Counseling Degree FAQ’s

What are the counseling degree tracks?
The counseling program has three different degree tracks depending upon a student’s career goal. There is a track for those students seeking a career as:

1. A licensed school counselor
2. A clinical mental health counselor (licensure as a licensed professional counselor (LPC).
3. A higher education degree track for those seeking work in universities or other higher education settings in such areas as student affairs.

How many hours is the degree?
The number of hours to complete your MEd in Counseling depends on which track the student pursues:

1. The school-counseling track is a 48-hour graduate credit hour degree plan.
2. The clinical mental health degree track is a 60-hour graduate credit hour degree plan.
3. The higher education degree track is a 45-hour graduate credit hour degree plan.

What are the prerequisite courses needed to get into the counseling program?
There are no prerequisites to apply to the counseling program. Any one with any undergraduate degree background is welcome to apply.

Do I have to take the GRE to apply?
No. There is no GRE requirement.

What do I do to apply?
The application process begins on the WSU Graduate School website. The Graduate School collects an application fee for processing before moving your application forward. The student will need to send official copies of all transcripts (even those for institutions where you took only one course) for the application to be complete.

What are the admission requirements? What do I need to get in?
The admission requirements are:

1. A GPA of 3.000 for the last 60 credit hours.
2. A statement of professional goals.
3. A professional resume.
4. The names, addresses, email address, and phone numbers of three professional references.

When are the classes?
Our classes are generally from 4:30 to 7 pm and 7:05 to 9:45 Monday through Thursday. Our program is designed to be accessible for people who work during the day. But there
are exceptions to these general schedule guidelines. Check the course schedule.

**How long does it take to complete the program?**
The time for the completion of the degree depends on several factors. Most people can complete the program in two to two and half years if they attend full time (9 credit hours each fall and spring semester, plus some summer course work. The time to complete the degree depends on several factors such as the degree track program, the person, the course load taken per semester, and the timing of courses. See your advisor to determine a course sequence that works for you. There is a six-year time limit to complete the degree once you start the program.

**What about summer courses?**
We do teach some courses in the summer semester. The courses offered vary depending on the summer. Check the course schedule.

**Are the courses online?**
There are some online courses and some hybrid courses (some portion of the course is online, but part of the course is also face-to-face). The faculty in the counseling program at Wichita State University believes that the personal interaction process of counseling requires most courses to be face-to-face. The counseling program at WSU is not an online program.

**Will any of my courses from other graduate degrees count?**
It depends on the degree and the courses. Faculty will determine the equivalence of courses for the counseling program after examining transfer course descriptions and syllabi. Please be aware, WSU graduate school rules prevent more than six credit hours from one degree being applied to another degree.

**Can I take courses at other universities and transfer them to WSU to complete my degree?**
The graduate school catalog allows students to transfer up to 12 credit hours taken at another university toward a graduate degree at WSU. However, the counseling program has required assessments for your degree in certain courses, and restricts other skill-based courses from eligibility to be transferred. Before you decide to take a course at another institution, check the student handbook, and with your advisor about the course’s eligibility for transfer.

**What is the practicum/field experience and internship requirement?**

*Counseling Practicum* is a semester long 100 hours supervised counseling practicum experience. Forty of the 100 supervised hours must comprise direct client service. Counseling practicum students complete one hour of supervision per week with a faculty member and/or a site supervisor. In addition, practicum students have one and a half hours of group supervision per week with a counseling faculty member.
Students should be able to complete the practicum and internship requirements while maintaining their current employment. Some degree of flexibility in the student’s schedule during these semesters is important. School employees are usually placed at their school for practicum and internship.

*Counseling Internship* is either a one or two semester supervised counseling internship experience. Counseling internship hours must complete 600 clock hours of a supervised counseling internship, which includes 240 clock hours of direct client service.

Counseling internship students complete one hour of supervision per week with a faculty member and/or a site supervisor. In addition, practicum students have one and a half hours of group supervision per week with a counseling faculty member.

**Clinical Mental Health Counseling Degree Track Information**

**Overview**

With a strong background in human growth and development, as well as communication skills, counselors assist clients in developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral strengths.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Graduates of the M.Ed. in Counseling – Clinical Mental Health Counseling track may pursue careers in mental health counseling settings. The M.Ed. in Counseling – Clinical Mental Health Counseling track meets the basic core requirements for future licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Kansas. The Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (KSBSRB) sets requirements for the LPC license. The BSRB website can be found at: [https://ksbsrb.ks.gov](https://ksbsrb.ks.gov)

The clinical mental health counseling degree track is a 60 graduate credit hour program.

You as the student are responsible for reviewing the BSRB website and the educational requirements for becoming a licensed professional counselor to make certain you are aware of the licensure requirements.

**What are the courses I need to take to complete the clinical mental health degree track?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Mental Health Counseling Track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESP 803 Counseling Theory (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLES 806 Foundations of Mental Health Counseling (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESP 824 Counseling Techniques (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESP 821 Multicultural Issues in Counseling (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESP 856 Practicum in Counseling (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLES 802 Theories of Human Development (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESP 835 DSM (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESP 822 Assessment in Counseling (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are the requirements for licensure as an LPC in Kansas?
This is a limited list, for a full list of requirements, please see the BSRB website at ksbsrb.org. The following is a brief overview:
1. A counseling degree
2. Sixty (60) graduate credit hours in BSRB approved counseling courses.
3. Letters from three professional references
4. A verification form of your field experiences by your supervising counseling faculty member.
5. Passing the National Counselor Exam (NCE) developed by the National Board for Certified Counselors (can only be taken post-degree and once your application is approved by the BSRB).
6. An attestation of your background related to issues such as substance abuse or criminal offenses, etc.

What is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)?
The LCPC is an independent practice license. You can begin the process of qualifying as an LCPC after you are licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). The requirements include:
1. Filing a training plan with the BSRB
2. Complete 4,000 hours of postgraduate supervised work experience over a minimum of 24 months. 1,500 hours of the 4,000 hours must be direct client contact while providing counseling and assessment services.
3. A total of 150 supervision hours at a rate of 1 supervision hour for each 15 hours of client contact.
4. After submitting your application for LCPC licensure, you must pass the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors.