Valuable Membership Benefits for ACA Students

Your Passion. Your Profession. Our Purpose
Your Purpose is our Mission

The mission of the American Counseling Association (ACA) is to enhance the quality of life in society by promoting the development of professional counselors, advancing the counseling profession, and using the profession and practice of counseling to promote respect for human dignity and diversity.

ACA is the world's largest association exclusively representing the community of counselors in various practice settings. ACA provides its student members with professional development, continuing education opportunities, advocacy services, credibility, and networking opportunities.

ACA Educates You Beyond Your Classroom
History of ACA

- Founded in 1952
- In 1976 ACA aided in the passage of the first licensure law in the U.S. in Virginia
- ACA founded CACREP in 1981 (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs)
- ACA founded NBCC in 1982 (National Board for Certified Counselors)
Counseling As A Career

- **Counseling is in demand** – The Department of Labor *Occupational Outlook Handbook* states that between 2012 and 2022 employment of:
  - Mental health counselors will grow 29%
  - Rehabilitation counselors will grow by 20%
  - School and career counselors will grow by 12%

- Along with recent advances in military-related counseling positions with the Veterans Administrative and TRICARE, the health insurance plan for military families, this means unprecedented opportunities for counseling students.
Student Liability Insurance for Master’s Degree Students

ACA student membership includes professional liability (malpractice) insurance for students enrolled and engaged in a master’s degree counseling curriculum at a post secondary institution.

Coverage is available to ACA student members solely while performing counseling services (e.g. practicum and internship) related to such curriculum.

ACA new professional members, within 12 months of graduation, receive a 50% discount on their liability insurance premium.

Students enrolled in a bachelor’s degree program, doctoral degree program or other post master's program are not covered through this program.
ACA Supports You!

Student membership in ACA opens doors to lifelong resources and benefits.

ACA supports counseling students by...

- Advocating for the counseling profession
- Offering career development services and access to select counseling jobs
- Helping you to develop and expand the skills you need
- Providing resources for research
- Offering professional networking opportunities

“I love being a student member of ACA because you are given so many resources...it’s impossible to be uninformed! It’s a great way to learn as much as possible before entering the field...”

Alissa Klayman, Northern Illinois University
What Are Counseling Students Saying About ACA?

- “I love knowing that I have resources at my fingertips any time of day! As a graduate student, we are studying at all hours and when I need information I can log on to ACA anytime.”
  - Sara Brandt, University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

- “One of the things I love the most about being a student member of ACA is that I can be part of an organization that includes veteran counselors and therapists as well as students. It is a great way to connect to my future career and learn from others who have gone before me.”
  - Brad Hinman, Andrews University
What Are Counseling Students Saying About ACA?

- “What I love about being a student member of ACA is the security I have in knowing that I have a professional family to turn to for all things counseling…”
  - Dawn Riley, Eastern New Mexico University

- “I am a part of something so much bigger than me…”
  - Heather Fuller, Capella University

- “ACA student membership gives me access to what I need to support my career at a price I can afford...It is a bargain I can’t afford to pass up.”
  - Pat Baranczyk, Winona State University
ACA Member Services and Benefits

ACA helps emerging counseling professionals develop their skills and expand their knowledge base with the following services and benefits designed with their personal and professional growth in mind:

- Liability insurance included in membership for Master’s level students
- FREE Podcasts
- FREE Continuing Education Credit per month
- Webinars
- Year-round career services support
- Career help with resume critiques, mock interviews, and career consults
- Free ethics and professional standards consultation
- **ACA Code of Ethics**
- ACA’s award winning monthly magazine, *Counseling Today*; electronic subscription to the quarterly journal of counseling research, *Journal of Counseling & Development*—including online access to the 90+ year article archive; cutting-edge books on a variety of topics; bi-monthly enewsletter, *ACAeNews* as well as four special focus enewsletters, the New monthly ACA Member Toolkit highlighting ACA’s products and services, and ACA’s website counseling.org provide up-to-date information and research in the world of counseling.

“Glad to be an ACA member so many benefits!”

Bernadine Brown
Master’s Student
University of Mass Lowell
ACA Member Services & Benefits

- Online library and resources for research
- ACA's monthly magazine, *Counseling Today*, and companion website, CT Online.
- Free resume critiques, mock interviews, job listings, search strategies and much more.
- Networking and mentoring opportunities
- Online Networking Community – ACA Connect
- Low student rates for conference registration
- Graduate Student and New Professional Center, volunteer opportunities and special activities at the Annual Conference & Expo
- FREE Podcasts
- Opportunity to become an ACA blogger
- Grants and scholarships
- Support for building a private practice
- Leadership development and skill-building
- Affordable CE credits
- Discounted publications and DVDs
- Special Interest Communities
- Live-event webinars (available on-demand after the event)
- And much more…
ACA Conference & Expo

- Attend the world’s largest gathering of professional counselors
- Interviews with Employers
- Meet counseling professionals from all over the world and mingle with other students in the Graduate Student and New Professional Center
- Receive onsite Career Consults and Private Practice Consults
- Volunteer at the conference and get a discount on registration:
  - First year volunteer conference registration is half price
  - Conference registration complimentary if you have volunteered within the last two years.
- Benefit from education sessions developed for students
- See the latest counseling products, services and publications in the Exposition

Future Conference
2015 – March 11 – 15, Orlando, FL
2016 – March 30 – April 3, Montreal, Canada
2017 – April 5-9, Nashville, TN

“I remember my first conference vividly...the excitement, the chatter, the education, the camaraderie! The ACA Conference is a time to bond with other counseling professionals and to rejuvenate my soul! I am thrilled to attend each conference and look forward to making my attendance a lifelong tradition!”

Jennifer Alamia, University of Texas San Antonio
Student member benefits on counseling.org

- **ACA members-only social networking community** – ACA Connect allow students to find friends and colleagues with similar interests, contribute practical tips and ideas, ask questions and get answers in real time, share powerful education resources, see who is attending events, watch brief instructional videos, and so much more.

- **Social Media** – ACA is very active on Facebook (American Counseling Association), Twitter (@Counselingviews) and LinkedIn (American Counseling Association) to keep students connected at all times.

- **Virtual Library** - research 24/7!

- **Online learning**

- **Career Center handouts on resumes, interviews, and job postings**

- **Code of Ethics online**

- **Manage your membership**

- **Online special interest communities**

- **Purchase books and DVDs direct from ACA at a discount**

- **Private Practice Pointers** is a comprehensive section of the ACA website that can help you prepare for the thriving full or part-time independent practice that may be in your future
Student Learning, Networking & Leadership Opportunities in ACA

- Student essay competition
- Ross Trust Scholarship for students
- Become a student representative to Governing Council
- Become a student representative to a committee
- Become a legislative advocate
- Become an ACA blogger
- Graduate Student Committee
Government Affairs & Legislation

- Advocate for your profession at the national and state level
- Help to secure funding and legislation
- Learn leadership skills
- Join the Government Relations community and stay informed

“What I love most about being a student member of ACA is the feeling that comes with making a difference through advocacy opportunities in the field of counseling. I subscribe to the ACA Public Policy Listserv to stay current on pending legislation of concern to the profession and make my voice heard.”

Laura Messer, Florida International University
Public Awareness

- ACA is proud to announce that for the first time in five years, a bill that calls for the reimbursement of Licensed Professional Counselors by Medicare has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives. To review the legislation, you can do so by visiting: thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php and searching for H.R. 3662.

- ACA partners with the American Red Cross to provide disaster mental health volunteer services to those areas affected by trauma and disaster.

- ACA created a podcast translated into Creole for Hurricane Katrina survivors and family members. Also, a newer podcast on the Korean Ferry Disaster translated in Korean.

- ACA’s response to Hurricane Katrina won the Summit Award from the American Society for Association Executives

- ACA organized a counseling effort for Virginia Tech

- Counseling Awareness Month
  - Counseling Awareness Month is in April
  - ACA created an award-winning campaign to bring public attention to counseling
Online Special Interest Communities

- Advances in Therapeutic Humor
- Animal Assisted Therapy in Mental Health
- Children's Counseling
- Ethics
- Forensic Counseling
- Grief and Bereavement
- Historical Issues in Counseling
- Integrated Care
- International Counseling
- Jewish
- Multiracial/Multiethnic Counseling Concerns
- Professional Counselors in Schools
- Sports Counseling
- Traumatology
- Veterans’ Affairs
- Wellness
- Women’s Issues
Organization of ACA

- 20 Divisions
- 4 Regions
- 56 Branches

“I stay connected to all disciplines within the counseling profession… I believe there is great value in learning from all specialties and working together towards the common goal of helping. I am proud to be a student member of this force.”

- Laura Knight, The University of Virginia
ACA Divisions

- 20 Divisions offer a deeper dive into your ACA membership experience by providing additional resources organized around specific interest and practice areas.
ACA Divisions

- Association for **Adult Development and Aging** (AADA)
- Association for **Assessment and Research in Counseling** (AARC) formerly AACE
- Association for **Child and Adolescent Counseling** (ACAC)
- Association for **Creativity in Counseling** (ACC)
- American **College Counseling Association** (ACCA)
- Association for **Counselors and Educators in Government** (ACEG)
- Association for **Counselor Education and Supervision** (ACES)
- Association for **Humanistic Counseling** (AHC) formerly C-AHEAD
- Association for **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling** (ALGBTIC)
- Association for **Multicultural Counseling and Development** (AMCD)
- American **Mental Health Counselors Association** (AMHCA)
- American **Rehabilitation Counseling Association** (ARCA)
- American **School Counselor Association** (ASCA)
ACA Divisions (continued)

- Association for **Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values in Counseling** (ASERVIC)
- Association for **Specialists in Group Work** (ASGW)
- Counselors for **Social Justice** (CSJ)
- International Association of **Addictions and Offender Counselors** (IAAOC)
- International Association of **Marriage and Family Counselors** (IAMFC)
- National **Career Development** Association (NCDA)
- National **Employment Counseling** Association (NECA)
ACA Regions

Provide leadership training and networking opportunities for branch leaders at the ACA Summer Institute for Leadership Training.

4 Regions: **Midwest** - **North Atlantic** - **Southern** - **Western**
ACA Branches

- 56 branches in U.S. and abroad
- Provides a mechanism for counselors to join together to carry out the purposes of the American Counseling Association
- Leadership opportunities
- Professional development
- Publications
- Advocacy

“What I love most about being a student member of ACA is the networking. In the short time I have been a member, I have seen students get and give great advice from each other about internships, classes, and job searching.”

Cassandra Driver, Vanderbilt University
ACA Governing Council

- Provides strategic leadership
- Composed of:
  - Nationally elected ACA officers
  - Treasurer
  - One representative from each division and region
  - Student representative
ACA Committees

- Audit
- Awards
- Branch Development
- Bylaws & Policies
- Compensation
- Ethics
- Financial Affairs
- Graduate Student Committee
- International
- Nominations & Election
- Professional Standards
- Public Policy & Legislation
- Publications
- Human Rights Committee
- Research and Knowledge Committee
Join the world’s largest organization for counseling professionals…

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