

**Center for Psychological Studies**  
**M.S. Programs in Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, and Counseling (MHC track)**

**Proposed Changes**  
**Fall Term, 2009**

The field of counseling is an exciting career choice for individuals who wish to assist others with personal, family, educational, mental health, and career issues. According to the *2008-09 Occupational Outlook Handbook*, "Employment for counselors is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2016... Job prospects should be good due to growth and the need to replace people leaving the field" ( <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos067.htm>). Employment and position responsibilities of counselors will vary by region, area of specialization, and the setting in which they serve.

The information presented in the existing application packet is current through June 30, 2009. Program requirements, tuition, etc. are subject to change for the next academic year. The changes below have been proposed effective for the new students entering in the fall 2009. Please consult with the program office for updates on the status of these proposals.

**Mental Health Counseling Program/Counseling Program, Mental Health Counseling Track**

The program will remain a 60 credit hour program that includes a minimum of three semesters of field experience and a comprehensive examination.

The **Professional Practice\*** portion of the program includes practicum and internship that provides for the application of theory and the development of counseling skills under supervision. Students complete this portion of their training at an assigned agency or community placement. During these supervised experiences, students gain experience by counseling clients from diverse backgrounds.

Students will be required to successfully complete a minimum of hours at their respective placements. Students will need to complete at least 750 total clinical hours over a **minimum** of three consecutive semesters.

**Practicum:** requires a minimum of 150 hours with 40 hours of direct client contact (**approximately 10 hours per week**).

**Internship Experience** (minimum two semesters): each semester requires a minimum of 300 hours with 120 hours of direct client contact (**approximately 20 hours per week each term**).

Students may complete additional semesters of clinical experience to meet the required hours. Students wishing to pursue licensure should check their state requirements for clinical experience hours required prior to beginning post-master's level supervision. If hours required exceed those of the program, students may increase practicum and/or internship hours, add additional semesters of clinical experience, or complete remaining hours during employment or privately contracted supervision (if permitted).

***Continued***

### School Counseling

The degree will be a **Masters of Science in School Counseling** and consist of 48 credit hours and includes a minimum of two semesters of field experience and a comprehensive examination.

The **Professional Practice\*** portion of the program includes practicum and internship that provides for the application of theory and the development of counseling skills under supervision. Students complete this portion of their training at an assigned school. During these supervised experiences, students gain experience by counseling students from diverse backgrounds to promote the academic, career, and personal/social development of all K–12 students. Counselors-in-training also work with teachers, parents, school administrators, and community resources.

During the **practicum/internship** training experience, students will be required to successfully complete a minimum amount of hours at an assigned PreK-12 school. Assignments are made by the school districts according to their procedures. Students are expected to begin their 2-semester internship experience at the start of the districts' school year (practicum is completed the winter semester prior to the start of internship). Internship assignments cannot be completed at a school at which you are employed.

Students will complete at least 700 total clinical hours over a minimum of three consecutive semesters (practicum and internship courses cannot begin in the summer term).

**Practicum** (winter term): requires a minimum of 100 hours at a PreK-12 school setting with 40 hours of direct student contact (**approximately 10 hours per week**).

**Internship Experience** (minimum two semesters – fall/winter): each semester requires a minimum of 300 hours at a PreK-12 school setting with 120 hours of direct client contact (**approximately 20 hours per week each term**).

***\*Students entering practicum/internship training in either program may find it necessary to make special arrangements with their employer, including taking a leave of absence, to fulfill this requirement. Students will need to arrange their schedules to complete this requirement.***