



Master of Arts in Counseling: Marriage, Couple, and Family Requirements

Paragraph summary of program and program student learning outcomes.

The Department of Counselor Education offers a 60-semester hour CACREP accredited Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling program. The program consists of core counseling courses, specialty area courses, and 700 hours of field experience. Students who successfully complete degree requirements for this program meet the educational requirements for Pennsylvania Licensed Professional Counselor. 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 marriage, couple and family counseling and ethical decision making.

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 Diagnosis and Treatment Planning 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 – 15 credits

COHS 532 Trauma Counseling (3 credits)
COHS 538 Addiction In the Family (3 credits)
COHS 544 Applied MCFC Counseling Practice (3 credits)
COHS 554 Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling (3 credits)
COHS 558 Advanced Theories in MCFC (3 credits)

Core IV. COHS Clinical Electives – 6 credits

COHS XXX
COHS XXX

Core V. Clinical Experience – 9 credits

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

COHS 594 Field Experience Clinical Counseling (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 (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_MARC
Effective Semester: Spring 2026