

**Master of Arts (MA)**

The Mental Health Counseling Program is designed to train potential counselors for a variety of mental health settings. Each student must work closely with his or her advisor in regards to the students program of study.

**Mental Health Counseling Students will...**

- Develop a strong foundation of knowledge through engaging in their counseling core courses.
- Gain strength-based and constructive feedback from faculty and supervisors in their practicum and internship experiences.
- Be challenged to self-reflect on their professional development throughout the program.
- Have the opportunity to present with faculty at state and national professional conferences.
- Be both eligible for counselor licensure and national certification upon successful completion of the program.

**Career Planning**

Most graduates of our program become counselors at local agencies within the southeast region.

**Internship and Employment Opportunities of Recent Graduates/ Graduate Schools and Programs of Recent Graduates**

- Graduates of our program have internship opportunities and become employed at agencies within our local region.
- Graduates are leaders and clinical coordinators in our local agencies and within the university's Counseling and Disability Services.
- Graduates are eligible for counselor licensure.
- Graduates are eligible for national certification.
- Graduates have elected to further their education through attaining a Ph. D. in Counselor Education and Supervision.

**Admission Requirements**

For regular admission leading to a Master of Arts Degree in Mental Health Counseling, applicants must successfully complete a three-step process:

**Step One – Admission to the School of Graduate Studies:**

All candidates must hold a Baccalaureate Degree with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of no less than 3.0\* and be admitted into the School of Graduate Studies. This is done by:

1. Completing the Application for Admissions and returning it to the Office of Admissions (this can be done on line at <http://www.semo.edu/gradschool/fs/application.htm>)
2. Submitting the appropriate application fees to the Office of Admissions.
3. Submitting undergraduate transcripts to the Office of Admissions.
4. Completing the GRE or MAT and forwarding scores to the Office of Admissions.
5. Submitting three (3) letters of recommendation (one is required to begin the process, an additional two are required before full admission to the program can be completed.)

\* With the approval of the admissions committee, students that have a GPA of 2.75-3.0 may be admitted on a probationary basis (there will be specific requirements during this probationary period). Students, who have a low undergraduate GPA, yet hold a master's degree with a 3.5 GPA will have satisfied the admissions GPA requirement.

**Step Two – Satisfying Prerequisites for the Counseling Program:**

Candidates for the Mental Health Counseling Program must possess a 3.0 GPA and must have an undergraduate preparation of 9 total credits in the social sciences, including, psychology, counseling, sociology or appropriately focused university studies courses.

**Step Three – Admissions to the Counseling Program:**

For all candidates, admission requires (in addition to the requisite GPA) scores on the Verbal and Analytic or Analytical Writing components of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the Millers Analogy Test (MAT) at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile and a total of three (3) letters of recommendation from university faculty, school administrators, or primary employers attesting to the candidates competence.

When all required documents are received, the Office of Admissions will forward the candidate's file to the counseling program admissions committee.

Further, the candidate must satisfactorily complete CP 610 Counseling Orientation and Ethics and the screening procedure. During the screening procedure, the candidate will complete a battery of assessments and undergo an interview with member(s) of the counseling faculty. The screening will be scheduled after the candidate has presented GRE scores and letters of recommendation as stated above. After these criteria have been completed, the program admission committee will review the candidate's credentials and 1) admit the student, 2) not admit the student, or 3) admit the student with restrictions and/or conditions.

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This is a guide based on the 2017-2018 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use DegreeWorks to monitor their progress.

**CURRICULUM CHECKLIST****Mental Health Counseling – 60 hours**

- CP 610 Counseling Orientation and Ethics (3)
- CP 611 Developmental Theories (3)
- CP 612 Counseling Theories (3)
- CP 613 Social & Cultural Aspects of Counseling (3)
- CP 614 Counseling Skills (3)
- CP 615 Career Development (3)
- CP 616 Group Counseling (3)
- CP 617 Assessment in Counseling (3)
- CP 631 Crisis Intervention and Consultation (3)
- CP 640 Foundations of Mental Health Counseling (3)
- CP 641 Mental Health Systems and Prevention (3)
- CP 643 Psychodiagnostics and Treatment (3)
- CP 645 Marriage and Family Counseling (3)
- CP 661 Addictions Counseling (3)
- CP 680 Counseling Practicum (3)
- CP 686 Internship -- Mental Health (3)
- CP 687 Internship -- Mental Health (3)
- CP 688 Advanced Internship -- Mental Health (3)
- CP 699 Portfolio Oral Defense (0)
- GR 691 Methods of Research (3)
- GR 698 Master's Final Comprehensive Exam (0)
- Electives (3)

**Suggested electives:**

- CP 664 Religion/Spirituality (3)
- CP 652 Intro to Plan Therapy (3)

**Prerequisites:**

9 credit hours in the social sciences, including: psychology, counseling, sociology or appropriately focused general education courses.