit
- Books: $1,300 (est.)

Program Delivery

Blended format

- Onsite class one night per week
- Online interaction between classes

Timeframe

Master of Arts in Human Services coursework can be completed in approximately 18–22 months.

MAHS Core Courses
(21 credits)

HMS5110	Worldview, Leadership, and Human Services	3
HMS5112	Human Services Foundations and Systems	3
HMS5114	Theories of Human Development	3
HMS5210	Research Methods and Human Services	3
HMS5220	Ethics and Legal Issues in Human Services	3
HMS5230	Multicultural/Diversity Issues in Human Services	3
HMS5240	Interviewing and Assessment Skills	3

Family Studies Concentration Courses
(15 credits)

HMS5310	Family Studies and Education	3
HMS5312	Family Communication and Relationships	3
HMS5314	Parent Education	3
HMS5316	Marriage and Family Dynamics	3
HMS5318	Intervention Strategies with Families	3

Courses subject to change. Consult current catalog at nwc.edu/catalog for complete course descriptions.
Contact your Center for Graduate Studies admission counselor at 651-631-5200 for more information. Rev. 09/2012

HMS5110 Worldview, Leadership, and Human Services 3 cr
This course examines the biblical foundations for leadership in the human services. Various leadership styles are examined in the light of biblical principles. Attention is given to team building and staff development.

HMS5112 Human Services Foundations & Systems 3 cr
This course is an overview of the field of human services, focusing upon administrative and management skills and abilities needed to be successful. Attention is given to the role of community support, case management, crisis intervention, and psycho-social rehabilitation best practices to meet the demands for community-based outreach, prevention, and treatment programs.

HMS5114 Theories of Human Development 3 cr
This course is an overview of the major theories of human development with specific application to the human services. Taking a life-span perspective and ecological systems approach will enable students to evaluate the importance of developmental stages and tasks. These approaches will also facilitate addressing issues which are the focus of human service interventions.

HMS5210 Research Methods and Human Services 3 cr
This course reviews various applications of descriptive and experimental research methods. Quantitative and qualitative methods are reviewed. Students learn to evaluate human service research and apply research to the development and assessment of human service interventions.

HMS5220 Ethics and Legal Issues in Human Services 3 cr
This course examines ethical and legal issues in human service settings. Attention is given to several professional human services organizations' codes of ethics, including the American Psychological Association and National Association of Social Workers. Case studies are used to apply legal and ethical principles

HMS5230 Multicultural/Diversity Issues in Human Services 3 cr
This course reviews the roles of gender, race, ethnicity, cultural background and various personal challenges in providing human service intervention. Attention is given to the different needs and services that may be required by various clients. Students consider the interaction of their own characteristics and how these might impact their ability to deal with individual differences and clients from diverse backgrounds.

HMS5240 Interviewing and Assessment Skills 3 cr
This course reviews and expands skills needed for interacting with clients and acquiring basic information. Attention is given to the application of information for making appropriate assessments.

HMS5310 Family Studies and Education 3 cr
This course examines the impact of various stressors (e.g. resource management, work/family balance, children, aging parents) and societal changes on family life. Attention is given to the role of the family life educator in assisting families to identify effective coping mechanisms and healthy problem solving strategies.

HMS5312 Family Communication and Relationships 3 cr
This course focuses on the psychosocial and spiritual foundations for healthy communication and interpersonal relationships within families. Strategies for developing appropriate problem solving and communication patterns are discussed.

HMS5214 Parent Education 3 cr
This course examines parent-child styles of interaction and how various styles impact development across the life span. Attention is given to parenting as a process and styles that are informed by and supportive of development.

HMS5216 Marriage and Family Dynamics 3 cr
This course examines the nature of marriage and family dynamics from a systems perspective. Sexuality and the role of marital quality upon the family unit are considered. Biblical principles for developing positive marriage and family dynamics are addressed.

HMS5218 Intervention Strategies with Families 3 cr
This course is an examination of effective methods for addressing problems within families. Forms of neglect and abuse are examined, and crisis intervention techniques are also considered. Case studies are used to apply interventions from a Christian worldview.