

SECTION 3: MASTER OF COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE

The Master of Counseling Psychology degree program provides graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary for functioning successfully as a Licensed Professional Counselor or as a Licensed Behavioral Practitioner. The general goals of the program are as follows:

1. To develop knowledge in the foundations of human behavior and development.
2. To develop an understanding and working knowledge of measurement techniques used in counseling and the helping professions.
3. To develop knowledge of social institutions as they relate to human behavior and development.
4. To develop a basic understanding of the interpretation of normal and abnormal human behavior and development.
5. To develop knowledge of counseling strategies and techniques.
6. To develop basic knowledge in the establishment of a private practice in counseling.
7. To develop basic knowledge in understanding and interpreting research as it applies to counseling.

The program results in a degree designed to develop specific professional counseling competencies. The curriculum for the MCP degree at Northwestern is comprised of a minimum of forty-five graduate hours.

The degree plan of study is located on pages 47-48.

OBJECTIVES

The Master of Counseling Psychology graduate student, upon completion of the required courses, will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the legal and ethical aspects of client rights and his/her own professional responsibilities.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of human behavior as it relates to self-concept and psychological needs.
3. Distinguish and describe human behavior as it relates to life-span developmental stages.
4. Demonstrate strategies and techniques used in counseling and psychotherapy.
5. Locate, read and interpret professional counseling and therapy literature.
6. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the available professional referral services.
7. Identify the symptoms and describe the nature of different kinds of pathological human behavior.
8. Explain the influence of different kinds of groups (peer, cultural, ethnic, racial) on human behavior.
9. Demonstrate a knowledge of the several therapeutic approaches to the treatment of human pathology.
10. Demonstrate a knowledge of strategies and techniques utilized to assess human behavior.
11. Demonstrate a knowledge of the relationship of social institutions (family, government, education, religion) to human behavior.
12. Demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of human behavior from the standpoint of certain personality traits or types.
13. Administer, interpret and analyze various forms of tests (individual, group, vocational, personality).

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

Residency Requirement. A minimum of twenty-three semester hours, including the final eight hours, must be earned in residence at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. The remainder of the candidate's program (nine hours maximum) may be earned at other accredited institutions. These hours, or any part thereof, may be applied to the program only if, in the judgment of the student's graduate advisory committee and Director of Graduate Studies, they contribute to the student's overall program.

Graduate Advisory Committee. An advisory committee is selected by each student in the MCP program. The committee is responsible to assist the student in planning a program of study, to compile the comprehensive exam questions, and to conduct the oral review. The advisory committee shall consist of three members of the graduate faculty, selected from the psychology department. The committee chair must hold a terminal degree. The members' consent to serve and the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies is required. *The selection and approval of the committee shall be made prior to enrolling in the tenth hour of coursework.*

Additional Requirements. In addition to the general requirements for admission to graduate study, students applying for admission to the MCP program are required to have had twelve to eighteen hours of graduate or undergraduate course work in psychology, sociology, social work and/or education to prepare them for graduate work in counseling.

Prior to enrolling in the tenth hour of course work, the student must apply for acceptance into the degree program through the following process:

1. Meet all general requirements established by the Office of Graduate Studies.
2. Submit three letters of recommendation from faculty members or other professionals related to the field of study.
3. Submit a written statement of career aspirations and self-evaluation of strengths and weaknesses related to the field of study.
4. Submit a sample of scholarly written work (e.g., a research paper, term paper, professional report, or publication).
5. A score that places the individual at the 25th percentile on two of the three areas (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing) of the *Graduate Record Examination (GRE)* or at the 25th percentile on the *Miller Analogies Test (MAT)* is required for admission into the MCP program. *MAT* or *GRE* scores must be on file in the graduate office before completing the final interview process. Therefore, the *MAT* or *GRE* should be taken prior to graduate school admission or during the first semester of enrollment.
6. Complete an interview with the graduate faculty of the psychology department. Candidates will be evaluated on skills such as communication (verbal and nonverbal), ability to integrate information, clarity of purpose, and orientation toward helping others.

CURRICULUM FOR THE PROGRAM

The curriculum for the Master of Counseling Psychology degree consists of three components: (1) required core courses; (2) course credit earned in at least two additional required academic areas, and (3) practicum and internship experiences.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Coursework for the degree is 45 hours, although application for licensure as an LPC requires 60 hours. Such course work shall emphasize mental health in the master's degree plan of study. Specific academic areas and courses to meet these requirements are listed below.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

1. **Human Growth and Development**
PSYC 5143 Child/Adolescent Growth & Development
PSYC 5153 Adult Development and Aging
2. **Abnormal Human Behavior**
PSYC G4113 Abnormal Psychology
OR
PSYC 5213 Advanced Abnormal Psychology
3. **Appraisal or Assessment Techniques**
PSYC 5163 Educational and Career Testing
PSYC 5323 Methods of Assessment
PSYC 5123 Individual Intelligence Testing
4. **Counseling Theories**
PSYC 5872 Individual Counseling
5. **Counseling Methods or Techniques**
PSYC 5803 Strategies and Techniques of Counseling
6. **Research**
PSYC G4213 Statistics
EDUC 5013 Introduction to Educational Research
7. **Multiculturalism**
PSYC 5822 Multicultural Counseling

ELECTIVES

Academic credit must be earned in at least **two** areas listed below:

1. **Group Dynamics, Theories and Techniques**
PSYC 5812 Group Counseling
2. **Life Styles and Development**
PSYC 5832 Career Education
3. **Professional Orientation**
EDUC 5812 Introduction to Guidance and Counseling
4. **Personality Theories**
PSYC G4163 Personality
5. **Crisis Intervention Strategies**
PSYC 5253 Intervention Strategies for Counselors

PRACTICUM

The practicum consists of an organized program of planned experiences that will provide the student with both classroom and field experiences under the supervision of university-approved counseling professionals. Three hundred clock hours of practicum experiences are required. Practicum extends over at least two semesters, with supervised experience lasting an additional semester.

- PSYC 5893 Supervised Experience in Counseling
- PSYC 5500 Practicum (MCP)

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

To make application for the Licensed Professional Counseling credential, Master of Counseling Psychology graduates will need an additional fifteen hours of graduate coursework to meet educational requirements for licensing. To be fully licensed, the individual must successfully complete a state examination and obtain supervised counseling experience (3000 hours) in accordance with Oklahoma State Board of Health rules and regulations.