

KU Master of Arts in Counseling: Clinical Mental Health Requirements

Paragraph summary of program and program student learning outcomes.

The Department of Counselor Education offers a 60-semester hour CACREP accredited Master of Arts degree program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. The program consists of core counseling courses, specialty area courses, and 700 hours of field experience. Degree requirements for this program meet the educational requirements for Pennsylvania state licensure in Professional Counseling (LPC). Graduates of the program are eligible to take the National Certified Counselor (NCC) examination, a state licensure prerequisite.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the ethical standards in counseling and the advocacy role of counselors in addressing institutional and social barriers which impede access, equity and success for clients
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the multicultural competencies and the effects of power and privilege for counselors and clients.
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge about human growth and development across the life span, have an awareness of the complexity of human development, and its impact on development of treatment plans and interventions
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge about ethical and culturally relevant strategies for addressing career development and demonstrate knowledge in career assessment.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge in essential interviewing, counseling and case conceptualizing skills and will use evidence-based strategies and techniques for prevention and intervention.
6. Students will demonstrate knowledge about the dynamics associated with group process and development and demonstrate knowledge on the ethical and culturally relevant strategies for designing and facilitating groups.
7. Students will demonstrate knowledge in the use of assessments for diagnostic and intervention planning purposes and demonstrate knowledge about ethical and culturally relevant strategies for selecting, administering and interpreting assessment and test results.
8. Students will demonstrate knowledge about the identification of evidence-based counseling practices and the evaluation of counseling interventions and programs.
9. Students will demonstrate knowledge and competency in clinical mental health counseling and ethical decision making and advocacy.

Note that all students must achieve 60 graduate credits and a minimum 3.0 overall GPA to graduate. In addition to credit requirements for the program and consultation with their advisors, students must have completed the following:

1. *Initial Advisement Seminar (IAS)*
2. *Signed New Student Agreement*
3. *Practicum Meeting*
4. *Practicum Eligibility & Intent*
5. *Practicum Readiness Statement*
6. *Practicum Agreement*
7. *Professional Membership & Liability Insurance*

8. *Comprehensive Exams (CPCE) Meeting*
9. *Internship Agreement*
10. *Pass CPCE*
11. *Maintain Satisfactory Academic Status*
12. *No Unresolved SAPER*

The final GPA requirement for Master of Arts in Counseling: Marriage, Couple, and Family is 3.0.

Core I. Foundation – 12 credits

- COHS 518 Professional Orientation & Ethics for Mental Health Professionals (3 credits)
- COHS 530 Fundamentals of Counseling (3 credits)
- COHS 546 Group Processes Seminar (3 credits) *Prerequisite: COHS 530
- COHS 548 Counseling Theories Seminar (3 credits)

Core II. Program Core – 18 credits

- COHS 507 Tests and Assessment in Counseling (3 credits)
- COHS 508 Research Methods in Counseling (3 credits) **Prerequisite: COHS 507
- COHS 510 Diagnostic & Treatment Plan in Counseling (3 credits)
- COHS 519 Intercultural Issues in Counseling (3 credits)
- COHS 535 Career Counseling Throughout the Lifespan (3 credits)
- COHS 565 Human Growth and Development or PSYC 530 Life Span Development (3 credits)

Core III. Specialty Area – 9 credits

- COHS 532 Trauma Counseling (3 credits)
- COHS 554 Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling (3 credits)
- COHS 562 Addiction Counseling (3 credits)

Core IV. COHS Clinical Electives – 12 credits *Students will select four COHS clinical courses for this category to complete*

- COHS XXX (3 credits)
- COHS XXX (3 credits)
- COHS XXX (3 credits)
- COHS XXX (3 credits)

Core V. Clinical Experience – 9 credits

COHS 580 Practicum in Counseling (3 credits) *** Prerequisite: All Core I Courses. *100 hours of practicum is completed during the spring semester prior to COHS 594.*

COHS 594 Field Experience Clinical Counseling I (3 credits) † Prerequisite: COHS 580 & All Core I Courses. *This field experience requires 300 hours and is completed during the Fall semester.*

COHS 595 Field Experience Clinical Counseling II (3 credits) †† Prerequisite: COHS 580, COHS 594 & All Core I Courses. *This field experience requires 300 hours and is completed during the Spring semester.*

Program Plan Code: MA_CNSL_CLMH

Effective Semester: Spring 2026