

M.S. COUNSELING OPTIONS IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING & SCHOOL COUNSELING

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The **mental health counseling degree option** prepares individuals for professional counseling roles in a variety of mental health, community and human service settings. The program emphasis is on developing professionals with proficiency in counseling and related roles and functions. Graduates from this program are employed in child/adolescent guidance centers, community mental health clinics, domestic violence centers, rehabilitation centers, youth and family services, hospitals and private practices. Program coursework is designed to meet the academic requirements set forth by the Council for Accreditation for Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the Oklahoma Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) Act and general licensure requirements nationwide. Graduates are eligible for licensure as a professional counselor in the state of Oklahoma after obtaining 3000 hours of supervised, post-degree experience and passing the LPC exam.

The **school counseling degree option** is designed for students who are interested in careers as counselors in public and private schools serving students, teachers and parents. Program coursework meets the school counselor certification requirements for the state of Oklahoma. Candidates for Oklahoma school counselor certification must also pass the state certification exams. Upon successful completion of the degree, submission of the certification professional portfolio and completion of certification testing requirements, candidates can apply for school counselor certification through OSU's Professional Education Unit.

Both the **mental health counseling** and **school counseling** options are accredited by CACREP and have a strong focus on social justice and helping underserved populations.

TWO CAMPUSES, ONE PROGRAM:

Courses for both options are offered on the OSU-Stillwater and OSU-Tulsa campuses. Students admitted to the program may take classes on either campus.

education.okstate.edu/coun



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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission to the program, applicants must have:

- ▷ Bachelor's degree with at least 2.75 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
- ▷ Personal qualities that are assets for those in a helping profession
- ▷ Career goals and objectives that are consistent with the program

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for the program, applicants must complete and submit the following:

- ▷ Graduate College Application
 - Visit app.it.okstate.edu/gradcollege to complete the online application
 - Submit the non-refundable application fee
 - Submit official transcripts from all previously attended institutions
- ▷ Program Application
 - Current resume/vita
 - Three letters of recommendation
 - Official GRE or MAT scores (less than five years old)
 - Statement of professionally-related experience and goals
 - Finalists will be asked to participate in an on-campus interview

Applications are accepted once per year and must be received by January 25. An applicant's file will be reviewed when all materials have been received by the OSU Graduate College. Applications will be screened by a committee of counseling faculty members. Finalists will be asked to participate in an on-campus interview. These interviews are mandatory, although some provisions may be made for out-of-state students. Final admission decisions will be made following the interview process.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Students have opportunities to become involved in research projects with faculty during the master's program. Many students present their findings at professional conferences, and some submit manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals. Faculty research focus and professional interests include:

- ▷ Couple and family relationships
- ▷ Ethics and social justice
- ▷ Multicultural and international issues
- ▷ Health and wellness promotion
- ▷ Body image and disordered eating
- ▷ Bullying
- ▷ Mentoring and supervision
- ▷ Counseling LGBTQIA clients
- ▷ Addictions
- ▷ College student retention
- ▷ Children and adolescents
- ▷ Play therapy
- ▷ Prevention

COURSEWORK & PRACTICUM/ INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete a minimum of **60 graduate credit hours (mental health counseling option)** or **57 credit hours (school counseling option)**, including practicum and internship and complete a portfolio that demonstrates competency, which counts as the creative component for the degree. This includes **100 clock hours of practicum and 600 hours of internship**. Students wishing to complete a thesis instead of a creative component must complete 63 graduate credit hours.

Students in the **school counseling option** who are pursuing licensure as a professional counselor (**LPC**) must complete **60 total hours** of coursework that meets the content requirements of the Oklahoma Licensing board.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Students who enroll full time in the counseling program may be eligible for departmental financial aid in the form of tuition waivers and a limited number of graduate assistantships. Part-time employment opportunities both on and off-campus are also available.

Currently enrolled graduate students who are pursuing degrees through the OSU College of Education, Health and Aviation are also eligible for EHA scholarships. For more information, please visit: education.okstate.edu/scholarships.

MORE INFORMATION

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