These provide students with volunteer, career and social experiences that allow them to network and gain practical experience in their fields of study.

- Creative Arts Therapy at Hofstra (CATCH) is an active student club that provides members and alumni with a forum for communicating, networking, supplemental learning, social activities and invitations to events year-round. CATCH is a support system that provides mentorship, resources, and a place where students cultivate long-lasting friendships and professional connections.
- Chi Sigma Iota is an international academic and professional counseling honor society, dedicated to scholarship, academic excellence and community service.
- Hofstra University Counseling Club is a student-run professional development organization, which holds meetings once a month during the fall and spring semesters. Guest speakers are invited to inform counseling students on current topics and concerns related to the field of counseling.
- Rehabilitation Counseling Student Association is an organization that sponsors activities for students in the rehabilitation counseling program. The association has sponsored guest lecturers, student attendance at conferences and fund-raising events geared toward disability and counseling issues.

**FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS**

Internal and external resources are available.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOFSTRA’S COUNSELING AND THERAPY PROGRAMS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR PROGRAM DIRECTORS:**

- **M.S.Ed. in Counselor Education**
  - M.A. in Mental Health Counseling
  - Professional Diploma in Counseling
  - Advanced Certificate in School Counselor Bilingual Extension
  - Dr. Laurie Johnson
  - (516) 463-5754
  - Laurie.Johnson@hofstra.edu

- **M.S.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling**
  - Dr. Jamie Mitus
  - (516) 463-7453
  - Jamie.Mitus@hofstra.edu

- **M.S.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling in Mental Health**
  - Dr. Michael J. Ludwig
  - (516) 463-5885
  - Michael.J.Ludwig@hofstra.edu

- **M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy**
  - Dr. Joan Bloomgarden
  - (516) 463-5300
  - Joan.S.Bloomgarden@hofstra.edu

- **M.A. in Creative Arts Therapy**
  - Dr. Joan Bloomgarden
  - (516) 463-5300
  - Joan.S.Bloomgarden@hofstra.edu
College Student Development Counselor: College student development counselors work with students, faculty and administrators at colleges and universities to provide an array of counseling and advisement support through various cocurricular programs and student service offices on campus. These counselors work to promote systems and services aimed at enabling students to reach their personal and academic goals. In this program, graduate students develop competencies necessary for assisting students through the various transitions of college life and achieving a lifestyle of wellness.

Employment opportunities: various counseling, advisement, and student affairs departments (such as career counseling, student leadership, dean of students office) in two- and four-year colleges/universities as well as in other postsecondary education settings.

Gerontology Counselor: Gerontology counselors provide services to elderly persons and their families who are facing changing lifestyles as they grow older. Graduates work in settings that support the psychosocial development of the elderly. They develop competencies necessary for working with an aging population, such as health counseling, counseling for death, dying and bereavement, family counseling of the elderly and therapeutic techniques with the aging.

Employment opportunities: community centers, assisted living and nursing home facilities, and hospitals.

Bilingual School Counselor: This program provides students with an opportunity to complete the course work specified by the New York State Education Department to obtain a bilingual extension to the school counselor certificate.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST

Marriage and family therapists (MFTs) practice from a systems perspective, which is focused on relationships. MFTs’ systemic approach helps clients understand how relationships are embedded phenomena and not solely based on any one individual. They provide counseling to families, couples, organizations and individuals as they cope with life’s joys and challenges. The counseling may include helping families with life cycle issues; resolving marital and couple difficulties; ameliorating communication struggles; dealing with emotional distress related to anxiety or depression; or seeking assistance with domestic violence or substance abuse. Marriage and family therapists work to help families and couples modify their perceptions and behaviors, enhance communication and promote understanding among family members, and help to prevent family and individual crises.

Employment opportunities: private practice, mental health centers, hospitals, health maintenance organizations, family services clinics, and state department of children and families.

CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIST

Art therapy is an established mental health profession that uses the creative process of art making to improve and enhance the physical, mental and emotional well-being of individuals of all ages. It is based on the belief that the creative process involved in artistic self-expression helps people to resolve conflicts and problems, develop interpersonal skills, manage behavior, reduce stress, increase self-esteem and self-awareness, and achieve insight.

Employment opportunities: hospitals, clinics, public and community agencies, wellness centers, educational institutions, business and private practices, assisted living, nursing homes and special schools/institutions for children with emotional or physical disabilities.

REHABILITATION COUNSELOR

Accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education

Hofstra offers two programs in rehabilitation counseling that prepare students to become nationally certified as rehabilitation counselors. One program is exclusively in rehabilitation counseling, while the other is a combined program that also prepares students for mental health licensure. Rehabilitation counselors help people with disabilities to achieve their personal, social, psychological and vocational goals in life. They counsel people with a variety of disabilities, including physical, psychiatric, substance abuse, developmental/learning, cognitive, and sensory disabilities. They may provide vocational evaluation, goal planning, personal and vocational counseling, vocational training and job placement services. In addition, rehabilitation counselors often advocate to and consult with the community about creating greater accessibility for individuals with disabilities both environmentally and socially.

Employment opportunities: state/federal rehabilitation agencies, mental health centers, community rehabilitation programs, medical centers, private rehabilitation agencies, veterans administration hospitals, substance abuse programs, independent living programs, insurance companies, private practices, and schools.

Hofstra University’s counseling and therapeutic mental health programs prepare individuals to work as professional counselors, therapists and human service practitioners who serve a variety of populations, from youth to geriatric, in a range of settings involving both individuals and family systems. These programs are committed to preparing multiculturally competent practitioners who are equipped to promote the mental health and personal efficacy of their clients and contribute to the improvement of social and educational systems. Most of these programs prepare students for professional certification or licensure to practice in New York state.