

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Master of Arts (MA)

This is a guide based on the 2026-2027 Graduate Catalog 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 Degree Works to monitor their progress.

CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

60 Hours Required

- ___ CP610 Counseling Orientation and Ethics (3)
- ___ CP611 Developmental Theories (3)
- ___ CP612 Counseling Theories (3)
- ___ CP613 Social & Cultural Aspects of Counseling (3)
- ___ CP614 Counseling Skills (3)
- ___ CP615 Career Development (3)
- ___ CP616 Group Counseling (3)
- ___ CP617 Assessment in Counseling (3)
- ___ CP631 Crisis Intervention and Consultation (3)
- ___ CP640 Foundations of Mental Health Counseling (3)
- ___ CP641 Mental Health Systems and Prevention (3)
- ___ CP643 Psychodiagnostics and Treatment (3)
- ___ CP645 Marriage and Family Counseling (3)
- ___ CP661 Addictions Counseling (3)
- ___ CP680 Counseling Practicum (3)
- ___ CP686 Internship -- Mental Health (3)
- ___ CP687 Internship -- Mental Health (3)
- ___ CP688 Advanced Internship -- Mental Health (3)
- ___ CP691 Research Methods and Program Evaluation in Counseling (3)
- ___ GR698 Master's Final Comprehensive Exam (0)
- ___ Electives (3)

Suggested electives:

- ___ CP652 Introduction to Play Therapy (3)
- ___ ED535 The Trauma Informed Professional (3)

Prerequisites:

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

Admission Requirements

Applications are considered for summer and fall semesters only.

In addition to the criteria established for general admission to graduate studies, applicants must have the following:

1. An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
2. One letter of recommendation submitted directly to the Office of Admissions prior to admission. The letter should be addressed to the Director of Admissions.
3. Nine total credits in the social sciences, including, psychology, counseling, sociology or appropriately focused university studies courses

International applicants must also have a minimum IELTS Academic score of 7.0, TOEFL iBT score of 95, PTE Academic score of 64 or Duolingo English score of 125. *This requirement is for non-United States citizens who are not native English speakers. Students from countries where English is known to be the official language of education are exempt from English proficiency verification. For a complete list of countries, visit <https://semo.edu/international/admissions/policies.html>.*

Students will have an interview with member(s) of the counseling faculty prior to admission. Students must complete a personal statement essay describing their decision to pursue counseling as a career prior to the scheduled interview (submit directly to the Department of Psychology and Counseling). Following the interview, faculty will offer provisional admission, probationary admission, or deny admission.

To become fully admitted, applicants must complete the following: Satisfactorily complete CP610 Counseling Orientation and Ethics during their first semester and submit two additional letters of recommendation directly to their advisor.

Probationary Admission

Probationary admission will be considered by the program admissions committee if the applicant has a 2.75 to 2.99 undergraduate GPA or if the applicant has achieved a GPA of 3.25 during the last 60 hours of undergraduate work. Students admitted to the counseling program on probation must attain a 3.5 GPA for the first 9 hours of graduate work. Unless authorized by the advisor, probationary students must include the following courses in the first 9 hours of coursework: CP610 Counseling Orientation and Ethics, CP 612 Counseling Theories, and CP691 Research Methods and Program Evaluation in Counseling. A student earning any grade less than a "B" in any of the first nine hours, but still maintaining a 3.0 GPA, will be allowed to repeat the course one time and must earn a grade of "B" or better.

Appeals Process

Applicants who are denied admission can appeal to the Counseling Program Admission Committee.

Program Retention

Review the Graduate Catalog at semo.edu/grad/bulletin.

For graduate studies admissions deadlines, visit

<https://semo.edu/admissions/requirements/graduate.html>.

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DEGREE MAP

2026-2027



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