

# Counseling, M.S.

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## Degree Offered

- Master of Science

## Nature of the Program

The School of Counseling and Well-being in the College of Applied Human Sciences offers a master's program in counseling. The counseling M.S. program is fully accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Variations of the curriculum allow for specialization in either school counseling or clinical mental health counseling. All applicants must comply with university, College of Applied Human Sciences, and school requirements.

The school counseling specialization prepares students to become certified professional educators and mental health specialists who improve success for all students (PreK to Adult) by implementing a comprehensive school counseling program that includes individual counseling, small group counseling, and classroom interventions. The clinical mental health counseling specialization prepares students in individual and group counseling with a diverse population across a wide scope of developmental stages and backgrounds in various community settings such as correctional facilities, treatment centers, mental health agencies, etc. Both counseling degree specialty areas meet all requirements for professional counseling licensure as outlined by the West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling.

## Admissions for 2026-2027

### APPLICATION

Applications for admission to the counseling program should be made to WVU Graduate Admissions. In addition to the admission requirements of the university and the College of Applied Human Sciences, the School of Counseling and Well-being has the following admission requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree with coursework in appropriate areas
- A minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.75, based on a 4.0 system (a 3.0 or higher is typically necessary to be a competitive candidate)
- Resume
- Personal statement
- Three letters of reference
- Completed WVU Graduate Admissions application

### ADMISSION

The West Virginia University counseling program's admission process is two-step:

Step one (1) is a review of paper credentials including references, department application (relevant major, general quality of application), personal references, and GPA. In addition to your interest, aptitude, and career goals related to counseling, the personal statement and recommendation letters should include your perspectives, respect for, and/or skills for working with individuals from different backgrounds. The initial screening decision is based upon this information. Successful applicants are then invited to participate in department interviews.

Step two (2) is the department interview, which considers interpersonal style relevant to working as a counselor, communication skills, capacity for empathic understanding and communication, ability to articulate professional goals, goals congruent with department focus, knowledge, understanding of counseling, and assessment of applicant's capacity to complete the counseling curriculum successfully.

The application deadline for the in-person programs (Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling) is January 25th.

The application deadline for the online Clinical Mental Health program is February 15th.

The in-person program admits students only one time each year. The online program has an October 1 deadline for spring admission.

Applications that are incomplete or are submitted after the deadline may be reviewed if openings remain.

On-Campus Major Code: 5517

Online Major Code: 5548

## Major Requirements

All students who are candidates for a master's in counseling are required to take the following core courses:

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in all graduate coursework and for the major.		
A minimum grade of B- is required in all major coursework.		
COUN 501	Counseling Theory and Techniques 1	3
COUN 505	Theory and Practice of Human Appraisal	3
COUN 536	Theories of Human Development	3
COUN 606	Counseling Theory and Techniques 2	3
COUN 609	Group Counseling Theory and Techniques	3
COUN 620	Career Development & Job Placement	3
COUN 630	Children/Adolescents/Parents	3
COUN 634	Cultural Issues	3
COUN 640	Addictions Counseling	3
COUN 645	Couples and Family Counseling	3
COUN 664	Ethical Issues in Counseling	3
COUN 665	Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	3
COUN 668	Crisis Trauma Grief Counseling	3
COUN 512	Research & Evaluation in Counseling	3
<b>Complete one of the following Area of Emphasis *</b>		<b>18</b>
Clinical Mental Health		
School Counseling		
Total Hours		60

**\*Note:** School Counseling AoE is only available for students enrolled in the on campus Counseling major.

In addition to completing all coursework and the practicum and internship satisfactorily, the candidate must demonstrate the ability to assume the responsibility required of a professional counselor and the personal characteristics and ethical standards essential to effective working relationships with others.

These personal characteristics are assessed throughout the entire program with special emphasis during the clinical coursework components of the program and during the field experience. Students who do not meet professional and clinical standards in these areas are provided feedback, and resources for remediation are recommended. In these cases, successful remediation is required as a prerequisite for successful program completion. Students who violate ACA ethical standards will be evaluated for possible dismissal from the program.

## Areas of Emphasis

- Clinical Mental Health (p. 2)
- School Counseling (p. 2)

## CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH AREA OF EMPHASIS

Code	Title	Hours
<b>A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.</b>		
<b>A minimum grade of B- is required in all coursework.</b>		
COUN 622	Introduction to Clinical Mental Health	3
COUN 684	Supervision Models/Counseling	3
COUN 685	Practicum (Student must take a section of this course that is related to Clinical Mental Health.)	3
COUN 686	Counseling Internship (Student must take a section of this course that is related to Clinical Mental Health.)	9
Total Hours		18

## SCHOOL COUNSELING AREA OF EMPHASIS

Code	Title	Hours
<b>A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.</b>		
<b>A minimum grade of B- is required in all coursework.</b>		
COUN 610	School Counseling Services 1	3
COUN 611	School Counseling Services 2	3
COUN 685	Practicum (Student must take a section of this course that is related to School Counseling.)	3

COUN 686	Counseling Internship (Student must take a section of this course that is related to School Counseling.)	9
Total Hours		18

## Major Learning Outcomes

### COUNSELING

The objectives of our program in School and Clinical Mental Health Counseling are linked to our mission statement. Specifically, they are to provide:

- An environment that fosters the personal growth and development of each student.
- Educational experiences for every student that fosters individual and group counseling skill development.
- Learning opportunities to support students' interests in diverse populations and cultures.
- Training in schools and clinical mental health settings that give students an opportunity to practice and integrate the skills learned in the classroom.