

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, MASTER OF ARTS

Overview

It is the goal of the Counseling Program to serve the needs of the San Antonio community and local school districts by developing highly skilled school counselors, clinical mental health counselors, and marriage, couple, and family counselors.

The Master of Arts degree (M. A.) in Clinical Mental Health Counseling requires 60 hours of counseling coursework. This degree is designed to satisfy the 60-hour Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) academic requirements in the State of Texas.

Admissions

Admission Process

Students seeking admission to any of the counseling degree programs must meet the basic requirements outlined in the Admission section of this catalog. Applicants without an appropriate background may be required to complete additional preparatory coursework. Such coursework will be determined by the Associate Chair or other designated program representative.

Students seeking admission to any of the Counseling degree programs must meet the following criteria:

1. For applicants with an undergraduate cumulative grade point average between 2.60 and 2.99 or an undergraduate grade point average of 3.00 or higher for the last 60 semester credits (or 90 quarter credits).
2. A three-page written Statement of Purpose is required.
3. A group interview with Counseling Admissions Committee is required.
4. International students must have a minimum score of 79 on the TOEFL Internet-based test, 213 on the TOEFL computer-based, 550 on the TOEFL paper- based test, or 6 on the IELTS.

Admission to School Counseling Program

In order to be fully admitted to the school counseling program, the applicant must meet all university program requirements as well as admission requirements specified by the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in 19 Texas Administrative Code 227. The applicant must provide a teaching service record from a public or accredited private/charter school and complete the application for school counseling degree program. Upon receipt of the application and teaching documentation, an appointment will be scheduled between faculty and the prospective school counseling applicant. This appointment will include an oral interview, discussion of supply and demand, verification of GPA and academic standing, personal vision statement, review of code of ethics, and notice that criminal record check is required prior to practicum and internships.

Special Requirements for the Graduate Counseling Programs

To be considered for admission into any of the counseling degree programs, students with previous graduate coursework must be in good standing with their prior university. To ensure a solid foundation for counseling coursework, the Associate Chair or other designated program

representative has the right to examine an applicant’s undergraduate transcript and require additional prerequisite coursework if necessary. Applicants without an appropriate background may be required to complete additional preparatory coursework.

Student Progress Monitoring and Program Accountability

The Counselor Education program at Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to consistent and even-handed monitoring of students’ academic progress and professional development during their program of study. These activities are facilitated by the inclusion, tracking, and evaluation of key performance indicators, fitness to practice documentation, and program progress using the Tevera data integration platform. These data assist the program faculty in activities such as student support, program evaluation, curriculum development, management of field placements, and accreditation reporting.

Program Fees

All first-semester program students are charged a \$220 program fee that provides lifetime access to the Tevera platform and program-affiliated access to the Counseling Skills Scale (CSS). Both Tevera and the CSS are integrated meaningfully throughout every students program of study.

Requirements

Curricula

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
EDCG 5333	Research in Counseling	3
EDCG 5335	Human Dev Across Lifespan	3
EDCG 5311	Theories of Counseling	3
EDCG 5342	Counseling Diverse Populations	3
EDCG 5313	Prof Orientation & Ethics	3
EDCG 5314	Theoretical Foundations of Individual, Couples, and Family Counseling	3
EDCG 5327	Abnormal Human Behavior	3
EDCG 5317	Counseling Techniques	3
EDCG 5325	Assessment	3
EDCG 5328	Group Counseling Techniques	3
EDCG 5353	Career Counseling	3
EDCG 5332	Substance Use/Process Addict	3
EDCG 5336	Abnormal Conditions and Interventions	3
EDCG 5339	Legal Issues in Counseling	3
Counseling Elective		6
EDCG 53XX		
EDCG 53XX		
EDCG 5360	Clinical Mental Health Practicum (100 hours)	3
EDCG 5385	Clinical Mental Health Internship (200 hours)	3
EDCG 5385	Clinical Mental Health Internship (200 hours)	3
EDCG 5385	Clinical Mental Health Internship (200 hours)	3
Total Credits		60

Fitness to Practice

Admission to the program does not guarantee fitness to remain in the program. Only those students who meet program standards will be allowed to continue in the program. Students pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Counseling & Guidance: School Counseling, Master of

Arts degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, or a Master of Arts degree in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling must meet fitness to practice standards that are assessed by faculty throughout the program. These standards include demonstration of emotional and mental fitness in their interaction with others as well as conformance with codes of professional counseling associations and of the state of Texas. Students who fail to demonstrate fitness or conformance to appropriate codes may be asked to enter into a remediation plan in order to remain in the program. If a remediation plan is developed, students must demonstrate satisfactory remediation prior to being allowed to proceed toward graduation. In rare cases, a student's ability to practice may exceed remediation and a recommendation for removal from the program is possible.

Transferability of Courses

Transfer courses are limited to six hours and subject to approval by the Department Chair and College Dean. Courses that include the demonstration of counseling skills will not be eligible for transfer credit. Courses previously used for one graduate degree will not be approved for transfer to a subsequent graduate degree. All requests for the transfer of courses must be made within the first semester of enrollment.

Course Load

Only grades of "A" or "B" will be accepted toward this degree. Candidates for the Master of Arts degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling must earn a minimum of 60 semester credit hours and maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0.

Incompletes

The spirit of the "Incomplete" is to give a student an opportunity to complete a course after the end of the semester. An Incomplete will only be considered under specific circumstances:

1. 70% of the class has been completed and student is passing with a "C" or better
2. The circumstance for which the "I" is requested is supported with documentation
3. Student has been attending class on a regular basis

Incompletes are not to be used to remedy excessive absences. Unforeseen circumstances precipitating the request for an "I", should occur near the end of the semester. Students who are experiencing difficulties at the beginning or midway through the course should contact their professor immediately to discuss options. When a professor agrees to grant an "I", a contract between the student and professor that outlines a specific timeline for completion of the course will be generated. Topics such as highest possible grade will also be outlined. If the contract is not fulfilled, the professor will submit a change of grade form with earned letter grade. All "I"s will automatically revert to an "F" after one year.

Dropping a Course

Each student is responsible for knowing the drop date for any given semester. Professors are not responsible, under any circumstances, for "dropping" a student from a course. Please be aware that if you do not formally drop a course and fail to fulfill the academic requirements, the professor will submit the earned grade.

Practicum and Internship Eligibility

In order for a student to participate in a Counseling Practicum and Internship at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, the student must have demonstrated proficiency in benchmark assessments spaced throughout

the Counseling Program. Additionally, all skill-level courses must have been successfully completed at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Two semesters prior to enrollment in Practicum/Internship, the student will communicate with the Practicum/Internship Coordinator to discuss practicum/internship application deadlines, approved practicum/internship sites, and required documents for admission to Practicum/Internship. Adhering to published deadlines, students will complete and submit all required documents for practicum/internship registration approval. Students must complete core courses, be in "good standing" and have no outstanding Incompletes to be approved for admission to practicum/internship. Students must maintain the highest standards of professional behavior in order to continue enrollment in Practicum/Internship.