

Master of Science in Counseling/School Counseling

The Master of Science in Counseling degree program with a specialization in School Counseling provides the required knowledge and skills for students to become effective school counselors. The program encompasses foundations of counseling and guidance including theories and their application with groups and individuals, assessment and evaluation, counseling and consultative relationships, career planning for students, and program development, implementation, and evaluation. The program addresses critical issues facing school counselors and offers supervised clinical experiences that allow students to obtain the practical experience necessary for licensure as a school counselor. 48 credits.

CNSL 502 Graduate Portfolio I

Portfolio I is an admission readiness assessment which samples and evaluates the student's cognitive, affective, and behavioral skills in critical areas of the counselor education process. It is a six-workshop, 24-hour, noncredit assessment that helps determine student appropriateness for the program and gives the potential student the opportunity to evaluate his or her aptitude for the counseling program. Portfolio I must be passed before a student may be admitted to any graduate counseling program in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. 0 credits.

CNSL 504 Lifespan and Family Development

This course presents students with theoretical frameworks to foster an understanding of the various dimensions of human development. Emphasis is placed on biological, cognitive, and psychosocial development within the context of gender, family systems, social roles, and culture. Students evaluate clinical situations and assess potential therapeutic interventions in context. 3 credits.

CNSL 506 Personality Theories and Counseling Models

This course enables students to differentiate among the primary theoretical models of personality theory and counseling practice, such as psychodynamic, affective, cognitive-behavioral, and systems theory. Emphasis is on the importance of students recognizing belief systems that accurately reflect their own personal style and to recognize strategies and approaches likely to be most successful with a particular client population. Students have opportunities to establish a strong theoretical foundation as the basis of clinical practice and to evaluate and assess clinical situations for implementation of therapeutic interventions that are gender and culturally appropriate. 3 credits.

ECN 522 Foundations of School Counseling, Part I

This course introduces prospective school counselors to the history, services, settings, roles, and competencies of counselors in elementary and secondary schools in America. Pertinent laws and ethical standards will be explored. Important trends that will continue to influence school counseling programs will also be examined. 3 credits.

CNSL 557 Social and Multicultural Foundations

This course is designed to be a foundation for understanding diversity among clients in a pluralistic society. Emphasis will be on integrating awareness, knowledge, and skills related to counseling differences and similarities based on age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliations, gender identification, sexual orientation, physical/mental limitations, social class, etc. 3 credits.

CNSL 516 Legal and Ethical Issues in Counseling

Legal and ethical responsibilities of the counseling professional are presented. Students learn to interpret and act upon situations appropriately and effectively. Content includes issues such as client rights, confidentiality, duty to warn and protect, dual relationships, supervision and consulting, ethics with special populations, and ethical decision-making models. 3 credits.

CNSL 526 Introduction to Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis

This course introduces students to models and tools for assessment and diagnosis for the purpose of developing competency in evaluation and treatment planning for professional counseling practice. Students learn about and practice intake assessment techniques, performing mental status examinations, using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV-TR), and behavioral analysis. Emphasis is placed on writing clear, accurate, and useful assessments. Multicultural and ethical issues in assessment are also explored. 3 credits.

CNSL 547 Individual Counseling

This course provides students with intensive skill building in individual counseling. The relationship between theory, strategy and intervention, setting goals with clients, closure, and referral are included as essential to the counseling environment. Emphasis is also placed on treatment plans, ethics, and cultural diversity. 3 credits.

ECN 523

Foundations of School Counseling, Part II

This course will examine key components of comprehensive school counseling programs. Essential counseling skills and professional development for a successful program will be identified. Mental health aspects of school counseling will also be addressed. 3 credits.

CNSL 556

Portfolio II

Professional Counseling Assessment Portfolio II helps students integrate and evaluate their learning in the Master of Counseling program at midpoint. Like an assessment center, Portfolio II provides an integrative experience requiring the student to bring together all of what he or she has learned in previous courses in the program and to demonstrate how that learning has been applied both personally and professionally. 0 credits.

CNSL 5920

Orientation to Counseling Practicum

This class is an orientation to the practicum and internship. 0 credits.

ECN 530

Student Assessment and Evaluation in School Counseling

This course is designed to provide the school counselor with a foundation of knowledge in psychometric principles necessary to facilitate educational counseling decisions. Historical, ethical, and legal issues regarding assessment are examined, and common testing instruments are reviewed. Administration, scoring, and interpretation of standardized tests are described, and psychometric principles necessary for the development, interpretation, and selection of assessment instruments are presented. The purposes of assessment are considered for guidance placement, planning, and accountability in the educational counseling setting. 3 credits.

CNSL 592

Counseling Practicum

This course focuses on the assessment and continuing development of student counseling skills. Students have a variety of opportunities to receive feedback and to evaluate their ability to integrate theory into practice. Students determine their styles and strengths as professional counseling practitioners, as well as identify areas needing further development. Individualized practice sessions and feedback are designed into the course. 3 credits.

ECN 545

Student Career Counseling

This course is a study of career counseling from theory to practical application. The focus is on clearly delineated career guidance objectives and strategies for implementing career guidance programs in schools, including the development of individual career life plans for students. The course fosters appropriate use of career counseling tools such as computer-based guidance systems, labor market information, and assessment. It provides a historical perspective of current College Tech Prep and K-12 programs. Issues related to career counseling for individuals from specific populations are also addressed. 3 credits.

CNSL 573

Critical Analysis in Research

This course is an overview of the fundamentals of research and program evaluation for counseling, family therapy, and school counseling. Topics include research methods, statistical analysis, and needs assessment. Students become critical evaluators of research, with emphasis placed on engaging the students in research literature. 3 credits.

CNSL 561

Group Counseling

This course provides students with intensive knowledge, awareness, and skill-building in group counseling. Content emphasizes such areas as different types of groups, group dynamics, group norms and boundaries, leadership styles, leading and co-leading, and treatment plans. Confidentiality, selection procedures, ethics, and multicultural diversity are included as key components to effective counseling practice. 3 credits.

ECN 552

Administration of School Counseling Programs

This course examines the essential role of counselors in administering school counseling programs. This includes the processes of designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating comprehensive school counseling and guidance programs. The course emphasizes the role of the counselor as a leader and advocate in systemic change. 3 credits.

CNSL 597A/B

Internship A and B

The School Counseling internship is a 600-hour clinical experience required of all MSC students. Divided into 15-week, 300-hour sections, CNSL 597 A and B comprise Portfolio III of the counseling portfolio series. Students are placed in approved school settings for 20 to 32 hours per week where they provide clinical services to students under the direction of an approved agency site supervisor. Students are also assisted in their preparation for the National Counselor Examination. 3 credits each (6 credits total).