

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

It is the goal of the Counseling Program to serve the needs of the San Antonio community and local school districts by developing highly skilled school counselors, clinical mental health counselors, and marriage, couple, and family counselors. The Department of Counseling, Health and Kinesiology offers a Master of Arts in Counseling and Guidance: School Counseling, a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and a Master of Arts in Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling.

Individuals with a bachelor's degree and an interest in developing the skills necessary to be effective mental health professionals should apply. Applicants interested in School Counselor Certification will need to document two years of teaching experience in an accredited school.

Program Details

Program Admission Details

Students seeking admission to any of the counseling degree programs during the 2019-2020 academic year must meet the basic requirements outlined in the Admission section of this catalog. Applicants without an appropriate background may be required to complete additional preparatory coursework. Such coursework will be determined by the Associate Chair or other designated program representative.

Effective Fall 2019, students seeking admission to any of the Counseling degree programs must meet the following criteria:

1. For applicants with an undergraduate cumulative grade point average between 2.60 and 2.99 or an undergraduate grade point average of 3.00 or higher for the last 60 semester credits (or 90 quarter credits), a minimum score of 297 on the GRE composite (Q+V) is required. For students with an undergraduate cumulative grade point average between 3.00-4.00, a minimum score of 285 on the GRE composite (Q+V) is required. MAT scores will no longer be accepted for admission into the Counseling Program.
2. A three-page written Statement of Purpose is required.
3. An in-person group interview with Counseling Program faculty is required.
4. International students must have a minimum score of 79 on the TOEFL Internet-based test, 213 on the TOEFL computer-based, 550 on the TOEFL paper-based test, or 6 on the IELTS.

Special Requirements for the Graduate Counseling Programs

Prospective counseling students who have completed a graduate or professional degree (i.e., a degree beyond a four-year baccalaureate degree) from a college or university accredited by one of the six regional accrediting agencies are not exempt from test score requirements. All prospective students must meet the test score requirements outlined above. To be considered for admission into any of the counseling degree programs, students with previous graduate coursework must be in good standing with their prior university.

To ensure a solid foundation for counseling coursework, the Associate Chair or other designated program representative has the right to examine an applicant's undergraduate transcript and require additional prerequisite coursework if necessary. Applicants without an appropriate background may be required to complete additional preparatory coursework.

Degree Requirements

Normal course loads consist of 6-9 hours per semester. Candidates for the Master of Arts degree in Counseling and Guidance: School Counseling must earn a minimum of 51 semester credit hours and maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0. Candidates for the Master of Arts degree in Clinical Mental Health and candidates for the Master of Arts in Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling must earn a minimum of 60 semester hours and maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0. All students must pass a comprehensive examination, **upon completion of core coursework**, as part of the requirements for graduation with the Master of Arts degree.