

## **Program Description, M.A.**

The Master of Arts degree in Counseling is a 60-hour planned program of study designed to meet the necessary competencies of professional counselors, and satisfies the curricular requirements for counselor licensure. There are currently two distinct Areas of Emphasis offered within the Counseling program. Curricular elements consist of core courses required of all counseling majors and emphasis courses specific to mental health counseling and school counseling.

The Master of Arts degree in Counseling at Marshall University is built upon the training standards and codes of ethics recognized by CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs), ACA (American Counseling Association), and ASCA (American School Counselors Association) and is consistent with the Marshall University School of Education conceptual framework theme of Preparing The Experienced Professional as Specialist. Within this context it is the mission of the Counseling Program to prepare graduates with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the challenges associated with entry into the field of counseling and into their role as professional counselors. Program graduates are eligible to apply for WV licensure in counseling at the point they complete post-graduate supervision and pass a comprehensive licensure examination.

## **Admission Requirements**

Admission to the Counseling Program is selective and competitive. Admission decisions for all program applicants are rooted in the specific standards of the Marshall University Graduate College and the minimum standards of the Counseling program. Students are admitted to an area of emphasis and must indicate their preferences during the admission application process.

### **Graduate College**

Applicants should follow the admissions process described in this catalog or at the Graduate Admissions website at [www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/how-to-apply-for-admission](http://www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/how-to-apply-for-admission).

### **Counseling Program**

Multiple criteria are used in making decisions to admit students to the degree program. Each applicant is evaluated using the following criteria (all material should be submitted directly to Graduate Admissions):

- 1) A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- 2) Evidence of academic aptitude for graduate-level study that includes at least one of the following:
  - a) A 2.75 overall Undergraduate GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale for all previously completed undergraduate courses.
  - b) A Graduate GPA of 3.0 on any previously completed advanced degree.
  - c) GRE scores (no more than five years old) of 286 (quantitative & verbal combined) OR MAT score of 395.
- 3) (International Students) Evidence of English language proficiency. Proof of your proficiency in English may be certified by submitting one of the following:

- a) (TOEFL) Test of English as a Foreign Language (Internet based) minimum score of 80 for graduate study. ETS code for Marshall University is #5396.
  - b) (MELAB) Michigan English Language Assessment Battery minimum score of 82 for graduate study.
  - c) (IELTS) the International English Language Testing System minimum score of 6.5 for graduate study.
  - d) Completion of Level 6 of Marshall's Academic English program, with minimum Bs in all courses.
  - e) Completion of Marshall Pathway course ENG 160 or ENG 101A with minimum C grade. 102 Degree Programs and Requirements Marshall University
  - f) Diploma or degree from an English-speaking school - a degree or diploma from an accredited secondary school, college, or university in which the primary language of instruction is English.
  - g) You have graduated from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States.
  - h) NOTE: English test results that were taken more than two (2) years prior to the date of the application submission cannot be accepted.
- 4) A writing sample expressing career goals and estimation of personal suitability for the profession of counseling. This should follow the Guidelines for the Written Statement found on the Program website or you may contact the program for a copy to be sent to you.
- 5) Three written references (two from current or former professors). These should be completed by professionals with knowledge of the applicant's suitability for graduate work (e.g., supervisors, undergraduate professors) in helping professions. They should be completed using the Program-specific reference form found on the Program website or you may contact the program for a copy to be sent to you.

### **Conditional Admission**

The Counseling Program may admit applicants conditionally for one term, on a limited basis, at the discretion of the program.

### **Provisional Admission**

The Counseling Program may admit applicants provisionally, on a limited basis, at the discretion of the program.

## **Program Requirements**

It is the responsibility of all admitted students to meet with their advisors prior to the beginning of coursework. Each student must complete an advisor-approved Plan of Study prior to registering for

courses. A minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 in all degree courses is required prior to enrollment in the practicum, internship, and for graduation.

**CORE COURSES**

All 45 hours of core courses are offered on both the South Charleston and Huntington campuses. Please note that internship courses are specific to emphasis areas.

**CORE CURRICULUM**

The Master of Arts degree in Counseling is a 60-hour planned program of study designed to meet the necessary competencies of professional counselors. The curricular elements consist of core courses required of all counseling students and emphasis courses specific to Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling.

The following 45 semester hours of core courses are required of all students:

- COUN 574 Social & Cultural Foundations
- COUN 575 Prevention and Treatment of Addictions
- COUN 600 Professional Orientation
- COUN 602 Human Development & Psychopathology
- EDF 621 Educational Research and Writing
- COUN 603 Counseling Theories
- COUN 604 Group Counseling
- COUN 605 Theory & Practice of Human Appraisal
- COUN 607 Counseling Techniques in Human Relationships
- COUN 631 Diagnosis & Treatment Planning in Mental Health Counseling
- COUN 632 Introduction to Marriage, Couple & Family Counseling
- COUN 606 Career & Lifestyle Development
- COUN 608 Practicum
- COUN 691 Internship in Clinical Mental Health
- COUN 698 Internship in School Counseling

**Total Core Hour Requirement.....45**

Please check course prerequisites prior to registration.

\*All emphases (60 hours) satisfy the curricular requirements for professional counselor licensure in the State of West Virginia.

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAM**

All students will take and pass the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) prior to graduation. Students must apply to sit for the exam no later than two (2) weeks prior to the exam date. Payment for the exam is expected when checking in on exam day. Students should plan to take the exam one semester prior to their expected final semester. Detailed information regarding this will be distributed to students each semester.