Counseling M.S.

The graduate plan in Counseling leads to the Master of Science (M.S.) degree. Students seeking this degree may, depending on their career goals, select degree plans that meet the academic requirements for General Applied Techniques Concentration (Non-Licensure) (GATC), for the School Counselor standard certificate (EC-12) or for Clinical Mental Health Counseling M.S. (CMHC) in preparation for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the state of Texas.

The master’s degree for GATC (Non-Licensure) requires a plan of 30 hours with a comprehensive examination. The School Counselor Standard certificate plan requires a minimum of 48 hours. To be eligible at the time of certification recommendation, students must have a master’s degree, a valid Texas standard teaching certificate, a passing score on the state assessment and two years of successful full-time approved classroom teaching experience.

The opportunity to complete the academic requirements for the GATC, CMHC, or the School Counselor Standard certificate through the counseling plan is restricted to students admitted to the counseling program. Students who are not admitted to the counseling program may enroll in counseling courses only with prior approval of the program coordinator. In each case, students must meet the stated course prerequisites and space must be available in the course.

Admission Requirements

Students who meet the graduate admissions requirements to the College of Education (COE) (see Graduate Admissions Requirements) must meet additional requirements prior to applying for candidacy to the Counseling program. Counseling applications are available on the COE Web site at https://www.uhcl.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/how-to-apply. Each application for candidacy must include the following:

1. completed application form;
2. brief essay (500–800 words maximum) stating the student’s career goals and reasons for application;
3. documentation of completion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or MAT if last 60 undergraduate hours GPA is less than 3.0;
4. official transcripts from all universities attended. The last 60 hours, including the full semester in which the 60th hour appears, will be used to calculate the grade point average (GPA);
5. students seeking School Counselor Certification must have a GPA of 2.750 over the last 60 hours;
6. three professional recommendation forms;
7. applicant self-rating sheet; and
8. current resume.

Applicants who submit properly completed applications may be invited to participate in a structured interview. The admissions process is conducted during the fall and spring semesters of each year. Application forms and instructions may be obtained in the COE Office of Academic Advising. Questions about the
content of the application packet and process should be directed to the Office of Academic Advising. Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring that their packets containing the completed application forms, essays, supporting transcripts, documented GRE scores, letters of recommendation and self-rating sheet are received by the Office of Academic Advising on or before the deadline: November 1 for spring entry and June 1 for fall entry. If the application deadline falls on a weekend or a university holiday, applications will be accepted before the close of business on the following work day. Faxes and late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview with the admissions committee. Notification of conditional admissions decisions will be sent to applicants in December for spring entry and in August for fall entry. If conditionally admitted to the counseling program, students must attend a mandatory orientation.

Students who receive written notice that their applications are incomplete must write a letter requesting reactivation of their counseling application and submit the requested documentation to B1231 by the deadlines given above in order to be reconsidered for admission.