

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Counseling degree offers two tracks of study, Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Marriage-Couples and Family Counseling.

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling track is a CACREP-accredited program. Students select the Clinical Mental Health Counseling track if they want to complete coursework needed in the State of Texas to apply for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). The counseling faculty are in the process of applying for CACREP-accreditation for the Marriage-Couples and Family track. Students select the Marriage-Couples and Family Counseling track if they want to complete the Marriage and Family Therapist license academic coursework requirement for the state of Texas.

Licensed Professional Counselor

Students completing the Clinical Mental Health degree will have the academic requirements and practical skills needed to apply for a temporary license as a Professional Counselor in the state of Texas. Students may choose electives that provide them with more specific training about working with special populations (i.e. play therapy, couples and family). Typically, students graduating from the Clinical Mental Health Counseling track secure employment in service agencies, mental health centers, the prison system, community college counseling centers, treatment centers, etc. Once fully licensed, the graduates of this program may also work in private practice.

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Students selecting the Marriage Couples and Family Counseling track will be prepared for employment in settings that focus on family systems. Once graduated, student may pursue the Marriage and Family Therapy license with the state of Texas and work in private practice, agencies serving families, home based family therapy programs and other employment opportunities servicing couples and families. Students in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling track wanting to specialize in marriage and family counseling may take electives in this area.

Both degree tracks, Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Marriage Couples and Family Counseling are sixty semester credit hours for completion. A comprehensive examination is required for graduation and is taken when enrolled in Supervised Practicum (COUN 6376). Students must be enrolled in the university when taking the comprehensive examination and when applying for graduation.

Admissions

Applicants seeking admission to the MA in Counseling must submit the following directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. Graduate Application (<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>)
2. Application fee (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>)
3. Official transcript from the baccalaureate degree granting institution
4. Official GRE scores with writing section or MAT scores (no older than five years)
5. Three Reference Forms:
 - a. one from a current employer/supervisor
 - b. one from a former professor, certified school counselor or licensed counselor, marriage and family therapist, MSW, or psychologist
 - c. one from someone other than a family member
6. Essay
7. Face-to-Face interview

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts in Counseling - Clinical Mental Health Counseling Track (CACREP Accredited)

Specified Courses

COUN 5011	Counseling Profession & Ethics	3
COUN 5334	Effective Human Behavior	3
COUN 5364	Theories Of Counseling	3
COUN 5370	Career Cnslng Across Lifespan	3
COUN 6374	Prac Group Counseling	3
COUN 5379	Methods Of Research	3
COUN 5385	Pre-Practicum:Tcnq Of Counslng	3
COUN 5392	Cross Cultural Issues In Cne	3
COUN 5393	Community Counseling	3
COUN 5394	Crisis and Trauma Counseling	3
COUN 5397	Human Grwth & Dev Acrs Lfspan	3
COUN 6332	Theories Of Marr & Fam Therapy	3

COUN 6363	Assessment Guid. & Counseling	3
COUN 6364	Counseling For Addictions	3
COUN 6376	Supervised Prac In Counseling	3
COUN 6386	Internship (First Semester) ¹	3
COUN 6386	Internship (Second consecutive semester) ¹	3
Restricted Electives		
Select three of the following:		9
COUN 5391	Chld & Adolescent Counseling	
COUN 5399	Play Therapy Basics	
COUN 6331	Advanced Play Therapy	
COUN 6333	Techniques Of Couple Therapy	
COUN 6334	Ethical Issues in MFT	
COUN 6337	Counseling For Sexual Concerns	
COUN 6338	Techniques of Family Therapy	
COUN 6370	Family Therapy Applications	
Total Hours		60

¹ COUN 6386 is taken twice for a minimum of six hours.

Master of Arts in Counseling - Marriage-Couples and Family Counseling Track

Specified Courses		
COUN 5334	Effective Human Behavior	3
COUN 5364	Theories Of Counseling	3
COUN 5370	Career Cnslng Across Lifespan	3
COUN 5379	Methods Of Research	3
COUN 5385	Pre-Practicum:Tcnq Of Counslng	3
COUN 5392	Cross Cultural Issues In Cne	3
COUN 5394	Crisis and Trauma Counseling	3
COUN 5397	Human Grwth & Dev Acrs Lfspan	3
COUN 6332	Theories Of Marr & Fam Therapy	3
COUN 6333	Techniques Of Couple Therapy	3
COUN 6334	Ethical Issues in MFT	3
COUN 6337	Counseling For Sexual Concerns	3
COUN 6338	Techniques of Family Therapy	3
COUN 6363	Assessment Guid. & Counseling	3
COUN 6364	Counseling For Addictions	3
COUN 6370	Family Therapy Applications	3
COUN 6374	Prac Group Counseling	3
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