

Counseling Degree FAQ's

What are the counseling degree tracks?

The counseling program has three different degree tracks depending upon a student's career goal. There is a track for those students seeking a career as:

1. A licensed school counselor
2. A clinical mental health counselor (licensure as a licensed professional counselor (LPC).
3. A higher education degree track for those seeking work in universities or other higher education settings in such areas as student affairs.

How many hours is the degree?

The number of hours to complete your MEd in Counseling depends on which track the student pursues:

1. The school-counseling track is a 48-hour graduate credit hour degree plan.
2. The clinical mental health degree track is a 60-hour graduate credit hour degree plan.
3. The higher education degree track is a 45-hour graduate credit hour degree plan.

What are the prerequisite courses needed to get into the counseling program?

There are no prerequisites to apply to the counseling program. Any one with any undergraduate degree background is welcome to apply.

Do I have to take the GRE to apply?

No. There is no GRE requirement.

What do I do to apply?

The application process begins on the WSU Graduate School website. The Graduate School collects an application fee for processing before moving your application forward. The student will need to send official copies of *all* transcripts (even those for institutions where you took only one course) for the application to be complete.

What are the admission requirements? What do I need to get in?

The admission requirements are:

1. A GPA of 3.000 for the last 60 credit hours.
2. A statement of professional goals.
3. A professional resume.
4. The names, addresses, email address, and phone numbers of three *professional* references.

When are the classes?

Our classes are generally from 4:30 to 7 pm and 7:05 to 9:45 Monday through Thursday. Our program is designed to be accessible for people who work during the day. But there

are exceptions to these general schedule guidelines. Check the course schedule.

How long does it take to complete the program?

The time for the completion of the degree depends on several factors. Most people can complete the program in two to two and half years if they attend full time (9 credit hours each fall and spring semester, plus some summer course work). The time to complete the degree depends on several factors such as the degree track program, the person, the course load taken per semester, and the timing of courses. See your advisor to determine a course sequence that works for you. There is a six-year time limit to complete the degree once you start the program.

What about summer courses?

We do teach some courses in the summer semester. The courses offered vary depending on the summer. Check the course schedule.

Are the courses online?

There are some online courses and some hybrid courses (some portion of the course is online, but part of the course is also face-to-face). The faculty in the counseling program at Wichita State University believes that the personal interaction process of counseling requires most courses to be face-to-face. The counseling program at WSU is not an online program.

Will any of my courses from other graduate degrees count?

It depends on the degree and the courses. Faculty will determine the equivalence of courses for the counseling program after examining transfer course descriptions and syllabi. Please be aware, WSU graduate school rules prevent more than six credit hours from one degree being applied to another degree.

Can I take courses at other universities and transfer them to WSU to complete my degree?

The graduate school catalog allows students to transfer up to 12 credit hours taken at another university toward a graduate degree at WSU. However, the counseling program has required assessments for your degree in certain courses, and restricts other skill-based courses from eligibility to be transferred. Before you decide to take a course at another institution, check the student handbook, and with your advisor about the course's eligibility for transfer.

What is the practicum/field experience and internship requirement?

Counseling Practicum is a semester long 100 hours supervised counseling practicum experience. Forty of the 100 supervised hours must comprise direct client service. Counseling practicum students complete one hour of supervision per week with a faculty member and/or a site supervisor. In addition, practicum students have one and a half hours of group supervision per week with a counseling faculty member.

Students should be able to complete the practicum and internship requirements while maintaining their current employment. Some degree of flexibility in the student's schedule during these semesters is important. School employees are usually placed at their school for practicum and internship.

Counseling Internship is either a one or two semester supervised counseling internship experience. Counseling internship hours must complete 600 clock hours of a supervised counseling internship, which includes 240 clock hours of direct client service.

Counseling internship students complete one hour of supervision per week with a faculty member and/or a site supervisor. In addition, practicum students have one and a half hours of group supervision per week with a counseling faculty member.

School Counseling Degree Track Information

Overview

With a strong background in human growth and development, as well as communication skills, counselors assist clients in developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral strengths.

Wichita State University's M.Ed. in Counseling is designed to prepare students to meet the requirements of the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) for Licensed Professional School Counselors

The school counseling degree track is a 48 graduate credit hour program.

What are the courses I need to take to complete the School Counseling Degree Track?

School Counseling Track 48 credit hours
CESP 803 Counseling Theory (3)
CESP 804 Foundations of Counseling (3)
CESP 824 Counseling Techniques (3)
CESP 821 Multicultural Issues in Counseling (3)
CESP 856 Practicum in Counseling (3)
CLES 802 Theories of Human Development (3)
CESP 835 DSM (3)
CESP 822 Assessment in Counseling (3)
CESP 815 Career Development (3)
CESP 857 Professional & Ethical Issues in Counseling (3)
CESP 825 Group Counseling (3)
*CLES 810 Educational Research (3)
CESP 949 Counseling Internship (6)
Electives (6)

*CLES 810 meets the PSIT requirement

School counseling licensure is available in Kansas to individuals without a Kansas teaching license. These students pursue the counseling degree plan, and complete the requirements for direct entry or parallel pathways licensure.

What are the requirements for a licensed teacher to become a licensed school counselor?

A teacher who is licensed to teach in Kansas completes the 48-hour school counseling degree track to be eligible for licensure as a professional school counselor, addition to other requirements such as the PRAXIS test for counseling, etc.

Can some without a teaching license and/or a person whose degree is in a completely different field be a school counselor?

Yes, students without a teaching degree or an educational background are eligible to be

licensed as a school counselor under a program called parallel pathways or direct entry. Parallel pathways students have to meet additional requirements beyond the 48-hour degree program to be eligible for licensure as a professional school counselor. These requirements include additional field work requirements, and a 2 semester *post*-degree internship courses with WSU's counseling program. The parallel pathways requirements are not included in the degree requirements these requirements are for licensure and are in addition to the degree.

What are the additional field experiences required for parallel pathways students during the degree?

During the student's two-semester internship experience, parallel pathways students complete a total of 70 clock-hours of additional experiences required by KSDE.

What is a provisional school counseling license?

Sometimes students with a teaching license are hired under a provisional school counselor license to work as a counselor when they have completed 50% of the 48-hour program. Most times students on a provisional license are ready for practicum and close to graduation, but it is up to the student to find a position that will accept a provisional license. See the licensing specialist for the college of education if you are interested in pursuing this option.

Are parallel pathways students eligible for a provisional licensure?

No, not under current Kansas State Department of Education regulations.

Can I be a licensed school counselor and a licensed professional counselor with the WSU counseling degree?

Yes, you can in Kansas with our school counseling degree track. You take the hours necessary to complete a school counseling degree track and then accumulate the additional hours needed to qualify as a licensed professional counselor with the BSRB for LPC licensure in Kansas. Some people pick up the courses along the way while getting their school counseling degree, but most people go ahead and graduate, work as a school counselor, and come back for those additional hours.

What is the licensure process for school counselors once you have graduated?

The requirements for licensure include (This is not a complete list, but an overview):

1. Successfully completing the WSU 48 hour school counseling track program
2. Passing the Professional School Counseling Praxis exam
3. Fingerprints
4. A criminal background check
5. A Fee

Students who have a teaching license and parallel pathways students are both first licensed as an initial school specialist. Parallel pathways students must successfully

complete the one-year **post** degree internship courses during this period while working as a school counselor. After one year (assuming all requirements are met), both groups of students can upgrade the initial school specialist license to a full five-year professional school counseling license.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Degree Track Information

Overview

With a strong background in human growth and development, as well as communication skills, counselors assist clients in developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral strengths.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Graduates of the M.Ed. in Counseling – Clinical Mental Health Counseling track may pursue careers in mental health counseling settings. The M.Ed. in Counseling – Clinical Mental Health Counseling track meets the basic core requirements for future licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Kansas. The Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (KSBSRB) sets requirements for the LPC license. The BSRB website can be found at: <https://ksbsrb.ks.gov>

The clinical mental health counseling degree track is a 60 graduate credit hour program

You as the student are responsible for reviewing the BSRB website and the educational requirements for becoming a licensed professional counselor to make certain you are aware of the licensure requirements.

What are the courses I need to take to complete the clinical mental health degree track?

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Track 60 credit hours
CESP 803 Counseling Theory (3)
CLES 806 Foundations of Mental Health Counseling (3)
CESP 824 Counseling Techniques (3)
CESP 821 Multicultural Issues in Counseling (3)
CESP 856 Practicum in Counseling (3)
CLES 802 Theories of Human Development (3)
CESP 835 DSM (3)
CESP 822 Assessment in Counseling (3)
CESP 815 Career Development (3)
CLES 805 Professional & Ethical Issues in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (3)
CESP 825 Group Counseling (3)
CLES 810 Educational Research (3)
CESP 838 Counseling Families (3)
CESP 848 Crisis Counseling (3)
CESP 847 Addiction Counseling (3)
CESP 949 Counseling Internship (6)
Electives (9)

*CLES 810 meets the PSIT requirement

What are the requirements for licensure as an LPC in Kansas?

This is a limited list, for a full list of requirements, please see the BSRB website at ksbsrb.org. The following is a brief overview:

1. A counseling degree
2. Sixty (60) graduate credit hours in BSRB approved counseling courses.
3. Letters from three professional references
4. A verification form of your field experiences by your supervising counseling faculty member.
5. Passing the National Counselor Exam (NCE) developed by the National Board for Certified Counselors (can only be taken post-degree and once your application is approved by the BSRB).
6. An attestation of your background related to issues such as substance abuse or criminal offenses, etc.

What is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)?

The LCPC is an independent practice license. You can begin the process of qualifying as an LCPC after you are licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). The requirements include:

1. Filing a training plan with the BSRB
2. Complete 4,000 hours of postgraduate supervised work experience over a minimum of 24 months. 1,500 hours of the 4,000 hours must be direct client contact while providing counseling and assessment services.
3. A total of 150 supervision hours at a rate of 1 supervision hour for each 15 hours of client contact.
4. After submitting your application for LCPC licensure, you must pass the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors.

Higher Education Counseling Degree Track Questions:

Overview

With a strong background in human growth and development, as well as communication skills, counselors assist clients in developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral strengths.

The higher education degree track offers an integrated higher education counseling track for students who wish to pursue positions in student affairs or pursue the doctoral degree in educational leadership.

The Higher Education Counseling Degree Track is a 45 hour graduate credit degree program.

What are the courses for the Higher Education Counseling Degree Track?

Higher Ed/Student Affairs Track 45 Credit hours
CESP 803 Counseling Theory (3)
CESP 804 Foundations of Counseling (3)
CESP 824 Counseling Techniques (3)
CESP 821 Multicultural Issues in Counseling (3)
CLES 871 Foundations of Higher Education (3)
CLES 802 Theories of Human Development (3)
CLES 873 College Student Development & the Campus Environment (3)
CESP 822 Assessment in Counseling (3)
CESP 815 Career Development (3)
CESP 835 DSM (3)
CLES 874 Legal and Ethical Issues in Higher Education (3)
CESP 825 Group Counseling (3)
CLES 801C Educational Research (3)
CLES 875 Practicum in Higher Education Leadership (3)
CESP 872 Finance & Human Resources in Colleges & Universities (3)

What about licensure?

The Higher Education Counseling degree track does not meet the requirements for licensure as either a school counselor or a licensed professional counselor. Higher Education students who wish to pursue licensure will need additional coursework beyond the 45-hour Higher Education Counseling Degree Track. Please see an advisor if you are interested in pursuing licensure.