

# MASTER OF ARTS: COUNSELING - SCHOOL COUNSELING

---

## General Requirements for the Master of Arts in Counseling Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from this program will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the various major theories of counseling and demonstrate skills in application of them.
- Develop competency in creating and managing the counseling relationship, including counselor attitudes and behaviors that influence helping processes.
- Develop awareness, knowledge and skills in addressing the needs of diverse populations.
- Become versed in the major theories of career development and utilization of career assessment tools.
- Apply an understanding of assessment process and techniques to the selection, administration and interpretation of assessment instruments.
- Develop skills in the use of research to inform evidence-based practice.
- Develop a professional identity as a counselor.
- Develop knowledge, sensitivity and skill in the provision of group therapy.
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in ethical practice and decision making.
- Demonstrate knowledge in diagnostic systems.
- Develop skills in preventive intervention and consultation.
- Demonstrate knowledge of theories of human development, biological factors in human functioning and sociocultural influences on behavior.
- Additional SLOs can be found in each specific emphasis area.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Counseling program at UMKC is to prepare students to meet the psychological, social/emotional and educational needs of people from diverse backgrounds. Based on national and state standards for excellence in counselor preparation, the MA program in Counseling prepares students to be reflective, integrative practitioners who effectively use scholarship and research to successfully work as professional school counselors and licensed professional counselors in diverse settings.

## Overview of the M.A. in Counseling

The master's degree is the first professional degree in counseling. Graduates holding this degree will gain the basic understanding and skills necessary for professional practice as a certified school counselor and/or licensed professional counselor. The program, which is primarily delivered in a face-to-face format with some online courses available, currently offers two emphasis areas leading to the M.A. degree: School Counseling and Mental Health Counseling.

The Counseling Program is accredited by the Master's in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council. Both emphasis areas meet the educational requirements for licensure as a professional counselor in Missouri. Students pursuing licensure must complete the supervision requirements and pass the National Counselor Exam.

## Requirements for Admission

Alternative criteria may be accepted at the discretion of the admissions committee if there is good reason to believe the regular criteria do not adequately portray the student's potential to do quality graduate work. Applicants may provide explanations for circumstances of not meeting the GPA criteria in the online application system.

- Overall undergraduate 2.75 GPA or better on a 4.0 scale
- Personal statement detailing interest in and plans for counseling degree relevant to the chosen emphasis area
- Three professional or academic letters of reference (not to include friends or family)
- Note that meeting the minimum criteria for admissions will not guarantee admission to the program

## Admission Procedures

Students who wish to apply to the program must submit all required materials through the electronic portal: [futureroo.umkc.edu/apply](http://futureroo.umkc.edu/apply)

Students will be required to submit their (a) UMKC Application for Admission, (b) \$45 (domestic) or \$75 (international) non-refundable application fee, (c) official transcripts from all colleges/universities previously attended, and (d) relevant documentation for permanent residents, refugees, DACA students, etc.

In addition, students must complete the MA in Counseling Application, submit three academic or professional letters of reference (not to include friends or family), submit a statement describing their professional and personal goals relevant to the chosen emphasis area, and participate in an interview. Additional requirements may apply for international students.

Please Note: we do not provide feedback to applicants about their application materials or on the interview process. Admission to UMKC does not guarantee admission to the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program.

## Requirements for Graduation

Students must complete all courses in the M.A. program with a B or better (or credit) in all coursework. Courses can only be repeated once. Up to two classes can be retaken.

Students must apply for graduation by the posted deadline during their final term of enrollment. All students must be enrolled during the term they intend to graduate.

For more specific information about the M.A. in Counseling see the website of Master of Arts in Counseling (<https://seswps.umkc.edu/academics/psychology-and-counseling/ma-in-counseling.html>).

## Degree Requirements

All students in the M.A. in Counseling take a common core of 33 credit hours of coursework. In addition, students take 12 hours of practicum and internship relevant to their emphasis area and complete additional coursework (15-18 credit hours) related to their selected emphasis area.

\* Note: Only courses with an asterisk may be taken prior to being admitted to the program.

# Note: Course can be taken if officially admitted to a graduate degree program.

### Required Core Courses (All Emphases)

Code	Title	Credits
CPCE 5500	Introduction To Professional Counseling *	3
CPCE 5503	Diagnosing and Treatment Planning	3
CPCE 5505	Career Development I #	3
CPCE 5513	Lifespan Human Development *	3
CPCE 5515	Assessment Methods In Professional Counseling	3
CPCE 5520	Theories of Counseling	3
CPCE 5530	Skills for Counseling and Psychotherapy	3
CPCE 5540	Theories And Methods In Group Counseling	3
CPCE 5551	Counseling in a Pluralistic Society	3
CPCE 5553	Ethics And Professional Issues In Counseling	3
EDUC-R&P 5508	Principles And Methods Of Research *	3
<b>Total Core Requirement Hours</b>		<b>33</b>
<b>Emphasis Area Requirements (See Specific Emphasis Areas for Details)</b>		<b>27-30</b>
<b>Total Degree Credit Hours</b>		<b>60-63</b>

## Requirements for the School Counseling Emphasis Area

### Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from this program will:

- Meet all SLOs common across the MA in Counseling, plus:
- Implement a multiculturally and developmentally competent comprehensive school counseling program, while adhering to ethical, legal, and professional standards and school expectations and policies.
- Design and deliver needs-driven, results-based school counseling core curriculum units that facilitate students' academic, career and/or social-emotional development.
- Use, analyze and report on student-focused, data-driven interventions and identified program changes that improve student achievement, career and social-emotional development.
- Reflect on learning across all areas of a comprehensive school counseling program, including personal philosophy and professional practice.
- Integrate research and professional development into school counseling practice.
- Employ current school counseling theory and standards to evaluate their own professional practices.

- Utilize theoretical frameworks of school leadership and advocacy to develop and manage a comprehensive, developmental school counseling program promoting a positive, inclusive school climate and culture for all.

## Overview of the School Counseling Emphasis Area

In addition for meeting the educational requirements for licensure as a professional counselor in Missouri, the school counseling emphasis area also leads to eligibility for certification as a school counselor in Missouri. Eligibility for school counselor certification is based on meeting the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)'s certification requirements, including grade point average and passing scores on all required assessments and exams. Students receiving certification as a school counselor are certified to work in all levels of K-12 education (e.g., elementary, middle, high school). Several students also go on for advanced degrees. Students interested in pursuing licensure or certification in other states should consult the specific states for those requirements.

## School Counseling Emphasis Area Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Coursework Required for the MA in Counseling Degree:</b>		<b>33</b>
<b>Coursework Required of All School Counseling Students:</b>		
CPCE 5502	Fndtns Of Elementary & Secondary School Counseling	3
CPCE 5504	School Counseling Programs	3
CPCE 5550	Organization And Administration Of Counseling Programs	3
TCH-ED 5404	Education of the Exceptional Child and Youth (or an Approved 3 Credit Hour Elective) <sup>1</sup>	3
Coursework Required for Students who Hold a Teaching Certification:		3
3 Credit Hours of Approved Electives		
OR Coursework Required of Students who Do Not Hold a Teaching Certification:		6
EDUC-C&I 5512	Strategies For Effective Classroom Management	
EDUC-C&I 5517	Teaching Methods And Practices	
Practicum and Internship (Required of All School Counseling Students):		
Take the following course 2 times:		6
CPCE 5535	School Counseling Practicum	
Take the following course 2 times:		6
CPCE 5576	School Counseling Internship	
<b>Total Hours: School Counseling Emphasis</b>		<b>27-30</b>
<b>Total Degree Hours: MA in Counseling-School Counseling Emphasis</b>		<b>60-63</b>

<sup>1</sup> TCH-ED 5404 may be substituted for an approved elective course for students who have teacher certification and have previously taken an equivalent

## Licensure Disclosure

## Licensure Disclosure

Graduates holding the UMKC M.A. Counseling degree with an emphasis in school counseling will acquire the basic knowledge and skills necessary for professional practice as a licensed professional counselor and as a certified school counselor. Licensure as a professional counselor is required for independent practice as a professional counselor; consult individual states for information on when a license is required to practice as a school counselor.

### Program Director

Gina Bumgarner (g.bumgarner@umkc.edu), M.S.Ed.

### Licensed Professional Counselor

Applying for licensure requires completing an application for licensure, successfully passing the state required counseling exam (e.g., National Counselor Exam), and completion of post-graduate supervised hours. In some states additional requirements may be needed for full licensure.

There are other related licenses available (e.g., Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Alcohol and Drug Counselor). Students may be interested in pursuing these additional career paths, but the UMKC M.A. Program curriculum does not meet the criteria for these licensures.

### States in Which the Curriculum Meets the Educational Requirements for Licensure

AK, American Samoa\*\*, AR, DE, GA, Federated States of Micronesia\*\*, KS, ME, MI, MS~, MO, NJ, NY, PR, Republic of Palau\*\*, Republic of the Marshall Islands\*\*, SC, TN, TX, USVI~, WA, WV.

**States in Which the Curriculum Does Not Meet the Educational Requirements for Licensure**

AL, AZ\*, CA, CO\*, CT\*, DC\*, FL, ID, IN, Guam, HI\*, IL, IA, KY, LA, MA, MD, MN, MT, NE\*, NM, NV, NH\*, NC, ND\*, Northern Mariana Islands, OH, OK\*, OR\*, PA\*, RI\*, SD\*, UT\*, VT\*, VA\*, WI, WY.

~ Students may need to use program electives to meet different state requirements; school counseling students entering the program without initial teacher certification do not take electives. Consult with the M.A. program coordinator for additional information.

\* Coursework requirements are met but a higher number of clinical hours are required.

\*\* Licensure does not exist.

**School Counselor Certification/Licensure**

Students completing the UMKC M.A. Counseling program with an emphasis in school counseling are prepared for school counseling practice and eligible to apply for Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) school counseling certification. In a few states, an initial teaching certification/licensure and/or teaching experience may be required. Individuals are encouraged to contact specific states to determine whether teaching certification/licensure is required for employment as a school counselor in that state.

**States in Which Curriculum Meets Educational Requirements for School Counseling Certification/Licensure**

AL, American Samoa\*\*, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, Federated States of Micronesia\*\*, FL, GA, Guam, HI, ID, IL, IN~, IA, KS^, KY^, ME, MA, MI, MN, MS^, MO, ND, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NC, OH, OK, PA, PR\*\*, Republic of Marshall Islands\*\*, Republic of Palau\*\*, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, USVI\*\*, VA, VT, WI, DC.

**States in Which Curriculum Does Not Meet Educational Requirements for School Counseling Certification/Licensure**

AK, LA, MD, MT, NE, NY, OR, UT, WA, WV, WY.

\*\* Licensure does not Exist

~ Specific courses must be taken as electives to fill licensure requirements. Students completing the school counseling emphasis area will only meet this requirement if they have initial teaching certification/licensure when they enter the M.A. Counseling program. Contact the M.A. School Counseling Program Coordinator for additional information.

^ Must hold Missouri School Counseling Certification

Important: Licensure and certification processes and decisions are handled by states. All individuals seeking licensure as a professional counselor or certification/licensure as a school counselor are strongly encouraged to contact specific states for information regarding their state requirements.