

Counseling Program Description

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Webster University instituted new degree requirements for the M.A. in Counseling in the Summer 2007 term. Students who started courses in the Summer 2007 term or later must complete the new set of degree requirements. Students who started in Spring 2, 2007, or earlier may remain under the requirements that were in effect when they began courses as long as they enroll in at least one course every six terms, or they may elect to switch to the new requirements. Whenever information for students who started in Spring 2, 2007, or earlier differs from the information for students who started in Summer 2007 or later, that information will appear in a gray box. Be sure to read the information that is relevant to you.

*The full description of this program is available at www.webster.edu/gradcatalog/counseling.html.
Relevant excerpts are provided below. Information in italics has been slightly modified.*

COUNSELING

The counseling program is designed to prepare individuals for a career in professional mental health counseling, school guidance and counseling, and community counseling. The curriculum is designed to provide students with the necessary theory and skills for working with individuals, couples, and families in a variety of mental health settings.

Program Curriculum

For students starting Spring 2, 2007, or earlier:

Emphasis in Professional Mental Health Counseling

Required Core Subject Area Courses:

- COUN 5020 Foundations of Counseling: The Helping Relationship (Requisite Course)
- COUN 5050 Human Growth and Development
- COUN 5100 Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling
- COUN 5200 Theories of Counseling
- COUN 5220 Psychodiagnostic Assessment
- COUN 5600 Techniques of Group Counseling
- COUN 5700 Lifestyle and Career Development
- COUN 5800 Professional Orientation and Ethics
- COUN 5850 Research and Evaluation
- COUN 6000 Counseling Learning Practicum (a minimum of 6 credit hours)

In addition to the required 11 core subject area courses listed above, students also complete five electives from the counseling program curriculum to support the specific area of emphasis and fulfill the 16 courses needed for the degree.

For students starting in Summer 2007 or later:

Emphasis in Professional Mental Health Counseling

The degree emphasis requires satisfactory completion of 60 credit hours of coursework.

Required Core Subject Area Courses:

- COUN 5020 Foundations of Counseling: The Helping Relationship (Requisite Course)
- COUN 5050 Human Growth and Development
- COUN 5100 Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling
- COUN 5140 Psychopharmacology
- COUN 5150 Psychopathology
- COUN 5200 Theories of Counseling
- COUN 5220 Assessment
- COUN 5230 Psychodiagnostics
- COUN 5600 Techniques of Group Counseling
- COUN 5630 Substance Abuse Counseling
- COUN 5700 Lifestyle and Career Development
- COUN 5800 Professional Orientation and Ethics
- COUN 5850 Research and Evaluation
- COUN 6000 Counseling Learning Practicum (a minimum of 3 credit hours)
- COUN 6500 Internship (minimum of 9 credit hours)

In addition to the required 17 core subject area courses listed above, students also complete three electives from the counseling program curriculum to support the specific area of emphasis and fulfill the 20 courses needed for the degree.

Emphasis in School Guidance and Counseling

The degree emphasis requires satisfactory completion of 48 credit hours of coursework.

Required Core Subject Area Courses:

- COUN 5020 Foundations of Counseling: The Helping Relationship (Requisite Course)
- COUN 5050 Human Growth and Development
- COUN 5100 Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling
- COUN 5200 Theories of Counseling
- COUN 5220 Assessment
- COUN 5600 Techniques of Group Counseling
- COUN 5680 Counseling in the School Setting
- COUN 5685 Program Development for School Counselors
- COUN 5700 Lifestyle and Career Development
- COUN 5800 Professional Orientation and Ethics
- COUN 5820 Consultation and Supervision
- COUN 5850 Research and Evaluation
- COUN 6000 Counseling Learning Practicum (a minimum of 3 hours)
- COUN 6500 Internship (a minimum of 6 hours)

In addition to the required 15 core subject area courses listed above, students complete electives from the counseling program curriculum to support the specific area of emphasis and fulfill the 16 courses needed for the degree.

Emphasis in Community Counseling

This curriculum is designed to provide students with the necessary theory and skills for working in a variety of agency and/or community counseling settings.

This degree emphasis requires satisfactory completion of 48 credit hours of coursework.

Required Core Subject Area Courses:

- COUN 5020 Foundations of Counseling: The Helping Relationship
- COUN 5050 Human Growth and Development
- COUN 5100 Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling
- COUN 5200 Theories of Counseling
- COUN 5220 Assessment
- COUN 5600 Techniques of Group Counseling
- COUN 5700 Lifestyle and Career Development
- COUN 5800 Professional Orientation and Ethics
- COUN 5850 Research and Evaluation
- COUN 6000 Counseling Learning Practicum (a minimum of 3 hours)
- COUN 6500 Internship (a minimum of 6 hours)

In addition to the required core subject area courses listed above, students complete four electives from the counseling program curriculum for a total of 48 hours.

Certain state licensure laws require specific courses in addition to the above required core subject area courses, and the student should consult with the Counseling Faculty Coordinator/Academic Advisor before selecting elective courses. Also please note that certain state licensure laws do not allow for courses to be completed through Directed Studies or electronically. The student should consult with the Counseling Faculty Coordinator/Academic Advisor regarding this option.

General Requirements

The student is subject to the policies and procedures for graduate studies and the specific requirements of the counseling program. As stated in the academic policies and procedure guidelines, the counseling program is excluded from dual major and sequential degree options. Courses in the counseling program are available only to the following: those admitted to the COUN program or those fulfilling State Licensure or Continuing Education requirements. All non-degree students must meet program prerequisites.

Transfer of graduate credit into the program must be facilitated by the Counseling Faculty Coordinator/Academic Advisor and approved by the University Counseling Director. Petitions for transfer of graduate credit must be evaluated at the time of admission. Please note that online

credit and distance learning credit are not accepted in some states for licensure. If you have questions concerning this policy, please talk to your campus Counseling Faculty Coordinator or Academic Advisor.

Course Descriptions

COUN 5020 Foundations of Counseling: The Helping Relationship (Requisite Course) (3)

This course examines the philosophic bases of counseling and the helping relationship focusing on the foundational concepts necessary for working with individuals, groups, and families. Attention is given to the development of professional identity and client relationships.

COUN 5050 Human Growth and Development (3)

The student examines the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental levels. Emphasis is placed on psychological, sociological, and physiological approaches. Included are such areas as human behavior (normal and abnormal), personality development, family relations/development, and life cycle issues.

COUN 5100 Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling (3)

This course examines the importance of understanding cultural and ethnic attributes and the dynamics these attributes have on the counseling relationship. Attention is given to gender roles, ethnic groups, subcultures, urban and rural societies, cultural mores, and differing family life patterns.

COUN 5140 Psychopharmacology (3)

This course provides an introduction to pharmacological agents that affect mental and emotional functions. Focus of the course will be on the effects and the actions of psychoactive drugs, including drugs used in the treatment of psychopathological disorders and drugs of abuse.

COUN 5150 Psychopathology (3)

This course focuses on the major psychological disorders as detailed in the current Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of Mental Disorders. The behavioral manifestations and dynamics of mental disorders will be explored, focusing on therapeutic assessment issues.

COUN 5200 Theories of Counseling (3)

This course examines the application of basic theories, principles, and techniques of counseling employed in the field of mental health. A major focus will be on the application of the theories and methods used in individual, group and family counseling.

COUN 5220 Assessment (3)

This course examines the various frameworks for assessing the functioning of individuals, groups, and families and the use of assessment in diagnosis and treatment. Attention will focus on the methods of data gathering and interpretation, individual and group testing, case study approaches, and the study of individual differences. Ethnic, cultural, and sex/gender factors are considered.

COUN 5230 Psychodiagnostics (3)

This course is designed to help students conceptualize mental disorders and to develop diagnostic strategies utilizing standard diagnostic nomenclature and treatment strategies, including choice of therapeutic models and indications/contraindications for particular kinds of therapy.

COUN 5560 Human Sexuality (3)

This course examines the theories of human sexuality including the physiological, psychological, and sociocultural variables associated with sexual identity, behavior, and disorders.

COUN 5600 Techniques of Group Counseling (3)

This course examines group theory and types of groups, as well as descriptions of group practices, methods, dynamics, and facilitative skills.

COUN 5630 Techniques of Substance Abuse Counseling (3)

This course examines the motivation and behavior patterns of the drug/alcohol user. This examination takes place in the wider context of deviance. A portion of the course is devoted to a survey and evaluation of the services and programs available to the drug/alcohol user from the point of view of the user, the user's family, and society.

COUN 5635 Techniques of Counseling Special Populations (3)

This course focuses on the application of counseling theory to working with clients from special population groups, e.g., exceptional students, dropouts, minorities, women re-entering the labor force, and older persons.

COUN 5680 Counseling in the School Setting (3)

This course examines counseling practices in relation to children and adolescents in the school setting and the role and function of the counselor as a partner in the learning process. Focus is on developmental needs and age-related issues. Special problems of physical and sexual abuse, substance abuse, suicide, and grief are examined.

COUN 5685 Program Development for School Counselors (3)

This course focuses on the design, implementation, and evaluation of comprehensive developmental school programs to include technological interventions and identifications and identification of student academic, career, and personal/social competencies.

COUN 5700 Lifestyle and Career Development (3)

This course examines such areas as vocational choice theory, the relationship between career choice and lifestyle, sources of occupational and educational information, approaches to career decision-making processes, and career development exploration techniques.

COUN 5800 Professional Orientation and Ethics (3)

This course examines goals and objectives of professional organizations, codes of ethics, legal considerations, standards of preparation, certification, licensing, role identity of counselors and other personnel services specialists, and fee structures and the impact of fees on the counseling relationship.

COUN 5820 Consultation and Supervision (3)

This course examines consultation theory and practice as employed by counselors working and supervising in mental health facilities, educational institutions, and other counseling settings. The various forms of consultation and supervision will be explored, examining the framework for consultation with other professionals, educators, parents, and administrators.

COUN 5850 Research and Evaluation (3)

This course examines such areas as statistics, research design, and development of research and demonstration proposals. It includes understanding of legislation related to the development of research, program development, and demonstration proposals, as well as the development and evaluation of program objectives.

For students starting in Spring 2, 2007, or earlier:**COUN 6000 Counseling Learning Practicum (3-12)**

Students are required to complete a practicum in conjunction with their counseling curriculum. Each student plans his or her practicum with an academic advisor before completion of 15 credit hours in the program. A formal practicum proposal must be submitted to the counseling advisor before a student can register for the practicum and the practicum should constitute the last course hours of the student's program. This is a non-paid practicum. Prerequisite: completion of all other required courses in this major. Course may be repeated for credit. The practicum is graded on the CR (credit) Option. Certain states may require more than 6 credit hours of practicum. Requires permission of instructor/academic advisor.

COUN 6500 Field Experience (3-6)

Intensive counseling experience that provides the student with the opportunity to perform a variety of counseling activities expected of a professional mental health counselor (e.g., application of diagnostic and therapeutic skills, record keeping, information and referral techniques, in-service and staff meetings). The field experience must be in an approved setting under the supervision of a licensed on-site supervisor. Students must have completed all nine (9) program core courses and both required COUN 6000 Counseling Learning Practicum before submitting an application for the internship. Course may be repeated for credit. The internship is graded on the credit/no credit grading option. Requires permission of instructor/academic advisor.

For students starting in Summer 2007 or later:**COUN 6000 Counseling Learning Practicum (3)**

Students are required to complete a practicum in conjunction with their counseling curriculum. Each student plans his or her practicum with an academic advisor before completion of 15 credit hours in the program. A formal practicum proposal must be submitted to the counseling advisor before a student can register for the practicum. This is a nonpaid practicum. Prerequisite: completion of seven (7) core courses in this major. Course may be repeated for credit. The practicum is graded on the CR (credit) Option. Requires permission of instructor/academic advisor.

COUN 6500 Internship (3-9)

Intensive counseling experience that provides the student with the opportunity to perform a variety of counseling activities expected of a professional mental health counselor (e.g., application of diagnostic and therapeutic skills, record keeping, information and referral techniques, in-service and staff meetings). The internship must be in an approved setting under the supervision of a licensed on-site supervisor. Students must have completed all nine (9) program core courses and COUN 6000 Counseling Learning Practicum before submitting an application for the internship. Course may be repeated for credit. The internship is graded on the credit/no credit grading option. Requires permission of instructor/academic advisor.