

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH: ONLINE

"The Graduate Certificate Program in Disaster Mental Health at USD helped me to learn the technicalities of providing psychosocial support in various country and disaster contexts, allowed me to adapt my open-mindedness and flexibility to talk with equal sensitivity or persuasion to those from vulnerable situations or marginalized groups, and taught me how to contact people of political influence who can make a difference in the health and social well being of those affected by disaster."

Amgaa Oyungerel, Regional Health Delegate for East Asia
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Disaster Mental Health Institute (DMHI) at the University of South Dakota is one of the leading agencies in the world in the field of disaster psychology. The DMHI has been involved in the cutting edge of education, research, and response in the field since 1993.

The Graduate Certificate in Disaster Mental Health has been offered through the DMHI at the University of South Dakota since 1997. It is now being offered as an online graduate level certificate, making it more accessible across the nation and throughout the world. This graduate certificate is intended to prepare mental health professionals to serve their communities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disaster, terrorist attacks, and public health emergencies. It is intended both for existing mental health professionals, and as a supplement to graduate training in the approved mental health professions.

The graduate certificate is also intended for civic officials, emergency managers, first responders (fire fighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians), and disaster relief workers to advance their knowledge of this critical field, as recommended by the National Biodefense Science Board. Participants in this category, however, cannot receive the American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Services certificate.

TUITION RATES

For the most up-to-date online course tuition information, please visit: www.usd.edu/cde/tuition-rates.cfm

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please visit www.usd.edu/cde or contact:

The University of South Dakota
Division of Continuing & Distance Education
1-800-233-7937
605-677-6240
cde@usd.edu
www.usd.edu/cde

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to this Graduate Certificate program requires **all of the following**:

- 1) Successful completion of a bachelor's degree as verified by official transcripts.
- 2) Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.7 or higher (on a 4.0 scale)
- 3) Statement of Purpose

Note: Students enrolled in PSYC 656, Disaster Mental Health, can only receive the American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Services Certificate if they are either a student enrolled in an accredited graduate mental health program in psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, psychiatric nursing, psychiatry, school counseling, school psychology, or social work; or a licensed or certified mental health professional in one of those fields. Those without a license or certification who are operating under tribal authority are covered by the requirements under the "International Students" below. Eligibility for the Red Cross certificate will not affect the grade in the course.

International Students:

Because of international variation in standards and licensing in mental health professions, mental health professional applicants from countries other than the United States may be required to provide a letter from an employer certifying that he/she is authorized to practice independently.

GETTING STARTED

- 1) Visit <https://www.usd.edu/cde/certification-application> and select "Graduate Certificate Application."
Download and complete the application and statement of purpose form.
- 2) Upload the completed application and select your method of payment.

Please note: It is also your responsibility to ensure that official transcripts be sent to the University of South Dakota, 414 E. Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069.

After your application has been processed, you will be contacted by an advisor who will guide you through the program by answering any questions you may have, and setting up a plan of study that fits your needs.

- 3) Register for courses using the online form found at <https://www.usd.edu/cde/registration>.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Required Core Courses (12 credit hours)

Course/No.	Course Title	Site	Rotation
PSYC 655	Crisis Intervention	Online	Spring Even Years Summer Odd Years
PSYC 656	Disaster Mental Health	Online	Every Summer
PSYC 658	Serving the Diverse Community in Disaster	Online	Every Summer

Elective Courses (choose one of the following):

Course/No.	Course Title	Site	Rotation
PSYC 657	Traumatic Stress	Online	Summer Even Years Spring Odd Years
PSYC 755	Management in Disaster	Online	Every Summer

Students in the Graduate Certificate program will also be required to complete a “tabletop” disaster response scenario simulation online. This will provide a capstone measure of the student’s mastery of Clinical/Disaster Psychology. The goal for this assessment will be that each student’s performance will be evaluated as superior to entry-level disaster mental health personnel. The capstone can only be taken after the completion of all course requirements.

Graduate Certificate in Disaster Mental Health Program Total: 12 Credit Hours

*If you are a prospective student with a disability and need assistance or accommodations during the admission/application process, please contact the Director of Disability Services, 119B Service Center North, USD, Vermillion, SD 57069. Phone: 605-677-6389 Fax: 605-677-3172
E-mail: disabilityservices@usd.edu

This document is available in alternative forms upon request. For assistance, call Disability Services at USD at: 605-677-6839 or email disabilityservices@usd.edu.
The University of South Dakota is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty, staff and students.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

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