

Counseling Graduate Program of Chicago State University

The Counseling Graduate Program of the Chicago State University (CSU) Department of Psychology offers graduate study leading to a Master of Arts degree in counseling. The program is designed to train students as counselors so they can work in a variety of settings. The program also prepares students for doctoral study in counseling or psychology. Graduates of the program are eligible to work as counselors in school settings, (school track) or in a variety of community settings (clinical mental health track).

The program qualifies students to sit for examinations for the State of Illinois Service Personnel Certificate (Type 73) with an endorsement in School Counseling (school track only), The National Counseling Certification (NCC) and the Illinois Licensure for Professional Counselors (LPC). School Counseling graduates may need additional coursework prior to obtaining the LPC. Program curriculum conforms to the requirements of the Illinois State Board of Education.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Counseling Program of Chicago State University is located on the south side of Chicago, primarily serving residents who both live and work within the Chicago urban area. The students within the program are diverse and representative of the largely minority population within this region. The mission of the program is to produce highly qualified graduates equipped to serve the complex counseling demands in urban settings with a specific emphasis on addressing the needs of urban youth and their families. This mission is generated from a belief that counselors equipped to deal with the more difficult problems within large cities will also be effective in other, less challenging settings. To accomplish its mission, the program is committed to:

- ◆ Recruiting, retaining and graduating culturally and economically diverse students.
- ◆ Employing a dedicated, caring, and culturally diverse faculty whose teaching is informed by research and clinical expertise.
- ◆ Providing a curriculum that is infused with theory and applications related to diverse urban populations.
- ◆ Providing students with a strong preparation in counseling interventions and models of prevention directed toward meeting the complex counseling needs within urban and other settings.
- ◆ Providing opportunities for practical counseling experiences within urban schools and communities.
- ◆ Teaching students how to access resources, advocate for their clients and their profession, and serve as community activists when needed; and
- ◆ Working in partnership with local institutions and agencies in the region to assist in the development of socially and economically viable and sustainable communities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The school counseling program is designed to prepare students to serve the multiple mental health or counseling needs within schools in an urban setting. Students will be given a strong preparation in clinical intervention with a specific emphasis on meeting the needs of urban youth and their families.

Additionally, students will learn how to develop a primary intervention program that impacts the entire school community through implementation of The Developmental Counseling Model. Students will also learn how to organize counseling interventions, which are integrated into the school curriculum. Prevention and early intervention will be the primary goals taught to our students.

Students in the clinical mental health counseling program are prepared for careers in community agencies such as mental health clinics, substance abuse facilities, and/or to work as developmental interventionists and consultants in a wide variety of educational and non-educational settings. Students in this track will also be given strong preparation in clinical intervention, with specific focus on addressing the needs of urban youth and their families.

MASTER DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete all required and elective courses, accumulating at least 60 credit hours at the graduate level with an average grade of B or better. Enrollment in the clinical courses (COUN 5790, 5950, 5990/5991) requires admission to candidacy and completion of course prerequisites. Students must successfully complete the Comprehensive Examinations (Part 1 – Objective, and Part 2- Essay). Students must successfully complete a Practicum and an Internship with required hours for their program. Students must complete all degree requirements within six years.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- a) Submission of an application, official transcript(s) and two references forms (one from either a college instructor or supervisor at work) to CSU Office of Graduate Studies by **March 1**.
- b) Completion of six credit hours of prerequisites courses, which must include three credit hours in developmental psychology and psychological statistics (with a grade of B or better in at least one). A student may be granted provisional admission until the prerequisites are met.
- c) GPA: Minimum 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) for final 60 hours of undergraduate work. Applicants whose grade point average is between 2.75 and 2.99 may qualify for conditional admission.
- d) Successful completion of a written essay and personal interview with faculty for the purpose of assessing oral communication, writing, interpersonal skills, and the applicant's potential for the counseling field.
- e) Applicants for the School Counseling Track or the Endorsement in School Counseling Certificate Program

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must have passed the State of Illinois Certification ICTS Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP). In addition, they must have a valid Illinois Teaching Certificate or they must take the course ED course - *Educational Fundamentals in School Counseling* as a program prerequisite. Providing they have passed the State of Illinois Certification ICTS Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), students who do not have a valid Illinois Teaching Certificate may be admitted conditionally pending successful completion of the ED course within the first year.

- f) Due to limited class size, not all qualified applicants may be accepted

OPTION 1 – SCHOOL TRACK:

Overall Required Courses – (51 credit hours)

COUN 5600 Introduction to School Counseling	3
COUN 5640 Counseling Theories and Ethics	3
COUN 5650 Microcounseling	3
COUN 5660 Advanced Lifespan Development	3
COUN 5670 Group Counseling	3
COUN 5710 Multicultural Issues in Counseling	3
COUN 5720 Lifestyle and Career Development	3
COUN 5730 Techniques of Assessment and Diagnosis	3
COUN 5740 Treatment Interventions for Urban Youth and Families	3
COUN 5780 Advance School Counseling App	3
COUN 5790 Pre-Practicum Counseling Lab	3
COUN 5800 Research, Statistics and Program Evaluation	3
COUN 5840 Advanced Psychopathology	3
COUN 5950 Practicum (100 hrs Field Placement)	3
COUN 5990 Internship in School Counseling (600 hours in Field Placement)	6
COUN Electives (5500 or higher level)	3

OPTION 2 – CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK:

Overall Required Courses – (60 credit hours)

COUN 5611 Principles of Clinical Mental Health Counseling	3
COUN 5640 Counseling Theories and Ethics	3
COUN 5650 Microcounseling	3
COUN 5660 Advanced Lifespan Development and Counseling Applications	3
COUN 5670 Group Counseling	3
COUN 5710 Multicultural Issues in Counseling	3
COUN 5720 Lifestyle and Career Development	3
COUN 5730 Techniques of Assessment and Diagnosis	3
COUN 5740 Treatment Interventions for Urban	

Youth and Families	3
COUN 5745 Counseling Across the Lifespan	3
COUN 5750 Family Systems Counseling	3
COUN 5755 Treatment Planning and Advanced Counseling Applications	3
COUN 5790 Pre-Practicum Counseling Lab	3
COUN 5800 Research, Statistics and Program Evaluations	3
COUN 5810 Theories and Practice of Addictions Counseling	3
COUN 5840 Advanced Psychopathology and Treatment Planning	3
COUN 5950 Practicum (100 hrs Field Placement)	3
COUN 5991 Internship in Clinical Mental Health Cnsl (900 hours in field placement)	9

OPTION 3 – Type 73 Endorsement in School Counseling Graduate Certificate Program:

Students completing only a Type 73 endorsement for school counseling must fulfill all the requirements (51 hrs.) for obtaining a school counseling degree. The certificate program is composed of 15 hours of coursework (COUN 5780, 5800, 5740 and 6 hours of 5990) included in the Type 73 Certificate program and an additional 36 required hours of program prerequisites (COUN 5600, 5640, 5650, 5660, 5670, 5710, 5720, 5730, 5740, 5790, 5840, 5950 and three hours of electives).

THESIS OPTION

Students who are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree after graduating from the Counseling Graduate Program are strongly encouraged to complete a thesis. Three of the six hours of thesis credit can be taken in lieu of the required graduate elective.

BILINGUAL SPECIALIZATION-

Students accepted into the Masters Programs as well as the Endorsement in School Counseling Certificate Program may apply for a Bilingual Specialization. The Bilingual Specialization requires that a candidate successfully completes the SPAN 5101 *Helping Hispanic Families* course (with a grade of B or better), satisfy the verbal section of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) requirements for the Advanced Plus Level in Spanish, and complete his/her practicum in a school or community setting serving Latino clients. Students interested in obtaining the Bilingual Specialization can request an application from the Counseling Graduate Program. Language proficiency will be initially screened by the Foreign Languages and Literature Department of Chicago State University. Final testing for the language requirements will be conducted by ACTFL.