

COUNSELING (COUN)

MASTER'S DEGREE

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 four distinct emphases offered within the Counseling Program. Curricular elements consist of core courses required of all counseling majors and emphasis courses specific to: mental health counseling, correctional counseling, school counseling and marriage, couple & family counseling. While all core courses are offered on the Huntington and South Charleston campuses, some emphasis courses are not available in all locations.

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 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 emphasis and must indicate their preferences during the admission process.

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 the 12th credit hour. A minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 in all degree courses is required prior to enrollment in the practicum, internship, and for graduation.

Admission Requirements

Multiple criteria are used in making decisions to admit students to the degree program. Each applicant is evaluated using the following criteria:

1. GRE score of 800 (quantitative & verbal combined) or MAT scale score of 395 (Raw score 40).
2. Undergraduate GPA of 2.75
3. Three written references (two from current or former professors)
4. Writing sample expressing the applicant's interest in the counseling profession.
5. On-campus Interview—students who satisfy the preceding admission standards must participate in an on-campus interview as a final standard. Admitted students must complete the following emphasis-specific courses.

Flexibility is maintained in applying the criteria to individual cases. For example, the applicant may be granted provisional enrollment and directed to complete a prescribed set of courses. If a 3.50 is maintained in those courses, then the applicant may be reconsidered for admission to the degree program.

Students seeking admission to the Counseling Program must apply as on-campus or off-campus.

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: mental health counseling; corrections, marriage, couple & families and school counseling emphases. While all core courses are offered on the Huntington and South Charleston campuses, some emphasis specific courses are not available in all locations. Students must indicate their emphasis preference during the admission process.

The following 39 semester hours of core courses are required of all students:

<i>Phase I</i>		
COUN 574	Social & Cultural Foundations	3
COUN 600	Professional Orientation	3
COUN 602	Human Development & Psychopathology	3
EDF 621	Research Writing	3
<i>Phase II</i>		
COUN 603	Counseling Theories	3
COUN 604	Group Counseling	3
COUN 605	Theory & Practice of Human Appraisal	3
COUN 607	Counseling Techniques & Human Appraisal	3
<i>Phase III</i>		
COUN 606	Career & Lifestyle Development	3
COUN 608	Practicum	3
<i>Phase IV</i>		
COUN TBA	Internship	9

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

Areas of Emphasis

Mental Health Counseling

In addition to the core courses, students specializing in Mental Health Counseling must complete the following emphasis courses:

PSY 508	Abnormal Psychology	3
COUN 555	Crisis Intervention and Conflict Resolution	3
COUN 601	Counselors in Consulting and Community Roles	3
COUN 630	Introduction to Mental Health Counseling	3
COUN 631	Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	3
COUN 691	Internship: Mental Health Counseling	9
	Advisor-Approved Electives	6
	Emphasis total30
	Total credit hours (including core)	60

Correctional Counseling

In addition to the core courses, students specializing in Correctional counseling must complete the following emphasis courses:

COUN 555	Crisis Intervention & Conflict Resolution.....	3
COUN 556	Grief Counseling.....	3
COUN 575	Prevention & Treatment of Addictions.....	3
COUN 630	Introduction to Mental Health Counseling.....	3
COUN 631	Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	3
COUN 632	Introduction to Marriage, Couple & Family Counseling.....	3
COUN 641	Seminar in Correctional Counseling	3
COUN 695	Internship: Correctional Counseling	9
	Emphasis total	30
	Total credit hours (including core)	60

Marriage, Couple & Family Counseling

In addition to the core courses, students specializing in Marriage, Couple & Family counseling must complete the following emphasis courses:

COUN 575	Prevention & Treatment of Addictions	3
COUN 622	Parent Education	3
COUN 631	Diagnosis & Treatment Planning	3
COUN 632	Introduction to Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling	3
COUN 636	Couple Counseling	3
COUN 637	Adult Development & Transition.....	3
COUN 638	Practicum: Interv: Marriage, Couple & Family Counseling ..	3
COUN 693	Internship: Marriage, Couple & Family Counseling	9
	Emphasis total	30
	Total credit hours (including core)	60

School Counseling

The school counseling curriculum meets the State Department of Education certification standards. An alternative school counseling program is available for students without a teacher education background to qualify for West Virginia certification as school counselors. In addition to the core courses, students specializing in School Counseling must complete the following emphasis courses:

COUN 575	Prevention & Treatment of Addictions	3
COUN 631	Diagnosis & Treatment Planning	3
COUN 632	Introduction to Marriage, Couple & Family Counseling	3
COUN 670	Interventions: Current Issues in School Counseling	3
COUN 672	Organization & Adm. of School Counseling Programs	3
COUN 673	Counseling Children, Parents & Adolescents	3
COUN 675	Legal and Ethical Issues for School Counselors	3
COUN 698	Internship: School Counseling	9
	Emphasis total	30
	Total Credit Hours (including core)	60

Certification Requirements For School Counselors

Students in school counseling must meet certification requirements established by the West Virginia

Department of Education. All students must pass the Praxis II: Specialty Area Test (formerly the National Teachers Examination) in School Counseling prior to applying for certification. Applications for certification are available in the central offices of the county school system. An alternative school counseling program certification is available for students without a teacher education background to qualify for West Virginia certification as elementary or secondary school counselors.

Students who do not hold a valid West Virginia teaching certificate (non-education majors) must submit passing scores on the Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST) prior to enrollment in courses leading to certification.

Non-education majors must also complete 6 hours of additional coursework from the following:

	<i>Alternative Certification Courses</i>	
EDF 665	Sociology of American Schools	
	OR	
LS 532	Human Relations Skills for Leaders	3
CISP 521	Children with Exceptionalities (check with advisor)	3
	Total Credit Hrs. w/Alternative Certification (including core)	66