

SECTION 4: MASTER OF COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE

The Master of Counseling Psychology degree program prepares 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 NWOSU 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 for assisting 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 during the student's first semester of coursework.*

Additional Admission 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 eighteen credits in psychology. Students must also have taken and passed with a "C" or better an undergraduate statistics course and an undergraduate research course. Students who have not taken or received a C or better in these two courses may be accepted on a conditional basis, but they must complete an undergraduate statistics and/or research course at NWOSU or another accredited institution and receive a grade of C or better for formal admittance. These credits will not be counted as part of their graduate degree.

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. Cris Gordon, Dept. Chair). Candidates will be evaluated on such skills 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 have been accepted into the program may take up to nine hours as a special student before being admitted to the program.

MASTER OF COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Coursework for the Masters of Counseling Psychology requires 48 hours.

Coursework for the Masters of Counseling Psychology - LPC track requires 60 hours

Coursework for the Masters of Counseling Psychology - LADC track requires 54 hours.

All Students must complete the required course and required core courses.

The final hours of each program are below.

REQUIRED COURSE (during semester of 10th hour)

- * EDUC 5010 Graduate Study Seminar

REQUIRED CORE COURSES (27 hours)

- * **Human Growth and Development**
PSYC 5183 Human Growth and Development
- * **Abnormal Behavior**
PSYC 5213 Advanced Abnormal Psychology
- * **Appraisal or Assessment Techniques**
PSYC 5173 Statistics of Assessment
- * **Counseling Theories and Methods**
PSYC 5863 Individual Counseling
PSYC 5803 Counseling Strategies and Techniques (Pre: PSYC 5863)
- * **Professional Orientation and Ethics**
PSYC 5013 Ethics
- * **Research**
EDUC 5013 Introduction to Research
- * **Social and Cultural Foundations**
PSYC 5823 Multicultural Counseling
- * **Group Dynamics**
PSYC 5813 Group Counseling (Pre: PSYC 5873 or concurrent)

To complete a 48-hour Master of Counseling Psychology, choose Option 1, Option2 , or Options 3 for the final 21 hours.

1. **Practicum/Internship**
PSYC 5893 Supervised Experience in Counseling (Pre: PSYC 5863, 5803)
PSYC 5500 Practicum (first semester; (Pre: PSYC 5873, 5803, 5893)
PSYC 5500 Practicum (second semester; (Pre: PSYC 5873, 5803, 5893)
PSYC 5833 Career Education
PSYC 5133 Assessment: Achievement, Personality, and Cognitive Assessment (Pre: 5173)
Electives (6 hours)
2. **Thesis Option**
Thesis (6 hours)
PSYC 5833 Career Education
PSYC 5133 Assessment: Achievement, Personality, and Cognitive Assessment (Pre: 5173)
Electives (9 hours)
3. **Additional Electives Option**
PSYC 5833 Career Education
PSYC 5133 Assessment: Achievement, Personality, and Cognitive Assessment (Pre: 5173)
Electives (15 hours)

MASTER OF COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

To make application for the Licensed Professional Counseling or Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counseling credential, MCP graduates will need additional graduate coursework to meet educational requirements for licensing (33 hours for the LPC and 27 hours for the LADC). To be fully licensed, the individual must successfully complete a state examination and obtain supervised counseling experience (3000 hours for LPC in accordance with State Board of Behavioral Health and 2000 hours in accordance with Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors).

The following additional coursework is required for the LPC for a total of 60 hours:

- * **Life-Style and Career Development**
PSYC 5833 Career Education
- * **Appraisal or Assessment Techniques**
PSYC 5133 Assessment: Achievement, Personality, and Cognitive Assessment (Pre: 5173)
- * **Practicum/Internship**
PSYC 5893 Supervised Experience in Counseling (Pre: PSYC 5863, 5803)
PSYC 5500 Practicum (first semester; (Pre: PSYC 5873, 5803, 5893)
PSYC 5500 Practicum (second semester; (Pre: PSYC 5873, 5803, 5893)
- * **Electives (18 hours)**

The following additional coursework is required for the LADC for a total of 54 hours:

Must take the following Electives (18 hours)

- * **Marriage and Family Counseling**
PSYC 5203 Family Systems
- * **Addictions Counseling**
PSYC 5023 Advanced Substance Abuse Counseling
PSYC 5283 Addiction Studies -- Advanced
PSYC 5353 Addiction and the Family -- Theory
PSYC 5363 Addictions and the Family Counseling
- * **Psychopharmacology**
PSYC 5180 Seminar: Psychopharmacology
- * **Practicum/Internship**
PSYC 5893 Supervised Experience in Counseling (Pre: PSYC 5863, 5803)
PSYC 5500 Practicum (first semester; (Pre: PSYC 5873, 5803, 5893)
PSYC 5500 Practicum (second semester; (Pre: PSYC 5873, 5803, 5893)

Elective Options

- * **Personality Theories**
PSYC 5623 Advanced Personality
- * **Crisis Intervention Strategies**
PSYC 5253 Intervention Strategies for Counselors
- * **Counseling with Children & Adolescents**
PSYC 5613 Advanced Child Guidance
PSYC 5513 Advanced Adolescent Guidance
- * **Marriage and Family Counseling**
PSYC 5203 Family Systems
- * **Psychopharmacology**
PSYC 5180 Seminar: Psychopharmacology
- * **Addictions Counseling**
PSYC 5023 Advanced Substance Abuse Counseling
PSYC 5283 Addiction Studies -- Advanced
PSYC 5353 Addiction and the Family -- Theory
PSYC 5363 Addictions and the Family Counseling
- * **Human Sexuality**
PSYC 5180 Seminar: Advanced Human Sexuality
- * **Appraisal/Assessment Techniques**
PSYC 5180 Advanced DSM-V