

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

The Master of Arts in Counseling degree offers the following program of study: Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program is a CACREP-accredited 60-hour program. Click here to see the value of attending a CACREP-accredited program (<https://www.cacrep.org/value-of-accreditation/why-should-i-choose-an-accredited-program/>). Students select the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program if they want to complete coursework needed in the State of Texas to apply for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

A comprehensive examination is required for graduation and is taken when enrolled in Supervised Practicum (COUN 6376 (<http://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2023-2024/search/?P=COUN%206376>)). Students must be enrolled in the university when taking the comprehensive examination and when applying for graduation.

CMHC Program - Preparation for Licensed Professional Counselor

Students completing the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program will have the academic and clinical experience requirements needed to apply for a Licensed Professional Counselor-Associate (LPC-Associate) in the state of Texas. Students may also choose electives that provide them with more specific training for working with special populations (e.g., play therapy, trauma, etc.). LPC-Associates are qualified to work under supervision in a variety of mental health settings, including private practice, non-profit counseling agencies, hospitals, correctional settings, college counseling centers, substance-abuse treatment centers, etc. Once fully licensed (LPC), graduates of this program may work independently in private practice and other mental health settings. Additionally, CMHC students interested in play therapy can add on a Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy.

Additional information: Reference the Program Landing Page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/counseling/>) for additional information, such as cost, delivery format, contact information, or to schedule a visit.

Applications for entrance into the Master of Arts in Counseling (CMHC) are accepted for Fall and Spring admission. See program landing page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/counseling/>) for application deadlines. Applicants seeking admission to the Master of Arts in Counseling (CMHC) must submit the following items directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/prospective-students.html>) through their Self-Service Portal, which will be activated after submitting your application through Apply Texas:

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 undergraduate institution conferring the undergraduate degree
4. Three Reference Forms:
 - a. at least two reference forms provided by former or current employers or professors
 - b. one reference form a professional acquaintance but cannot be a family member or an applicant's personal medical or behavioral health provider
5. Personal Statement that addresses the following questions:
 - a. What is motivating you to become a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)?
 - b. What is your experience related to the counseling field, either paid or volunteer?
 - c. What are your aspirations related to the field of counseling?
 - d. Describe one or more life events that contributed to the development of your aspirations?
 - e. What would you identify as your strengths and areas for growth needed to achieve your aspirations? Include in your response one personal characteristic that you most need to modify, improve, or change in order to realize your aspirations.
6. Official GRE General Test scores
 - a. The GRE requirement will be waived for applicants meeting the one of the following conditions:
 - i. possess an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher
 - ii. have completed at least nine hours of graduate level course work with a GPA of 3.5 or higher

The Counselor Education master's admissions committee will consider all applications through a holistic review process. After reviewing the pool of applicants, the master's admissions committee will recommend the top candidates for interview process. Applicants invited for the interview will be given specific guidelines for the process.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|--------------------------------|-------|
| Master of Arts in Counseling - Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program (CACREP Accredited) | | |
| Specified Courses | | |
| COUN 5011 | Counseling Profession & Ethics | 3 |
| COUN 5334 | Effective Human Behavior | 3 |
| COUN 5336 | Adv Behavior Pharmacology | 3 |
| COUN 5364 | Theories Of Counseling | 3 |

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|------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 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 5393 | Community Counseling | 3 |
| COUN 5394 | Crisis and Trauma Counseling | 3 |
| COUN 5397 | Human Grwth & Dev Acrs Lfspan | 3 |
| COUN 6332 | Theories: Mar, Cple & Fam Coun | 3 |
| COUN 6350 | Coun Ethics: Mgmt, Law, Prac | 3 |
| COUN 6363 | Assessment Guid. & Counseling | 3 |
| COUN 6364 | Counseling For Addictions | 3 |
| COUN 6374 | Group Counseling | 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 one of the following: | | 3 |
| COUN 5391 | Child & Adolescent Counseling | |
| COUN 5398 | Sandtray Therapy | |
| COUN 5399 | Play Therapy Basics | |
| COUN 6333 | Techniques Of Cples Counseling | |
| COUN 6337 | Counseling For Sexual Concerns | |
| COUN 6338 | Techniques of Family Coun | |
| Total Hours | | 60 |

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

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's **60x30TX plan** and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The MA in Counseling is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Higher-order thinking.
- Oral and written communication.
- Professional conduct and ethical behavior.
- Multicultural and diversity competencies.
- Self-awareness of inter/intrapersonal relationships.
- Ability to apply counseling and development knowledge to professional practice.