

COUNSELING, MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION (043)

Program Coordinator

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The MAE in Counseling has two concentrations and meets the educational requirements for licensure as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and in states with reciprocal licensure agreements. The Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredits both the Clinical Mental Health Counseling and the Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling concentrations in the Counseling master's degree program.

Concentration(s)

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC)
- Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling (CMCF)

Joint Undergraduate Master's Program (JUMP)

This degree offers a Joint Undergraduate Master's Program (JUMP) which provides academically outstanding students the opportunity to complete both an undergraduate and graduate degree in an accelerated timeframe. Contact the graduate program coordinator for additional information.

Program Admission

Application Deadline is October 1 for spring admission; and March 1 for fall admission. Review of completed applications begins October 6th and March 6th for spring and fall, respectively. Reviews employ a holistic approach to evaluate applicants' potential to be successful as students and, upon graduation, counseling or student affairs professionals. This approach involves the submission of materials that allows department faculty members to develop a more complete picture of applicants in terms of academic aptitude for graduate-level study, potential success in forming effective counseling relationships, respect for cultural differences, and relevance of career goals to their prospective programs of interest. Faculty rate applicants' application materials and rank the applications according to these categories. Highly ranked applicants are invited to interview with faculty and current students in an individual or group setting.

After completion of the interview, admissions decisions are made based on application ratings and interview evaluations collectively. The application process is competitive with a limited number of openings.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Completed applications include the materials listed below and must be completed by the application deadlines. Application portfolios should reflect thought, attention to detail, and appropriate effort. You are applying to a competitive graduate program; it is important that your portfolio represents you in a positive yet realistic manner. Please allow yourself at least a few weeks to complete the entire process.

All of the following materials should be submitted directly through the Graduate Studies application:

1. Graduate Studies Application Form - (<https://www.wku.edu/graduate/>) requirements include a non-refundable application fee and official transcripts
2. Statement of Interest (<http://wku.edu/csa/>)
3. A background check
4. Updated Resume that includes Reference List

In addition to the Graduate Studies application process, students entering the Student Affairs program may be asked to submit a Case Study Writing Sample. Once the completed application is received, separate instructions will be sent for completing this process.

INTERVIEW FOR COUNSELING PROGRAM

Based upon a holistic review of their application materials, highly reviewed applicants will be invited to an on-line admissions group interview scheduled on the **last Tuesdays of March and October from 11-1 pm CST**. Since the Department does not offer an alternative admissions date or time, applicants should arrange in advance to attend.

During the interview, applicants are reviewed by faculty on skills related to but not limited to listening, awareness of self and others, ability to collaborate and communicate, sensitivity to diversity, as well as respect for others. Based upon a collective evaluation of the application materials, as well as the demonstration of skills, applicants will receive an invitation for admission or denial.

Graduate Studies Admission

Please refer to the admission section (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/admission/>) of this catalog for Graduate Studies admission requirements.

Program Requirements (60 hours)

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
CNS 552	Testing and Assessment in Counseling	3
CNS 554	Group Counseling ¹	3
CNS 555	Social and Cultural Diversity in Counseling ¹	3
CNS 556	Developmental Career Counseling	3
CNS 557	Human and Family Development in Counseling	3
CNS 558	Theories of Counseling ¹	3
CNS 559	Techniques of Counseling ¹	3
CNS 560	Professional Studies in Clinical, Family and School Counseling ¹	3
CNS 567	Mental Health Diagnosis and Treatment in Counseling	3
CNS 588	Family Systems Counseling	3
CNS 591	Clinical Mental Health/Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling Practicum ²	3
CNS 592	Crisis, Trauma and Violence Counseling	3
CNS 596	Clinical Mental Health Counseling/ Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling Internship ³	6
CNS 598	Research and Program Evaluation in Counseling	3

CNS 637	Theories of Addiction	3
Select a Concentration		12
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Concentration (CMHC)		
Select 12 hours of electives in consultation with an advisor		
Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling Concentration (MCFC)		
CNS 583	Couples Counseling	
CNS 606	Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling Practice and Process	
Select 6 hours of electives from the following list or others approved by the MCFC Program Coordinator.		
CNS 582	Sex Therapy Techniques in Counseling	
CNS 586	Parenting Issues	
CNS 611	Advanced Play Therapy	
CNS 647	Addictions: Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	
CNS 613	Sandtray Techniques in Counseling	
CNS 667	Counseling Substance and Process Addictions	
CNS 568	Counseling Children and Adolescents	
CNS 569	Play Therapy	
Total Hours		60

¹ A grade of B or better must be earned in CNS 554, CNS 555, CNS 558, CNS 559 and CNS 560 to enroll in CNS 591.

² A grade of B or better is required in CNS 591 in order to enroll into CNS 596.

³ A grade of B or better is required in both sections of CNS 596 to meet graduation requirements. Counseling students must also attend the Practicum and Internship Orientation that is held in the spring prior to the fall of enrollment. Students should see the website for details and make arrangements to attend.

All students must pass a final comprehensive examination. Comprehensive examinations are given in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Students must meet the criteria established by the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences in order to be eligible to take the comprehensive examination. The comprehensive exam policy and application may be found at www.wku.edu/csa/sc/comp_exam (http://www.wku.edu/csa/sc/comp_exam.php).