
Reason for Request:

To meet new accreditation requirements by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Beginning July 1, 2009, all applicant programs in Clinical Mental Health Counseling must require a minimum of 54 semester credit hours or 81 quarter credit hours for all students. As of July 1, 2013, all applicant programs in Clinical Mental Health Counseling must require a minimum of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter credit hours for all students. Based on state university trends and additional hours required for applicants without teaching certification, students in the School Counseling program will be required to take a minimum of 60 semester hours.

In addition, to align with CACREP standards the department requests that the Clinical Counseling concentration title be changed to **Clinical Mental Health Counseling**.

Date approved by the department or school: **September 8, 2010**

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: **October 25, 2010**

Counseling

Program Mission: The M.S. in Counseling provides dynamic curricula for students interested in obtaining certification as School counselors or licensure as Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPC). Students choose a concentration either in Clinical Mental Health or School Counseling, both fully accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). These concentrations lead to a terminal degree and prepare students for employment either as School Counselors within K-12 school systems or as Clinical Mental Health Counselors within mental health agencies, health care facilities, employee assistance program (EAP), or human service agencies. Students who complete the program are eligible to pursue Ph.D./Ed.D. studies in Counselor Education, Counseling Psychology, Clinical Psychology, and other related fields or to pursue specialized training in Marriage and Family Counseling, Play Therapy, or Private Practice.

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements include those outlined for the master of science degree by the Graduate School (see “[Requirements for the Master of Science Degree](#)”). The courses for the Master of Science in counseling must total a minimum of 60 semester hours. The plan, therefore, requires that the student complete the following courses identified below:

Curriculum for Concentration in School Counseling

Required Courses:

Total Credits: 60

- Electives. Credits 6
 - CSD 5500 – Research Methods. Credits: 4
 - CSD 5510 – Professional Orientation. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5520 – Theories of Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5530 – Pre-Practicum. Credits: 4
 - CSD 5600 – Cross-Cultural Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5610 – Human Development for Counselors. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5620 – Group Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5630 – Practicum. Credits: 4
 - CSD 5640 – Play Therapy. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5900 – Appraisal. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5920 – Career Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5940 – Foundations of School Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5945 – Management of School Counseling Programs. Credits: 3
 - CSD 6920 – Supervised School Experience. Credits: 3 to 6
 - EDF 5500 – Theory into Practice: Curriculum Development. Credits: 3
 - EDF 5510 – Theory into Practice: Social Foundations of Educational Practice. Credits: 3
- All students are required to complete a final comprehensive examination or write a thesis prior to completion of the graduate degree.

Curriculum for Concentration in School Counseling without Teacher Certification

For students accepted into the School Counseling program who are not certified as a teacher, the following course will be required:

- SPE 2000 – Disabilities in the Context of Education and the Life Span. Credits: 2

In addition to this course, students are required to submit a criminal background investigation and obtain a passing score on the Illinois Test of Basic Skills prior to Practicum (for post master's students seeking alternative education, these items are due prior to Internship). The criminal background investigation is conducted by the Department of Human Resources and the College of Education and Professional Studies. Students are responsible for the cost of these background investigations.

Curriculum for Concentration in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Required Courses:

Total Credits: 60

- CSD 5400 – Special Issues. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5500 – Research Methods. Credits: 4
 - CSD 5510 – Professional Orientation. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5520 – Theories of Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5530 – Pre-Practicum. Credits: 4
 - CSD 5600 – Cross-Cultural Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5610 – Human Development for Counselors. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5620 – Group Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5630 – Practicum. Credits: 4
 - CSD 5640 – Play Therapy. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5900 – Appraisal. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5920 – Career Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5930 – Foundations of Clinical Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5960 – Family Counseling. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5970 – Counseling the Chemically Dependent. Credits: 3
 - CSD 5980 – Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment Planning. Credits: 3
- Abnormal Psychology must have been completed within 5 years prior to taking this course.
- CSD 6900 – Supervised Clinical Experience. Credits: 3 to 9
- All students are required to complete a final comprehensive examination or write a thesis prior to completion of the graduate degree.