

# MASTER OF EDUCATION (M. Ed.)

## COUNSELOR EDUCATION COUNSELING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Counselor training programs at Southeastern Louisiana University are designed to prepare graduates for professional practice in the field of counseling. All programs are nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

Southeastern Louisiana University offers counseling programs tracks in the areas of Community Counseling, Community Counseling with an emphasis in Substance Abuse Treatment, School Counseling, College Counseling/Student Affairs Counseling, and Marriage and Family Therapy. Admission to any of these programs is selective. A prospective student must have recent GRE scores and must submit a counseling program application portfolio by either November 1 for spring enrollment or March 1 for fall enrollment.

A Southeastern counseling program graduate meets the current academic requirements for state licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the State of Louisiana, as well as most other states. Graduates of the Marriage and Family Therapy track also meet the current requirements for state licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) in Louisiana, as well as most other states.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students are allowed to enroll in CED, MFT, SAC, or HD courses ONLY after formal admission to the program following an admissions interview. However, certified school counselors, LPCs, and LMFTs may be allowed to take selected courses without formal admission to the program. In addition, graduates of the Southeastern counseling program may be eligible to take selected courses with permission of the department head.

To be considered for admission to a master's degree program in Counselor Education in either Community Counseling, School Counseling, Student Affairs Counseling, or Marriage and Family Therapy, an applicant must:

1. Initially satisfy all Southeastern Louisiana University graduate admission requirements (Consult the Southeastern General Catalog for admission requirements).
2. Complete nine (9) hours of undergraduate study in behavioral studies (psychology, sociology, social work, etc.) and three (3) hours in statistics.
3. Obtain a score of at least 1,350 points based on the formula of 200 times the undergraduate grade point average plus the General Test (Verbal and Quantitative) score of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). At the discretion of the Counseling Program Admissions Committee, a student not eligible for regular admission may be considered for conditional admission status if the student has 1,250 points based on the formula of 200 times the last sixty undergraduate hours grade point average plus the General Test (Verbal and Quantitative) score of the Graduate Record Examination.
4. Submit a completed application portfolio to the Counseling Program Admissions Committee by the specified due date which includes the following:
  - A. A letter requesting consideration for program admission to a Counselor Education Program track (School Counseling, Community Counseling, College Counseling/Student Affairs Counseling, or Marriage and Family Therapy), including the applicant's reasons for selecting that particular program track.
  - B. Curriculum Vitae including full name, address, phone numbers, e-mail address, social security number, academic experiences, prior related work experiences, degrees held, honors, awards, special interests, and other appropriate information.
  - C. Three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic abilities and potential for success as a professional counselor or marriage and family therapist.
  - D. An autobiographical narrative showing evidence of life experiences and personal maturity consistent with program expectations for entry into a professional training program.
5. Upon evaluation of program application portfolios, qualified applicants will be invited to participate in a mandatory one-day screening interview. (At the discretion of the Counseling Program Admissions Committee, International students, or individuals residing in distant states may be afforded a telephone interview in lieu of participation in the one-day on-campus interview.)

## PROGRAM APPLICATION ADMISSION DEADLINES

The application portfolio submission due date for consideration for admission to the counseling program in the **Summer or Fall Semester** of each year is **March 1**. The submission due date for the application portfolio for program admission in the **Spring Semester** of each year is **November 1**. Partially completed portfolios will not be reviewed.

## ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Admission to the counseling program and each program track is selective and requires a favorable evaluation by the Counseling Program Admissions Committee. Upon submission of a completed application portfolio and a favorable entrance interview, successful candidates will be notified of acceptance with either Regular or Conditional Status. Students in Conditional Status must make a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average in their first 12 hours of graduate counseling courses in order to attain Regular admission status.

Within two weeks after participation in the program admission interview, applicants will be notified of their acceptance status, receiving one of three possible notifications:

**Accepted for Admission (Regular or Conditional Status)** – The applicant is invited to enroll in courses after consultation with the Graduate Coordinator.

**Under Consideration for Admission** – The applicant is not admitted into the program. However, the applicant remains under consideration, pending the opening of an available program slot for the semester of application.

**Not Accepted for Admission** – The applicant is rejected for admission due to the acceptance of more qualified applicants for available program slots.

Given the nature of program admission, a student admitted to a particular counseling track may not change program tracks without formal application and approval from the Counseling Program Admissions Committee.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE MASTER OF EDUCATION DEGREE IN COUNSELOR EDUCATION (all counseling program tracks)

To receive the Master of Education degree in Counseling, a student must:

1. Complete all course work and requirements stated in the degree plan.
2. Participate in a pre-practicum screening interview and receive endorsement from the Counseling Faculty Supervision Committee for permission to register for the practicum course.
3. Participate in a pre-internship screening interview and receive endorsement from the Counseling Faculty Supervision Committee for permission to register for internship.
4. Satisfactorily complete a comprehensive examination. A candidate who fails the examination may be required to complete one or more courses or other remedial activities as determined by the student's graduate committee before requesting a second examination. No candidate will be permitted a third attempt at taking the comprehensive examination.
5. Satisfactorily complete, with a minimum grade point average of 3.0, sixty (60) hours of graduate study as specified in the student's degree plan. No grade below "C" will be accepted for graduate degree credit, and no more than six (6) semester hours with a grade of "C" may be applied toward a degree.
6. Successfully complete a counseling practicum and internship. Students in school, community, or student affairs counseling must complete a 600-hour internship with at least 240 face-to-face client contact hours. This internship must be taken over two semesters, and students must register for 3 credit hours each semester.
7. During the last semester of study, complete a counseling program exit interview with the counseling faculty, and receive a favorable recommendation for the degree from the student's major professor.

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAM

The M.Ed. Degree in Counselor Education- Marriage and Family Therapy Program Track consists of sixty-three (63) hours of graduate study, including a 500 hour clinical internship in marriage and family therapy over a continuous 12-month period. The marriage and family therapy program curriculum is designed to fulfill the current academic requirements for counselor licensure in Louisiana (LPC), Clinical Membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and marriage and family therapy licensure in Louisiana (LMFT).

**Admission policy:** Admission to the Marriage and Family Therapy program is limited and based on a formal selection admission process which includes submission of a program application portfolio and screening interview. Prior to admission consideration, applicants must submit their scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) to the marriage and family therapy program admissions committee.

**Student enrollment status policy:** Due to the intensive nature of clinical training in the marriage and family therapy program, curriculum and course sequencing is structured for full-time students. Students admitted to the marriage and family therapy program are normally expected to maintain full-time enrollment throughout their program of study. Students entering the marriage and family therapy program in the fall semester, who follow the recommended sequence of courses, may reasonably expect to complete their degree program within 24 months of continuous study. In general, a student who is unable to maintain full-time graduate enrollment status in the marriage and family sequence of courses, will be dropped from the marriage and family therapy program. However, a student who has been formally admitted to the marriage and family therapy program may request an exemption and be allowed to maintain program enrollment on a part-time basis for a specified period. Such an exemption will be granted at the discretion of the marriage and family therapy program faculty, after consideration of the specific circumstances of the student's request.

**Screening and clinical skill evaluation:** Due to the nature of professional training in the field of marriage and family therapy, successful completion of academic courses provides only a partial indication of student competency. In addition to completion of academic courses, students are required to demonstrate knowledge and mastery of clinical skills appropriate to their level of program training, exemplary ethical conduct, and appropriate professional decorum.

In addition to the formal program admission process and on-going faculty and supervisory evaluations, students in the marriage and family therapy program participate in formal screening at four program junctures: prior to beginning practicum, prior to beginning internship, through comprehensive examination, and in a post-internship exit interview prior to graduation. Students who, for whatever reason, fail to demonstrate skills consistent with their appropriate level of program training may, at the discretion of the marriage and family therapy program committee, be dismissed from the program; or required to repeat selected academic, and/or practicum and internship courses.

## COUNSELING PROGRAM TRACK CURRICULA

**Community Counseling** -- Complete sixty (60) hours with an emphasis in Community Counseling as follows:

Human Development 600.....	3 hours
Human Development 601.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 603.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 605+.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 607 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 609 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 610 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 613 .....	3 hours
Substance Abuse Counseling 619.....	3 hours
Marriage and Family Therapy 621 .....	3 hours
Human Development 604 .....	3 hours
Human Development 608 .....	3 hours
Human Development 625 .....	3 hours
Approved Election.....	3 hours
Approved Election.....	3 hours
Approved Election.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 620.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 683.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 693.....	6 hours
Total	60 hours

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+ A grade of "B" or better required.

**Community Counseling** -- Complete sixty (60) hours with an emphasis in Community Counseling and Substance Abuse

Treatment as follows:

Human Development 600.....	3 hours
Human Development 601.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 603.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 605+.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 607.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 609.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 610.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 613.....	3 hours
Substance Abuse Counseling 619.....	3 hours
Marriage and Family Therapy 621.....	3 hours
Human Development 604.....	3 hours
Human Development 608.....	3 hours
Human Development 625.....	3 hours
Psychology 692.....	3 hours
Substance Abuse Counseling 630.....	3 hours
Substance Abuse Counseling 632.....	3 hours
Substance Abuse Counseling 634.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 683.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 693.....	6 hours
Total	60 hours

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+ A grade of "B" or better required.

**College Counseling/Student Affairs Counseling** -- Complete sixty (60) hours with an emphasis in College

Counseling/Student Affairs Counseling as follows:

Human Development 600.....	3 hours
Human Development 601.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 603.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 605 +.....	3 hours
Human Development 604.....	3 hours
Human Development 608.....	3 hours
Human Development 625.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 607.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 609.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 610.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 615.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 616.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 618.....	3 hours
Substance Abuse Counseling 619.....	3 hours
Marriage and Family Therapy 621.....	3 hours
Approved Elective.....	3 hours
Approved Elective.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 683.....	3 hours
Counselor Education 693.....	6 hours
Total	60 hours

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+ A grade of "B" or better required.

**Marriage and Family Therapy** -- Complete sixty three (63) hours with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy as follows:

Human Development 600 .....	3 hours
Human Development 601 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 603 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 605 +.....	3 hours
Human Development 604 .....	3 hours
Human Development 608 .....	3 hours
Human Development 625 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 607 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 609 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 610 .....	3 hours
Health Studies 621 .....	3 hours
Family and Consumer Sciences 510 .....	3 hours
Marriage and Family Therapy 621 .....	3 hours
Marriage and Family Therapy 622 .....	3 hours
Marriage and Family Therapy 626 .....	3 hours
Marriage and Family Therapy 672 .....	3 hours
Marriage and Family Therapy 683 .....	3 hours
Marriage and Family Therapy 693 .....	9 hours

Total 63 hours

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+ A grade of "B" or better required.

**School Counseling** -- Complete sixty (60) hours with an emphasis in School Counseling as follows:

Human Development 600 .....	3 hours
Human Development 601 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 603 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 605 +.....	3 hours
Human Development 604 .....	3 hours
Human Development 608 .....	3 hours
Human Development 625 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 607 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 609 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 610 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 611 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 617 .....	3 hours
Substance Abuse Counseling 619 .....	3 hours
Marriage and Family Therapy 621 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 620 .....	3 hours
Approved Elective .....	3 hours
Approved Elective .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 683 .....	3 hours
Counselor Education 690 .....	6 hours
Total	60 hours

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+ A grade of "B" or better required.