Take your career and passion for helping very young children and their caregivers to the next level

Benefit from joining the first infant mental health program in Pennsylvania

Engage in community-based leadership opportunities and field placements

Enjoy full- and part-time master’s options, with some online and evening classes

Low residency (mostly online) graduate certificate option is available

why you belong here

Are you interested in advancing your career in early childhood mental health? Are you already working in a related field, and looking to specialize in promoting early relationships that enhance mental health? If you have a desire to help young children and families develop stronger, healthier bonds, then we have a program for you.

The first programs of their kind in the state of Pennsylvania, Chatham University’s Master of Science in Infant Mental Health Counseling and Master of Science in Infant Mental Health offer you the knowledge, skills, and real-world experience you need to pursue your professional goals in a supportive and flexible learning atmosphere.

what you can expect

As a student in Chatham’s infant mental health (IMH) programs, you will learn from an experienced, enthusiastic faculty who focus on the personal and professional growth of their students, while preparing you to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of infants and their families within the context of secure and nurturing relationships.

You’ll have opportunities to interact with nationally recognized leaders in the field of infant mental health field during weekend-long events, symposia, and gatherings on campus, as well as through your participation in the annual Pennsylvania IMH conference.

Your curriculum is designed to meet the proposed Pennsylvania Early Childhood Mental Health Competencies for children 0 through 5. In addition, you’ll apply your learning to real infants, toddlers, and their families through practicum and internships in a variety of settings, followed with reflective consultation provided by our IMH faculty.

Full and part-time options are available in both our master’s programs, with several classes being offered online, in the evenings, and on the weekends. However, the majority of your courses must be completed on campus and in field placements.
what you will learn
In our Master of Science in Infant Mental Health Counseling program, you will complete a total of 60 credit hours in order to become a licensed professional counselor (LPC) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Your curriculum will include a wide range of topics, from theories and techniques of counseling to human development, psychology of culture and identity to principles of infant mental health. Electives in the neonatal intensive care experience and foundations of family therapy round out your coursework, which is followed by field placements for hands-on experience with real patients.

Our Master of Science in Infant Mental Health curriculum is similar, but much shorter, at only 36 credit hours. Your curriculum will lay the groundwork for a deep understanding of mental health issues and techniques that can be used to help assess and counsel families with infants and young children. Practicum and internship experiences offer a chance to apply your newly developed skills in a real-world setting.

where it will take you
Either master’s degree will prepare you for a challenging and rewarding career working to promote the healthy social and emotional development of very young children through enhanced infant-caregiver relationships. This could take you anywhere from hospitals and clinics to social services and non-profit settings. You could also choose to take your education and career even further with a doctorate or complimentary advanced degree, such as a master’s in social work or early childhood education.

learn more
Review admission requirements and apply online at chatham.edu/msimh.

“...It is through relationships that humans develop optimally. By enhancing these and helping those at risk or with mental health problems, we have an amazing opportunity to promote wellness within the relationships a child already experiences.”

— Robert Gallen, associate professor, program director

take note
• Chatham University also offers a three-semester graduate certificate in infant mental health. This highly interactive, online program uses relationship-based training that prepares you to promote optimal social and emotional development in infants and families through high-quality relationships. The certificate program is open to degree- and non-degree seeking students, as well as to infant mental health professionals needing to satisfy continuing education requirements. Though classes are conducted entirely online, this program does feature events once per semester that afford you the opportunity to interact with faculty and attend student lectures in IMH.

• Students of all our infant mental health programs are encouraged to attend the annual IMH Conference and sponsored by the Programs in Infant Mental Health at Chatham University. Here, you can learn from experts in the field and have the chance to present your own original research or clinical experiences.

chatham University
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