Counselor Education, M.A.

School Counseling

The Master of Arts program in counselor education with a school counseling subprogram requires a minimum of 60 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00.

The program prepares individuals to work effectively as counselors in K-12 school settings. It is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Successful graduates are eligible for K-12 school counselor licensure in Iowa.

During the first few semesters, students take core counseling courses, including coursework focusing on counseling children and adolescents, school counseling programs, and courses focusing on clinical practice in the schools (practicum and internship). Students are expected to complete at least 100 clock hours in practicum and 600 clock hours in internship activities in an approved school setting, under the supervision of an experienced licensed school counselor and a University faculty supervisor.

Students who enter without teaching licensure are required to take the following classes in education: EPLS:3000 Foundations of Education, EDTL:4900 Foundations of Special Education, and PSQF:6200 Educational Psychology.

Students must complete program and department core courses as outlined on the Department of Counselor Education website before enrolling in CSED:6300 Practicum in School Counseling for the fall semester of their second year in the program. All students are required to complete a background check the semester before they enroll in the practicum. Students who are not licensed teachers must complete coursework in education before enrolling in the practicum.

Each student's progress is reviewed periodically by the major advisor and yearly by the school counseling program.

Students who have successfully completed all prerequisites for CSED:6300 Practicum in School Counseling are reviewed in the semester before they take the practicum course, to assure that they are prepared for it. Additionally, students are evaluated to assure their readiness for the internship CSED:6321 Internship in Elementary School Counseling or CSED:6322 Internship in Secondary School Counseling, which requires assignment in approved schools for the fall and/or spring semesters.

The M.A. in counselor education with a school counseling subprogram requires the following work.

Required Courses

The following schedule of required courses reflects a two-and-one-half year program of study. Students who do not have teacher licensure are required to complete the following courses in education: EPLS:3000 Foundations of Education, EDTL:4900 Foundations of Special Education, and PSQF:6200 Educational Psychology. Students who have completed the required courses should consult with their advisor regarding electives in order to fulfill the 60 s.h. requirement.

Comprehensive Examination

Students are required to take comprehensive exams for the departmental core and for school counseling during their final semester of internship. Comprehensive exams include a written six-hour exam in the departmental core and school counseling. An oral exam also is required unless waived by the comprehensive exam committee.

Admission

Applicants must meet the department's general admission requirements. They should have an undergraduate g.p.a. of 3.00 or higher. The department prefers that applicants have one year of teaching experience or successful experiences with children and/or adolescents, which they must document in a written statement. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test scores must be on file at the University (however, the GRE requirement has been suspended for the 2022-23 admissions cycle).

Applications are accepted for summer and fall entry and should be submitted by January 25.