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*For Additional information please refer to the graduate handbook.

Degree Offered: Master of Science Degree in Counseling
Mission/Purpose: The Master of Science Degree in Counseling Program’s mission is to prepare students to be highly skilled, ethical, and compassionate mental health professionals grounded in a commitment to social justice. The program’s approach highlights the client-counselor relationship, creative and experiential modalities, and a thorough understanding of mental health issues across the lifespan. The curriculum design reflects broad and experiential theoretical perspectives with guidance to support students in developing their own framework for community and clinical practice. The program design equips graduates with a strong foundation to pursue a doctoral degree in Psychology or related fields of study. The program graduates work in a wide range of industries, including academic; research; health care organizations; community; and businesses.

Program Overview: The Master's Degree Program in Counseling is a 45-credit hybrid program that will prepare students to develop foundational knowledge in counseling, theory and practice. Local, national, and international students may select this M.S. degree as an opportunity to obtain prerequisite courses to meet eligibility requirements for application to other psychology programs, including advanced doctoral studies in Applied Behavior Analysis. The program's specialty tracks will also allow a variety of professionals within the fields of education, human services, counseling, and allied health to access coursework both as degree seeking and non-degree seeking students in order to advance their knowledge of counseling and use of counseling techniques in their respective fields. A unique quality of the curriculum design is its attention to the development of basic interpersonal skills, cultural sensitivity, and additional knowledge and skills that enhance the preparation of students for professional work in increasingly diverse social agencies, school and community settings, in business and industry environments, and in hospitals.

Admission Requirements: To be considered for the Master of Science degree program in Counseling, applicants must have completed the B.S degree from a department at an accredited institution in any of the following areas:
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Social Work
- Political Science
Prerequisite academic work should provide evidence that the applicant shall be able to pursue the graduate course effectively in addition to having taken: Introduction to Psychology, Experimental Psychology, Personality, Statistics, and Social Psychology.

- **Note:** *Students may be admitted conditionally if they have not completed the necessary foundational courses in Psychology.*
  - Applicants must also have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better and a degree major GPA of 3.0.
  - Applicants must have the following GRE score: verbal at least 150; quantitative at least 150.
  - Official Transcripts from all colleges/universities attended (International Students must have transcripts translated through World Education Services -WES)

Completed Application along with the required amount of application fees
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Statement
- Financial Support Statement (International Students –only)—Note: If accepted to the department,
  - the department can submit a financial support statement if funds are available.
- Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) Scores (International students only).

**Graduation Requirements:**
*Core Courses:* 18 hours  
*Elective Courses:* 27 hours  
Internship/Practicum 1-15 credit hours

**Advisory/Examination Committee:**
During the first semester of his/her study in the Master of Science degree program, the student and his/her Major Professor must recommend to the Head of the Department for approval, the student's Advisory Committee consisting of a minimum of three members including the Major Professor. One of the members can be from outside of the department as long their research interests align with that of the student.

Successful graduate students will be expected to complete 45 credit hours of rigorous course work which would encompass three primary areas:

1) Core (18 hours)  
2) Electives (27 hours)  
3) Internship/Practicum (1-15 hours)

Because many doctoral programs require students to have research experience, the counseling program will offer a master’s thesis option for those students who wish to pursue doctoral degrees. In addition, program graduates are offered the opportunity to obtain hands on experience through internships and practicum’s with university faculty and state organizations. Student are not required to specialize in the Counseling degree program.
## Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSES</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Counseling Foundational Core Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 677.  Advance Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC/COUN 504. Counseling Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 510 Health Disparities, Bioethics, and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 680 Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 671 Mental Test</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 673 Research and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 689 Internship/Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18 credit hours required</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Counseling Required Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 555 Lifestyle/Career Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 551 Group Dynamics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 678 Helping Relationships</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 680 Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 Credit hours Required</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 0689 Internship/Practicum</td>
<td>(1 to 15)</td>
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*Courses in bold letters will have to be developed/Reconstructed

Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade average in all courses to remain in the program. Students may enroll in more than the minimum Internship/Practicum (1 to 12) hours.

### Course Descriptions

#### Counseling Foundational Core Courses

**PSYC 677.** Advanced Developmental Psychology (3 credit hours). An examination of the social, emotional, behavioral, physical and cognitive changes and developmental task that individuals face throughout the life span. Includes current theories and research.

**PSYC/COUN 504.** Counseling Issues. An exploration of current issues with theoretical approaches to counseling.
PSYC 510. (3 credit hours). Health Disparities, Bioethics, and Policy. This cross-disciplinary course introduces students to issues surrounding racial and ethnic health disparities, highlighting inequalities experienced by African American and other minority populations. Bioethical approaches to social justice provide a unifying framework for examining root causes of disparities. Determinants of health and health disparities will be discussed and critically evaluated. Additionally, the course introduces individual, programmatic, and research strategies for shaping community health, public discussion, and policy. The course also explores career options available to address health disparities.

PSYC 671 Mental Test (3 credit hours). Theory of psychological testing: selection, evaluation, administration, scoring, and interpretation of group test; demonstration of practice interpretation of individual test results. Perquisite: Graduate student status.

PSYC 673 Research and Evaluation (3 credit hours). Provides a broad understanding of types of research with basic statistics, research with report development and implementation; also included are program evaluation, needs assessment, publication of research information, and ethical/legal considerations. Perquisite: Graduate student status.

PSYC 689 Internship/Practicum (3 credit hours). The practicum experience provides students the opportunity to apply and integrate knowledge acquired through coursework. In clarifying and broadening career goals, the practicum experience assists students in discovering, developing and refining necessary competencies and skills for their proposed career objectives in the field of Psychology. Perquisite: Graduate student status.

Counseling Requirements

PSYC 555 Lifestyle/Career Development: Theory and Practice (3 credit hours). Provides an understanding of career development, sources and systems for occupational and educational information, counselling for career and leisure, guidance and education, lifestyle and career decision-making. Also covered are career development program planning/resources, as well as effectiveness evaluation. Perquisite: Graduate student status.

PSYC 551 Group Dynamics (3 credit hours). Provides an understanding of group development, dynamics, and counselling theories as well as group leadership styles, group counselling methods/skills, and other group approaches. Perquisite: Graduate student status.

PSYC 678 Helping Relationships (3 credit hours). Provides a broad understanding of philosophic base of helping processes, counseling theories/applications, basic/advanced helping skill, consultation theories/applications, client and helper self-understanding/self-development and facilitation or client or consultee change. Perquisite: Graduate student status.

PSYC 680 Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy (3 credit hours). This course provides knowledge of and ability you apply various individual and group counseling/psychotherapy theories and techniques/processes, including consultation and referral processes. In addition the course covers self-concept, self-awareness and human relation strategies for different life stages, subcultures and more. Perquisite: Graduate student status.