



## COUNSELING DEGREE PROGRAM (M.S.)

The Master of Science (M.S.) Degree program in Counseling provides graduate level training for students interested in preparing themselves for counseling in a variety of educational and community settings. Emphases are available in elementary and/or secondary school, higher education, and community counseling.

The curriculum is designed to provide students with an advanced understanding of counseling concepts identified as central by the Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Programs and certification standards for the State of Wisconsin. Students will develop skills in: assessing personal issues related to client problems; collecting and analyzing information in determining appropriate counseling interventions; employing appropriate facilitative techniques; and preparing documents such as counseling-related reports, treatment plans, and education programs.

A detailed student handbook is available from the Counselor Education Department.

***Program Coordinator:***

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***Additional Admission Requirements:***

1. Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution and have an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.75. The Counselor Education Department does not offer a school internship program; therefore, students must be eligible for teacher licensure in order to be admitted to the school counselor emphasis.

2. Admission to the Counselor Education Program is a selective process with a limited number of applicants being admitted. The following criteria will be considered, (1) academic preparation, (2) ability to communicate effectively, (3) potential to work with diverse populations, (4) experience in counseling or related positions, (5) demonstrated commitment to the counseling field.
  
3. Applicants must submit the following directly to the Program Coordinator: (1) a brief autobiography, (2) a 2-3 page essay pertaining to career goals and plans, (3) a professional resume, and (4) two reference letters. All application materials must be received by the Program Coordinator by March 15 for fall admission, and October 15 for spring Admission. Students who wish to graduate in two years will begin during the summer session.
  
4. Individuals meeting all application requirements will have their application reviewed. After applications are reviewed, those applicants chosen for further consideration will be scheduled for a personal interview with a potential adviser and one other member of the program faculty. Following the interviews, the counselor education faculty will select and notify fall applicants of their admission status by May 1. Spring applicants will be notified by November 30th.

***Admission Exception:***

Applicants seeking an exception to the admissions standards should: (1) submit all aforementioned application materials, (2) submit a letter requesting an exception clearly identifying reasons which justify this exception, (3) provide information supportive of this exception (e.g. additional references, Graduate Record Exam scores, life experiences). On receipt of these materials the regular admission procedures will be followed.

***Additional Program Policies:***

1. Students admitted to the program must begin and complete their course work, including practica, at the time and in the manner indicated on their program schedule at admission, or receive prior written approval for alteration of their program from their adviser. Students failing to comply with this policy may be dropped from the program. Students will have an opportunity to appeal this action.
  
2. The Counselor Education Department faculty will review all students' progress as they proceed through the program.

3. Elective courses must be approved by students' advisers prior to enrolling in the courses.
4. Students may enroll in at most six credits of course work during any given summer session.
5. Students must earn a grade of at least a **B** in *490-718 Principles of Counseling*, and at least a **BC** in any other courses applied toward the degree. No more than two courses in which a grade of **BC** is earned may be applied toward the degree.
6. A grade point average of at least 3.00 (**B**) over all of the graduate work taken at UW-Whitewater is required for admission to the practicum experience. The required academic year-long practicum must commence in the fall. A practicum policy statement may be obtained from the Program Coordinator.
7. Students interested in state certification as a family therapist and/or clinical membership in the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy may be required to do course work and clinical supervision beyond the program requirements in order to meet the academic preparation and professional standards. Additional course work and supervision may also be required for students seeking Wisconsin licensure as an alcohol and/or drug counselor.

***Program Prerequisites:***

Students wishing to enter the degree program must have sufficient background in the behavioral sciences, including a course or courses in human development and a course in statistics. Academic background will be examined prior to admission and discussed in the admission interview. Specific deficiencies will be identified at that time.

Students may be admitted to the program with deficiencies. Any deficiencies identified must be removed prior to enrollment in course work beyond the first nine credits. The preparation provided by this prerequisite course work in the behavioral sciences is necessary in order to understand the advanced behavioral science concepts and statistics presented in courses in the degree program.

Courses taken to remove deficiencies may be at the undergraduate or at the graduate level. Credits earned to remove deficiencies will not count toward the degree requirements.

***Degree Requirements:***

Forty-eight credits of course work which may include a thesis for 1-6 credits. Course and emphasis requirements are given below. However, emphases, required course sequences, and elective courses should be selected in consultation with advisers to match individual career paths.

***COUNSELING (M.S.)***

**CORE COURSES - 36 CREDITS**

1. 490-718 PRINCIPLES OF COUNSELING
2. 490-722 THEORIES OF COUNSELING
3. 490-719 APPRAISAL PROCEDURES IN COUNSELING
4. 490-720 CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND INFO SERVICES
5. 490-721 GROUP PROCEDURES IN COUNSELING
6. 490-741 SOCIAL & CULTURAL FOUNDATION IN COUNSELING
7. 490-735 ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY FORMATION
8. 490-740 RESEARCH AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
9. 490-736 COUNSELING ACROSS THE LIFESPAN
10. 499-793 SUPERVISED PRACTICUM (12 CR, 6 CR/SEMESTER)
11. 499-795 INTERNSHIP 6 CREDITS

**EMPHASES - 12 CREDITS**

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING EMPHASES:

**A. COMMUNITY COUNSELING EMPHASIS**

1. 490-728 CLINICAL STUDIES IN COUNSELING
2. 490-731 INTRO TO MARRIAGE & FAMILY COUNSELING
3. 490-734 FAMILIES: ASSESS & TREAT ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS
4. 490-746 COUNSELING & CHEM DEPENDENCY PROCESS

**B. HIGHER EDUCATION EMPHASIS**

1. 490-729 STUDENT SERVICES IN HIGHER ED
2. 490-750 CONSULTATION IN COUNSELING: AN IND. AND SYSTEMS APPROACH
3. 490-748 ADMIN IN COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL
4. ELECTIVES 3 CREDITS

**C. SCHOOL COUNSELING EMPHASIS**

1. 490-738 PERSPECTIVES IN SCHOOL COUNSELING
2. 490-743 COUNSELING IN EL & MIDDLE SCHOOLS
3. 490-745 COUNSELING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS
4. 490-750 CONSULTATION IN COUNSELING: AN IND. AND SYSTEMS APPROACH

**OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL SPECIALTY COURSES**

2. 490-724 CAREER COUNSELING OF ADOLESCENT AND ADULT

3. 490-732 PRACTICES OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING
4. 490-733 THEORIES AND TECHNIQUES OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING
5. 490-749 CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY: TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION

[Counselor Education Courses \(490-XXX\)](#) [Educational Foundations Courses \(Measurement & Research\)\(424-XXX\)](#)