COUNSELING GRADUATE MAJOR (MCOUN, PHD)

Available at OSU-Cascades and via Ecampus.

The mission of the Oregon State University graduate program in counseling is to prepare counseling professionals who promote the social, psychological and physical well-being of individuals, families, communities and organizations. We believe that such professional leaders stand for social, economic and political justice and therefore must be prepared to be proactive educators, change agents and advocates in the face of injustice. Counseling professionals are sensitive to life span developmental issues, demonstrate multicultural awareness and recognize a global perspective as integral to the preparation of counselors and counselor educators.

Two graduate degrees are offered in counseling: the Master of Counseling (MCoun) and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The Master of Counseling has two transcript-visible graduate options, Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling.

OSU’s counselor education degree programs are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The School Counseling graduate option is approved by the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC).

Major Code: 2970

Master of Counseling Degree (MCoun)

Written Exam Requirement

Graduate Learning Outcomes (GLO): See Learning Outcomes for Master’s Degree Programs (https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/faculty/program-assessment).

For students admitted to MCoun program prior to June 2017:

Students admitted to the MCoun degree program prior to June 2017 must successfully pass a written project portfolio that demonstrates mastery GLO(b) of the MCoun learning outcomes. Students will specifically address GLO(a) by describing how they have and/or how they would utilize research/evidence-based counseling practice in their clinical work. Students will address GLO(c) by describing an ethical dilemma they have faced in their clinical practice to date and include an ethical decision model when describing their ethical decision-making processes. The written project portfolio will assess the 8 CACREP areas, in which the MCoun learning outcome objectives are based. These areas include:

1. Human growth and development
2. Social and cultural foundations
3. Helping relationships
4. Group work
5. Career and lifestyle development
6. Appraisal
7. Research and program evaluation - GLO(a)
8. Professional orientation and ethics - GLO(c)

The student’s major advisor and one additional faculty member from the unit will serve as the student’s committee. A student shall receive a Pass when the grading committee unanimously grades the portfolio as a Pass. In cases where consensus is not reached (one member votes Pass and one member votes No Pass) a third faculty member will serve as a third voter. Two outcomes are then possible: the candidate has passed with one dissenting vote or the candidate has not passed (two or more negative votes). In cases where the student has not passed, the committee recommends, by majority vote, that the student’s work toward the degree be terminated. The committee recommends, by majority vote, that the student be allowed to resubmit a modified written project portfolio, but not before the end of the term in which the written project portfolio was completed. No more than two modified written project portfolios are permitted.

For students admitted to MCoun program beginning June 2017:

Students admitted to the MCoun degree program beginning June 2017 must successfully pass a nationally administered exam (i.e., Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination). The minimum passing score for the national exam is defined as one standard deviation below the national mean at the time of administration. Candidates who do not pass the national exam are allowed to take re-examination, but not before the end of the term in which the exam was administered. No more than two re-exams are permitted.

The written exam will evaluate all three Graduate Learning Outcomes (GLO). Successful completion of the national exam will evidence the candidate’s mastery of MCoun subject material GLO(b) covered in the program, assess the candidate’s ability to apply research GLO(a), and ethical GLO(c) proficiencies on the exam. The exam will assess the 8 CACREP areas, in which the MCoun learning outcome objectives are based. These areas include:

1. Human growth and development
2. Social and cultural foundations
3. Helping relationships
4. Group work
5. Career and lifestyle development
6. Appraisal
7. Research and program evaluation - GLO(a)
8. Professional orientation and ethics - GLO(c)

Admission to the Master of Counseling (MCoun) Programs

The application must be made online via the Graduate School website (http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/admissions/process). The minimal prerequisite is a bachelor’s degree. Admission is based on academic background, personal and emotional stability, commitment to diversity, and educational and professional goals. Admission is competitive, by cohort, and begins with the summer session.

Academic performance is not the sole criterion for continuation in clinical courses, such as practicum courses and internships. The university may evaluate an individual’s background to determine the likelihood that the student will maintain standards of professional conduct necessary in the discipline. An evaluation may consider current performance along with past experiences and actions that could affect a student’s ability to perform in the particular course or program.

It should also be noted that individuals who want to become school counselors and do not have a teaching license are eligible to apply for the school counselor option.

Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling

The PhD degree in Counseling is designed to prepare experienced counseling professionals to extend their roles in the counseling
profession. The doctoral program is appropriate for those whose career path is that of research and teaching in counselor preparation programs, in student development at a college or university level, or in supervisory or leadership positions in schools or agencies.

Requirements for the PhD
A minimum of 150 credits is required beyond the baccalaureate degree. The program includes thesis, internship, and the balance of credits in specialty areas, including participation in doctoral seminars. Doctoral students can meet the majority of their residency and course requirements in two years of full-time study or three years of part-time study.

Admission to the PhD Program
It is expected that individuals entering the PhD program will have completed a master’s degree in counseling that covers the nine areas of concentration required by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational programs (CACREP). The nine areas are human growth and development, social and cultural foundations, helping relationships, groups, career and lifestyle development, appraisal, research and program evaluation, professional orientation, and clinical instruction. Areas not covered in the student’s master’s program or through continuing higher education must be taken in doctoral study.

Applicants are preferred who have a minimum of two years of post-master’s experience as a counselor. Preference will be given to National Certified Counselors (NCCs), state Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs), those who have graduated with a master’s degree from a CACREP-accredited program, and those who are licensed through a school counseling licensing body, such as Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices. It is also expected that applicants will have participated in counseling as a client prior to admission to the program. Desirable, but not essential, is work in the field of education such as teaching, school administration, curriculum or instruction, and/or educationally related work in child, youth, or adult development programs.

The application must be made online via the Graduate School website (http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/admissions/process). A personal interview is a final step in the application process.

Admission is by cohort to begin each summer term.

The MCoun degree requires a minimum of 49 credits.

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