

Learn More about IUP



**Department of Counseling
Frequently Asked Questions
for International Applicants**

I would like to learn more about the counseling program at IUP.

The counseling programs at IUP are 60-credit master's programs that are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). You can choose to get a master's degree in either Clinical Mental Health Counseling or School Counseling. They are offered at both the IUP main campus (Indiana, PA) and the Pittsburgh East campus (Pittsburgh, PA). If you would like to learn more about either program, you are *strongly* encouraged to register for an information session hosted by the Department of Counseling. In these sessions, you will be able to meet a professor and current students from the department, learn about our curriculum, programmatic culture, and admissions process, and ask any question you have. You can view the schedule and register for an information session at this link: <https://www.iup.edu/counseling/grad/register-for-an-information-session/index.html>. You'll see that there are both in-person and virtual options available to accommodate your schedule.

Are there international students in the program? What percentage of your student body are international?

Yes, there are international students in this department, and we love the diverse perspectives and experiences they bring! Approximately 5% of our students in any given semester are international. For example, in recent years, we have had students from Uganda, China, Taiwan, India, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and Nigeria.

What is the difference between the main campus and the Pittsburgh East campus? Which campus do most international students choose?

Our Counseling master's programs are offered at both the Pittsburgh East campus, as well as the Indiana Campus. Most international students choose to attend the main campus. This is because the Pittsburgh East campus is a satellite campus, meaning it only has classrooms, a computer lab, and a lounge area available for students. At the Pittsburgh East location, there are no other institutional offices, buildings, or resources associated with IUP. Because of this, some international students find it easier to attend the Indiana campus, given that there are more campus support services at this location, and they can utilize campus housing.

The Indiana campus has all the typical buildings, offices, and resources that you would expect from a university, including classrooms, libraries, the Office of International Education, student housing, and dining halls. You can find more information about the Indiana campus here: <https://www.iup.edu/about/mapanddirections/index.html>

How many students are admitted to the program each year?

About 25 students are admitted every year at each campus. This includes students enrolling in both the Clinical Mental Health Counseling MA and School Counseling MEd programs.

Do most students finish this program in 2 years?

It is possible to finish the program in 2 years. To do this, a student would need to take about 4 courses each semester (including in the summer). However, this is not recommended since the program is both developmental and intensive in nature. Instead, most full-time students take 3 courses each semester, which allows them to finish in about 2.5 years on average.

What are the requirements for international students to apply to the counseling program?

The link below is from IUP's website and walks you through the international admissions process for graduate students. The Department of Counseling does not add any additional special requirements to this process.

<https://www.iup.edu/admissions/international/graduate-student-requirements/index.html>

Do international applicants need to have their transcript evaluated by a transcript evaluation service during the application process?

Yes. As an international applicant, you will need to submit your undergraduate and/or graduate transcripts to be evaluated by an external academic credential evaluation organization, such as World Education Services or another member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services. More information about this and other application requirements can be found on this page:

<https://www.iup.edu/admissions/international/graduate-student-requirements/index.html>

If you have additional questions about transcript evaluation, you may contact Graduate Admissions at graduate-admissions@iup.edu.

What level of English skills is required for admission?

All international applicants must submit proof of English language proficiency. There are various tests that a student can take to provide this documentation. Below are the tests that IUP accepts and the minimum scores that must be obtained. The Counseling Department does not require a score higher than what's listed as the general required score for any test below.

[IELTS](#) - 6

[TOEFL iBT](#) (The reporting code for IUP is 2652) - 76

[Cambridge English Qualifications](#) - 179

[Duolingo English Test](#) - 110

[Pearson PTE](#) - 53

[GTEC](#) - 1280

If a student is from a country where English is the dominant language or if they received a degree that was taught in English, this requirement is usually waived. More information on English language requirements can be found at the following link under the "Proof of English Language Proficiency" section.

<https://www.iup.edu/admissions/international/graduate-student-requirements/index.html>

Additionally, IUP has a Writing Center on its main campus that any student can use for free. Writing Center staff can help to proofread your papers for class and give you feedback on improving your writing. They conduct both in-person and virtual appointments. More information on the IUP Writing Center can be found here:

<https://www.iup.edu/writingcenter/>

What kind of housing is available for international students?

For campus housing questions, you may want to reach out to the Office of Housing, Residential Living, and Dining at iup-housing@iup.edu or see these pages for more information:

<https://www.iup.edu/international/students-scholars/students/resources/family/index.html>

<https://www.iup.edu/housing/housing-options/graduate-student-housing.html>

If you are interested in off-campus housing options, the following links may be useful. Off-campus housing is typically cheaper than living on campus and therefore could be a good option for students. Many options are within walking distance of IUP; however, if not, please keep in mind that you may need transportation from your off-campus housing to campus.

<https://www.iup.edu/international/students-scholars/students/new/before-you-arrive.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/498110800387605/>

Please note that student housing is not available at the Pittsburgh East campus. There are many off-site housing options in the area, however.

What transportation is available for international students?

At the Indiana campus, the IndiGO bus can meet most of your daily shopping needs, and it's free for all IUP students! <https://www.iup.edu/parking/bus-schedules.html>

There are city bus options available at the Pittsburgh East campus location.

If you are interested in obtaining a Pennsylvania driver's license, please see this link:

<https://www.iup.edu/international/students-scholars/students/resources/drivers-licenses-and-pennsylvania-identification.html>

Do international students receive financial aid and/or scholarships from IUP?

There are many students who receive financial aid at IUP. For specifics on how many students receive aid or what opportunities are available, it is helpful to contact the Office of International Education about resources designated specifically for international students. Their

main web page can be found here: <https://www.iup.edu/international/> and they can be contacted at this email [address: intl-education@iup.edu](mailto:intl-education@iup.edu)

The page below may also be helpful, as it provides additional resources for international students, including information about possible scholarship opportunities:

<https://www.iup.edu/international/students-scholars/students/resources/index.html>

International students are eligible to apply for departmental scholarships as well; however, most are not usually eligible for federal financial aid.

I would like to learn about Graduation Assistantship positions.

Graduate Assistantships (GA) provide a great opportunity to work with other students and professors while receiving funding to supplement your education. In return for working 10 or 20 hours per week, you will receive a significant partial tuition waiver and a small stipend. For more information about GA positions at IUP you can view this link:

<https://www.iup.edu/admissions/graduate/financialaid/graduate-assistantships-at-iup.html>

For information about GA positions specifically through the Counseling Department, or to view the application, please see this link (please note that it is a separate application from your program application):

<https://www.iup.edu/counseling/grad/counseling-admissions/graduate-assistant-applications.html>

The Department of Counseling has historically been very well-funded for GA positions. While the application process is competitive, approximately half of students who apply are selected each year. Assistantships may involve working to help your assigned faculty supervisor with tasks related to administrative responsibilities, class preparation, and/or research projects. Holding a graduate assistantship for one year does not guarantee one for subsequent years. Students must re-apply by submitting an application for each year they would like to be considered. Students must be in good academic standing and maintain a required number of credits to hold a graduate assistantship.

How many students in the program receive a Graduate Assistantship position?

The Department of Counseling has historically been very well-funded for GA positions. While the application process is competitive and positions cannot be guaranteed, the majority of students who apply are selected each year. Assistantships are annually renewable and may involve working to help your assigned faculty supervisor with tasks related to administrative responsibilities, class preparation, and/or research projects. Positions are available at both campuses and students are invited to apply for employment both within the department and/or in other campus offices (e.g., Graduate Admissions, the Career Center, etc.) as needed.

What other employment opportunities are available while I am a student?

Please see this link if you are interested in learning about working while you are a student:
<https://www.iup.edu/international/students-scholars/students/current/employment.html>

Can international students work towards licensure hours after graduation?

International graduates are eligible to pursue licensure as professional counselors (LPC) in Pennsylvania but are not currently permitted to apply for school counselor certification through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Other states do permit certification.

Does IUP help students find employment opportunities after graduation?

Throughout this program, there are many opportunities to take part in professional conferences, which help students to learn more about the counseling profession and network with other students and practicing professionals. Additionally, all students are required to take two practicum courses and complete a field experience where they work with real clients/students to practice their counseling skills under supervision. Students beginning the practicum and field experiences are provided with a list of locations where IUP students have worked in the past and sometimes these practicum and field experiences can turn into employment opportunities. They also provide an excellent opportunity to meet people working as professional counselors who could potentially point you to employment opportunities. Additionally, professors, students, and alumni are always happy to help each other out and will likely try to make employment suggestions if you ask! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for job postings in the area, as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/IUPCounseling>

Can students begin in any term?

Students can begin in the summer or fall term. Some students start around the end of May or early June, while others choose to begin in late August. The decision will be up to you, and we are happy to help talk through the details of either choice!

What are the tuition and fees for international students?

You can find tuition and fee descriptions at the following links:

<https://www.iup.edu/student-billing/tuitionfees/graduate.html>

<https://www.iup.edu/student-billing/tuitionfees/explanation-of-fees.html>

On the next page is an overview of essential information from the above pages as relevant to international students interested in our master's counseling programs. *Please note that this information is based on published rates for the 2023-2024 school year and may change for future years. Also note that this does not include additional expenses such as housing, meals, and books.*

Tuition and Fees for International Students

| Type of Fee | Maximum | Cost | Occurrence |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Per Credit Fees | | | |
| Tuition | no maximum | \$774.00 | per credit |
| Technology Tuition Fee | no maximum | \$40.00 | per credit |
| Instructional Fee (Master's) | no maximum | \$122.10 | per credit |
| Activity Fee | \$456 maximum per semester | \$38.00 | per credit |
| Wellness Fee | \$240 maximum per semester | \$20.00 | per credit |
| Student Services Fee | no maximum | \$14.00 | per credit |
| Total per credit | | \$1,008.10 | |
| X 60 credits | | \$60,486.00 | |
| Flat Fees | | | |
| Registration Fee | no maximum | \$32.00 | flat fee - each semester |
| Transportation Fee | no maximum | \$18.00 | flat fee - each semester |
| I-Card Fee | no maximum | \$7.50 | flat fee - each fall and spring semester |
| Flat Fees for International Students | | | |

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|---------------------------------------|------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Evacuation and Repatriation Fee | no maximum | \$55 per year, OR \$45 - fall, \$60 - spring and summer, \$30 - summer only | each semester, OR each year |
| Immigration Fee | no maximum | \$100.00 | flat fee - each semester |
| International Student Orientation Fee | | \$150 | one time only |

In this cost breakdown, you will see that most of the costs are per credit. Because our Counseling master's programs require 60 credits, all of the per credit fees are added up and multiplied by 60 in the box above. This allows you to see the current overall tuition cost. The other fees are either paid one time only, per semester, or per year. This cost will vary, depending on how long you take to complete the program, so these are not added up. However, it is typical to plan for at least 7 semesters, including 3 semesters per year - usually Fall, Spring, and Summer.

Another tool that might be useful is the cost estimator on the IUP website. It can show you the cost for an individual semester and is found at this link:

<https://www.iup.edu/admissions/undergraduate/costs-financial-aid-scholarships/costs/index.html>

Related Resources:

International Student Employment Options

<https://www.iup.edu/international/students-scholars/students/current/employment.html>

Drivers' Licenses and Pennsylvania Identification

<https://www.iup.edu/international/students-scholars/students/resources/drivers-licenses-and-pennsylvania-identification.html>