

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-eight graduate hours.

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 Associate Dean 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 Associate Dean 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.

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 (contact Dr. Mark Davis, Coordinator of Counseling). Candidates will be evaluated on skills such as communication (verbal and nonverbal), ability to integrate information, clarity of purpose, and orientation toward helping others. Interviews will be held during the first week of April for individuals planning to enter the program in the fall semester and during the first week of November for students planning to enter in the spring semester. All materials (see items 2-5 above) must be submitted by the third week of March for April interviews and by the third week of October for November interviews. No interviews are scheduled during the summer session. Students who have not completed the interview and been accepted into the program may take up to nine hours as a special student before being admitted to the program.

CURRICULUM FOR THE PROGRAM

The curriculum for the Master of Counseling Psychology degree consists of three components: (1) required core courses; (2) practicum; and (3) elective course credit.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Coursework for the degree is 48 hours, although application for licensure as an LPC or LADC requires 60 hours and 63 hours, respectively. 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 COURSE (during semester of 10th hour)

1. EDUC 5010 Graduate Study Seminar

REQUIRED CORE COURSES (30 hours)

1. **Human Growth and Development**

PSYC 5143 Child and Adolescent Growth and Development

PSYC 5153 Adult Development and Aging

2. **Abnormal Human Behavior**

PSYC 5113 Advanced Abnormal Psychology I (if Abnormal Psychology **was not** taken in undergraduate program)

OR

PSYC 5213 Advanced Abnormal Psychology II (if Abnormal Psychology **was** taken in undergraduate program)

3. **Appraisal or Assessment Techniques**

PSYC 5133 Assessment I: Achievement and Cognitive Assessment

PSYC 5173 Assessment II: Personality Assessment

4. **Counseling Theories and Methods**

PSYC 5872 Individual Counseling (with PSYC 5190 Readings)

PSYC 5803 Counseling Strategies and Techniques

5. **Professional Orientation and Ethics**

PSYC 5893 Supervised Experience in Counseling

PSYC 5013 Ethics

6. **Research**

EDUC 5013 Introduction to Educational Research

PSYC 5633 Advanced Statistics

7. **Social and Cultural Foundations**

PSYC 5822 Multicultural Counseling (with PSYC 5190 Readings)

8. **Group Dynamics, Theories and Techniques**

PSYC 5812 Group Counseling (with PSYC 5190 Readings)

PRACTICUM

PSYC 5500 Practicum (first semester, 3 hours)

PSYC 5500 Practicum (second semester, 3 hours)

ELECTIVES ~ 3 hours required

1. **Life Styles and Development**

PSYC 5832 Career Education (with PSYC 5190 Readings)

2. **Personality Theories**

PSYC 5623 Advanced Personality

3. **Crisis Intervention Strategies**

PSYC 5253 Intervention Strategies for Counselors

4. **Marriage and Family Counseling**

PSYC 5203 Family Systems

5. **Addictions Counseling**

PSYC 5023 Advanced Substance Abuse Counseling

6. **Counseling With Children and Adolescents**

PSYC 5612 Advanced Child Guidance (with PSYC 5190 Readings)

PSYC 5512 Advanced Adolescent Guidance (with PSYC 5190 Readings)

7. **Psychopharmacology**

PSYC 5180 Seminar: Psychopharmacology

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

To make application for the Licensed Professional Counseling or Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counseling credential, Master of Counseling Psychology graduates will need additional graduate coursework to meet educational requirements for licensing. (12 hours for the LPC license; 15 hours for the LADC license). 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.