The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute’s mission is to strengthen services for persons with behavioral health disorders (including mental, addictive and developmental disorders) in the State of Florida through research, training, and education (Florida Statute 240.514).

The Institute’s programs are conducted by three departments: Aging and Mental Health, Child and Family Studies and Mental Health Law and Policy. The Institute conducts a broad range of applied research, training, and dissemination activities related to the planning, development, delivery, and evaluation of behavioral health services. The Institute’s training and consultation activities are provided for a variety of audiences including behavioral health and health care professionals, the Florida legislature, administrators, policy makers, planners, consumers, students, and the public.

The Institute provides continuing education opportunities for behavioral health and health professionals and is approved by the following professional organizations to offer continuing education credits: American Psychological Association, Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health Counseling, Florida Board of Nursing, and the Florida Certification Board. The Institute also provides continuing education credits to professional groups such as physicians, attorneys and behavior analysts through the following organizations: USF Continuing Professional Education, the Florida Bar Association and the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

The Institute offers undergraduate and graduate students research assistantships. Students may earn academic credit for independent research performed at the Institute in conjunction with USF courses. Institute faculty teach credit courses in degree-granting programs in cooperation with other USF colleges and offer certificate courses in planning, evaluation and accountability. The Institute also offers an undergraduate minor in behavioral healthcare and a graduate focus in behavioral health in conjunction with the College of Public Health.

The Institute’s pre-doctoral internship program for psychologists is approved by the American Psychological Association.

**Minor in Behavioral Healthcare**

Behavioral health problems, like mental illness and substance abuse, are among the greatest public health challenges facing our communities. New, scientifically based treatment approaches are available to treat and prevent many of these behavioral health problems. Students will be exposed to these treatment approaches as well as to issues in the organization, financing, delivery, and outcomes of behavioral health services. The emphasis of the curricula is on practices that have been scientifically validated and their delivery within the context of current funding, policies and trends. This area of academic concentration is offered as an Undergraduate Minor by the USF Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, a college of the university.

This Minor in Behavioral Healthcare is available to students interested in pursuing a career in the broad field of behavioral health in conjunction with any undergraduate major. It should be particularly beneficial to persons majoring in such disciplines as psychology, social work, gerontology, premed, criminology, nursing, and sociology.

A GPA of 2.0, or better, in this minor is required for certification. At least nine (9) of the credit hours must be taken at USF. A Behavioral Healthcare advisor will be available to advise students on a course of study and to coordinate a student’s minor with related majors.

A Minor in Behavioral Healthcare consists of a minimum of fifteen (15) credit hours comprised of the following courses:

**Required Courses:**
- MHS 3411 Multidisciplinary Behavioral Healthcare Services 3
- MHS 4002 Behavioral Health Systems Delivery 3
- MHS 4407 Exemplary Treatment Practices 3
- MHS 4829 Field Experience in Behavioral Healthcare* 3

**Electives (minimum of 3 credit hours required):**
- MHS 4930 Clinical Case Management in Community Care 3
- MHS 4931 Selected Topics in Behavioral Healthcare 3-4
- MHS 4937 Directed Studies 1-4

*A student completing a field placement in Psychology, Social Work, or other of the human services may be exempted (by the advisor) from the “Field Experience in Behavioral Healthcare” and may substitute an elective from the above list. Enrollment in MHS 4820 requires prior College approval.

A concentration in Behavioral Healthcare for the Bachelor’s of Science in Applied Science degree program requires eighteen (18) credits from the courses listed above. Please see the BSAS listings for particulars.