

# Counseling (MA)

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*This program is offered by the College of Science and Health. The emphasis in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is available at the St. Louis main campus, at select U.S. campuses and online in select states, see list below. The emphasis in Community Counseling is available only at the Geneva campus. Please see the Campus Locations and Offerings section of this catalog for a list of campuses where this program is offered.*

## **Program Description**

The mission of the Webster University graduate professional counseling degree program is to provide high-quality learning experiences to students, helping them become expert professional counselors who strive for individual excellence and contribute to an enhanced quality of life in local, national and global societies. Curriculum is culturally inclusive, training students with a strong base of knowledge and skills to practice

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core courses prior to Internship. Note that successful completion of the program may exceed 60 credit hours for some students.

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling emphasis, available at the home campus in St. Louis, Missouri and the South Carolina campuses in Myrtle Beach and Columbia, is accredited by The Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The Extended Hybrid program is not CACREP accredited.

## Required Core Counseling Courses:

- COUN 0200 Comprehensive Counseling Student Development (0 hours)
- COUN 5020 Foundations of Counseling: The Helping Relationship (3 hours)
- COUN 5050 Human Growth and Development (3 hours)
- COUN 5100 Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling (3 hours)
- COUN 5200 Theories of Counseling (3 hours)
- COUN 5220 Assessment (3 hours)
- COUN 5600 Techniques of Group Counseling (3 hours)
- COUN 5610 Cultural Diversity in Counseling (3 hours)
- COUN 5700 Lifestyle and Career Development (3 hours)
- COUN 5800 Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice (3 hours)
- COUN 6850 Research and Program Evaluation (3 hours)

## Additional Required Subject Area Courses:

- COUN 5230 Psychodiagnostics (3 hours)
- COUN 5450 Trauma, Crisis, and Emergency Relief Counseling (3 hours)
- COUN 5600 Family Systems Therapy (3 hours)
- COUN 5630 Addictions and Substance Abuse Counseling (3 hours)

## Required Field Experience Courses:

- COUN 6220 Assessment (3 hours) | Practum Ing 1.5(3 hours))]] TJ ET EMC /P <</MCI5 22>> BDC BT /F1 8 Tf 1 0 0 -1 8.503000238925.24398804 Tm [

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## General Requirements

The student is subject to the policies and procedures for graduate studies and the specific requirements of the counselor education program found within this catalog. As stated in the Academic Policies guidelines, all emphases in the MA in counseling professional degree program are excluded from dual major and sequential degree options.

Courses in the counseling degree program are available only to those admitted to the MA in counseling professional degree program and specific non-degree-seeking students (see information on non-degree-seeking students below). All non-degree-seeking students must meet specific admissions requirements and seek advisement for appropriate course selection.

Students participating in the MA in counseling professional degree program are required to understand and follow the ACA Code of Ethics (2014) and adhere to applicable state laws, regulatory policies. They must also follow rules and policies governing professional staff behavior at the field placement setting. Students have the same ethical and professional obligation to clients as those required of professional counselors (ACA, 2014). Students are therefore required to conduct themselves in a professional manner, adhering to the professional code of ethics in all communication (written and oral) within all settings (field experience site, classroom, sessions, interactions with colleagues, peers, faculty, staff, and supervisors) and in official and non-official communication (including social media and other cyber activity) as expected of a professional counselor.

## Professional Commitment

The American Counseling Association (ACA) *Code of Ethics* (2014) requires that institutions providing counselor education screen students for professional, personal, and academic fit with the counseling profession. Graduation from the counseling program requires successful completion of all graduate courses with appropriate academic success; development of appropriate interpersonal and counseling skills evidencing competency as a counselor; and being deemed fit for the counseling profession by program faculty as determined by development of counseling knowledge and skills, counselor formation, interpersonal relations with others in the program, and openness to supervision and feedback. Students' counseling skill development, interpersonal skills with others in the program, openness to supervision and academic success and standing will be evaluated on a regular basis throughout the program via use of dispositional and skills assessment tools, remediation team discussions, program faculty review of student achievement, and student participation. Students may be required to complete extra coursework and/or personal counseling in order to maintain good standing in the program.

This degree is a professional degree that is regulated by state licensure boards and the ACA *Code of Ethics* (2014). As such, students will be required to commit to the above mentioned academic, interpersonal and counseling skill development various coursework including a minimum of 11 months of clinical field experience. The clinical field experience is intensive, typically requiring a minimum of 15 to 38 hours per week to equate to a total of 700 - 1000 supervised clinical hours. It is imperative that applicants and students understand the time commitment required to develop and evidence counseling and interpersonal skills, openness to supervision, and academic success.



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take a course in any of Webster's five terms. They are required to submit an online application, official undergraduate transcript, current related graduate transcript, and a brief statement explaining their purpose. Upon approval, non-degree seeking applicants must attend a pre-registration advising meeting with a counseling faculty advisor and get their course plan approved by the department chair or designated counseling program coordinator at their home campus. Non-degree seeking students may not enroll in clinical field coursework (COUN 6000/COUN