



Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative

West Texas A&M University

EXPANDING THE TEXAS PANHANDLE'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative (BHWI) at West Texas A&M University supports the development of behavioral health professionals across the Texas Panhandle, with a strong focus on serving rural communities. Our goal is to align education, professional development, and career pathways to support a thriving behavioral health community across the region.

Our core mission is to create a robust, sustainable healthcare ecosystem through:

- ***Student Pathway Development:*** Building clear "pipelines" from high school to professional licensure.
- ***Workforce Expansion:*** Increasing the supply of behavioral health providers to meet regional workforce demands.
- ***Community & Agency Partnerships:*** Working alongside schools and healthcare systems to align training with real-world needs.
- ***Practitioner Continuing Education:*** Offering specialized, high-impact training, and certifications.
- ***Resilience Initiatives:*** Providing tools and supports to prevent professional burnout and ensure long-term career success.

Our interdisciplinary, community-engaged approach is building a sustainable behavioral health ecosystem grounded in regional responsibility and long-term workforce resilience. Investing in the workforce means investing in stronger communities and economies. Join us in building a stronger, healthier Texas Panhandle.

HELP US BUILD A STRONGER, HEALTHIER TEXAS PANHANDLE!

Learn more or find ways to get involved:

bhwi@wtamu.edu

Whether you are exploring your future, advancing your career, or seeking new ways to serve your community, behavioral health offers flexible and high-demand career pathways.

BUILD A MEANINGFUL CAREER. STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Nursing (Behavioral Health)

Entry Point:

Associate Degree (ADN) or Bachelor of Nursing (BSN) to begin a Registered Nurse career.

Advanced Pathway:

Graduate nursing degree (MSN or DNP) and become certified as a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, specializing in mental health care.

Career Opportunities:

Psychiatric nurse, Community health nurse, Nurse practitioner, Instructor, Faculty, Telehealth Nurse, School nurse, or Clinical Researcher.

Social Work

Entry Point:

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and obtain licensure as a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW).

Advanced Pathway:

Master of Social Work (MSW), and obtain your clinical licensure.

Career Opportunities:

Case manager, School social worker, Therapist (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), Behavioral Health Consultant, Medical Social Worker.

Counseling

Entry Point:

Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in any relevant field (such as psychology, social work, or human services)

Advanced Pathway:

Master of Arts in Counseling and obtain licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)

Career Opportunities:

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), Clinical Therapist/Counselor Substance Use and Addiction Counselor, or Behavioral Health Case Manager.

Psychology

Entry Point:

Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS)

Advanced Pathway:

MA in Psychology or Specialist in School Psychology (SSP) for licensure as a Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA) or Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP). Continue to Doctorate.

Career Opportunities:

Behavioral Health Specialist, Researcher, Licensed Psychological Associate, School Psychologist (LSSP), Clinical Psychologist, or University Faculty.