

School Counseling

Introduction

Master of Science Degree The program in school counseling provides a basic preparation in school counseling that leads to certification by the State of Wisconsin for employment in the public schools.

Students who seek certification from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction must meet both elementary and secondary requirements for certification as a school counselor on a PK-12 basis.

Learning experiences in the immediate professional setting include supervised counseling practicum and internship.

Admission

To be admitted with full status to this program, the applicant must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college and have an overall grade point average of at least 2.75. Applicants may be admitted on probationary status if their overall grade point average is at least 2.5, but less than 2.75. These exceptions are subject to a strict limit of 10 percent of the students in the program and must be individually negotiated with the recommendation of the program director and the approval of the Graduate School.

Both the Graduate School Application form (*obtainable from the Graduate School*) and a Program Application form (*obtainable from the program director*) must be submitted by each applicant, including the documents identified on these two forms. In addition, applicants must submit a score from either the Graduate Records Exam (*GRE*) or the Pre-Professional Skills Test (*PPST*). Applicants must have presented and filed all required Graduate School documents to the Graduate School office by February 1 for summer and fall terms, and October 1 for the spring term. After committee review and a personal interview for selected applicants, notification of acceptance will be made by May 1 for summer and fall terms, and December 1 for the spring term. The process and deadlines for selecting applicants will be strictly followed in each case.

Students will be admitted on the basis of academic performance, admissibility to the Graduate School, recommendations and rankings of a screening committee. These rankings are based on: 1. Experience in a helping profession, i.e., counseling, education, social work, psychology and volunteer activities; 2. Letters of recommendation from employers, instructors and consumers of services provided by the applicant; 3. An autobiographical statement in which the applicant has outlined assets and liabilities as a potential counselor trainee; and 4. Academic performance and potential as demonstrated by performance in undergraduate coursework, any additional graduate coursework, and submission of either GRE or PPST. A personal interview with the program director and faculty is also required. The interview is scheduled with selected applicants following review of application materials.

Requirements

The degree requires a minimum of 50 credit hours. Transfer credits may not exceed 12. An overall graduate grade point average of 3.0 or better is required, and a minimum grade of 2.75 is required for all core requirements. Students must also be approved for degree candidacy at the appropriate time and follow the approved program plan outlined here:

Core Requirements

COUN-750	Counseling Theory.....	3
COUN-752	Group Dynamics.....	3
COUN-788	Counseling Process Laboratory	3
EDUC-740	Research Foundations	4
HDFS-742	Lifespan Family and Human Development	2-3
SCOUN-735	Problems in Counseling and Psychological Services (Plan B) or	
SCOUN-770	Thesis (<i>Plan A</i>).....	2-6
SCOUN-647	Emotional/Behavioral Problems of Children and Adolescents	3
SCOUN-733	Lifespan Career Development	3
SCOUN-765	Professional Orientation to School Counseling.....	3
SCOUN-782	PK-12 Developmental Guidance Curriculum	3
SCOUN-788	School Counseling Practicum	2-3
SCOUN-789	Elementary School Counseling Internship.....	3
SCOUN-790	Secondary School Counseling Internship.....	3
SCOUN-793	School Counseling Internship Seminar	2
SPSY-753	Psychometric Theory and Application	2
SPSY-753A	School Counseling Laboratory	1
SPSY-775	School Consultation	2
SPSY-777	Legal and Ethical Issues	2

Selectives (2 credits; self-designed concentrations are encouraged)

SCOUN-705	Play Therapy	2
ANTH-620	Anthropological Study of Family Systems.....	3
PSYC-666	Alcoholism and Family Systems Intervention	2
SCOUN-690	Behavioral Interventions in the Schools	2
CTE-502	Principles of Career and Technical Education.....	2
EDUC-XXX	Approved seminar/current issues course	1-3
SPED-524	Curriculum and Instruction: Career and Transition Education	3
EDUC-615	Classroom Management	3
EDUC-750	Curriculum Theory and Practice	3
FCSE-708	Curriculum Studies.....	2
SCOUN-792	Postsecondary Practicum.....	2

Note: Depending on undergraduate degree major, some students are required to complete additional course work to meet minimum competency for certification. Minimum competency courses are Psychology of Learning; Inclusion; Multiculturalism; Preparation for Research; and Organization, Administration, Operation of Schools.

Full Time or Part Time Study

Extended field placement (*internship*) required in this program consists of 600 hours in the school. Part-time study while holding a full-time job is very difficult unless the employment provides considerable flexibility. The internship may not be completed in the summer session because the time available is not extensive enough and regular school placements are not available. Therefore, full-time study for at least one semester is recommended. A substantial portion of the course work may be completed part time by attending summer sessions, attending during the regular semesters for late afternoon and evening classes, or enrolling in continuing education off-campus courses. However, a commitment for at least one semester full time, or two semesters half time, is required at the point where the student is ready for internship placement.