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.

School 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.

Wichita State University’s M.Ed. in Counseling is designed to prepare students to meet the requirements of the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) for Licensed Professional School Counselors

The school counseling degree track is a 48 graduate credit hour program.

What are the courses I need to take to complete the School Counseling Degree Track?

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<th>School Counseling Track</th>
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<tr>
<td>48 credit hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>CESP 803 Counseling Theory (3)</td>
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<td>CESP 804 Foundations of Counseling (3)</td>
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<td>CESP 824 Counseling Techniques (3)</td>
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<td>CESP 821 Multicultural Issues in Counseling (3)</td>
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<td>*CLES 810 Educational Research (3)</td>
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<td>CESP 949 Counseling Internship (6)</td>
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<td>Electives (6)</td>
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What are the requirements for a licensed teacher to become a licensed school counselor?
A teacher who is licensed to teach in Kansas completes the 48-hour school counseling degree track to be eligible for licensure as a professional school counselor, addition to other requirements such as the PRAXIS test for counseling, etc.

Can some without a teaching license and/or a person whose degree is in a completely different field be a school counselor?
Yes, students without a teaching degree or an educational background are eligible to be licensed as a school counselor under a program called parallel pathways or direct entry. Parallel pathways students have to meet additional requirements beyond the 48-hour degree program to be eligible for licensure as a professional school counselor. These requirements include additional field work requirements, and a 2 semester post-degree internship courses with WSU’s counseling program. The parallel pathways requirements are not included in the degree requirements these requirements are for licensure and are in addition to the degree.

What are the additional field experiences required for parallel pathways students during the degree?
During the student’s two-semester internship experience, parallel pathways students complete a total of 70 clock-hours of additional experiences required by KSDE.

What is a provisional school counseling license?
Sometimes students with a teaching license are hired under a provisional school counselor license to work as a counselor when they have completed 50% of the 48-hour program. Most times students on a provisional license are ready for practicum and close to graduation, but it is up to the student to find a position that will accept a provisional license. See the licensing specialist for the college of education if you are interested in pursing this option.

Are parallel pathways students eligible for a provisional licensure?
No, not under current Kansas State Department of Education regulations.

Can I be a licensed school counselor and a licensed professional counselor with the WSU counseling degree?
Yes, you can in Kansas with our school counseling degree track. You take the hours necessary to complete a school counseling degree track and then accumulate the additional hours needed to qualify as a licensed professional counselor with the BSRB for LPC licensure in Kansas. Some people pick up the courses along the way while getting their school counseling degree, but most people go ahead and graduate, work as a school counselor, and come back for those additional hours.

What is the licensure process for school counselors once you have graduated?
The requirements for licensure include (This is not a complete list, but an overview):

1. Successfully completing the WSU 48 hour school counseling track program
2. Passing the Professional School Counseling Praxis exam
3. Fingerprints
4. A criminal background check
5. A Fee

Students who have a teaching license and parallel pathways students are both first licensed as an initial school specialist. Parallel pathways students must successfully complete the one-year post degree internship courses during this period while working as a school counselor. After one year (assuming all requirements are met), both groups of students can upgrade the initial school specialist license to a full five-year professional school counseling license.