



UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS

## Department of Counseling & Human Services

### Program Information Bulletin

# Master of Arts in Counseling and Human Services

- School Counseling
- Community Counseling

Revised December 2007



## GENERAL INFORMATION

The College of Education at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, through the Department of Counseling and Human Services (CHS), offers the Master of Arts degree in Counseling and Human Services. The primary purpose of this Master of Arts degree program is to prepare professional counselors and other human services personnel who are fully qualified to work in schools, mental health agencies, private practice, universities, the military, business and industry, and other educational organizations throughout Colorado and the nation.

Two specialization tracks are available for students pursuing the Counseling and Human Services Master of Arts degree. The two tracks are School Counseling, and Community Counseling. The school and community counseling tracks are nationally accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The School Counseling track is additionally accredited by NCA and NCATE and the Colorado Department of Education.

### Personal Development

The Counseling and Human Services Program recognizes the importance of human growth and development throughout the life span. Therefore, the program includes experiential coursework that emphasizes the personal development of the student. In addition, traditional graduate courses emphasizing counseling theory and practice are included in the program.

### The Core Requirements

The Counseling “Core” is a six-course (18 semester hour) sequence beginning in the initial summer semester and lasting one full academic year (summer, fall and spring semesters). **Students admitted to the program must commit to completing these courses in sequence beginning the summer semester of their first year in the program. All students must complete a 100 clock hour practicum as part of their “Core” year and later in their program complete a 600 clock hour internship. Applicants who anticipate problems in completing the 700 clock hour clinical experience portion of the counselor training program (practicum and internship) should consider other options for their graduate study.**

### The Cohort Model

The Counseling and Human Services Program is specifically designed to meet the needs of the adult learner. All students **must begin the program in the summer semester**. Students are admitted to one of two cohort groups: a daytime cohort or an evening cohort, each of approximately 25 students. **Students must commit to taking their classes in the specific cohort group to which they are admitted. The 4:30 – 7:05 time slot may be used for both day and evening cohort classes.** Students admitted to the Counseling and Human Services Masters degree program must complete their degree within a three year time period. Counseling faculty members recommend that students complete the program of study in two years if possible. If this is not possible every effort should be made to complete the program within three years. If completing the program in three years the student defers internship until the third year.

## **Transfer Credits and Credits as an Unclassified Student**

According to Graduate School Rules, students may transfer no more than nine semester hours of **recent, approved** graduate credit or credit as unclassified students to their counseling degree program. Recent credit is defined as approved graduate coursework completed within six years of **date of graduation** from the Counseling and Human Services Program. Coursework falling outside the six year “window” may be approved if less than 8 years old and if validated by special examination. A score of 80% on the validation examination is required to transfer in any course that falls outside the six year window. Requests for course validation should be submitted to the Chair, Department of Counseling and Human Services.

All requests for transfer credits and credits for courses taken as an unclassified student must be approved by the student’s advisor, the CHS Department Chair and the Dean of the College of Education as well as the Dean of Graduate School. Students must ensure that their transfer/unclassified credit hours meet the Graduate School requirements and are approved at all levels. Students should seek approval for these courses early in their degree program. In summary, nine semester hours of faculty approved transfer/unclassified credit may be applied toward the on-campus degree program unless other arrangements are made with the CHS Department Chair.

**TRACK ONE**  
**SCHOOL COUNSELING**

The Department of Counseling and Human Services offers Master’s degree in Counseling and Human Services with an emphasis in School Counseling. The School Counselor program meets the licensure requirements of the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and is accredited by CACREP based on national standards for the preparation of school counselors. In accordance with these standards, the school counselor program requires the completion of 48 semester hours of appropriate academic credit. School counselor students will take the necessary coursework to be eligible for licensure in Colorado as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) after they complete appropriate post-masters degree supervised counseling experience and pass the state licensure examination. It is strongly recommended that school counselors seeking the LPC credential take additional course work in psychopathology and diagnosis, community counseling and complete supervised field experiences specific to community counseling.

School counselors in Colorado are licensed Professional Special Services personnel who work in school settings with students, parents, educators, and others within the community. They may be licensed as Elementary School Counselors, Secondary School Counselors or K-12 School Counselors. School Counselors design and manage comprehensive developmental guidance programs to help students acquire skills in the social, personal, educational, and career areas necessary for living in a multicultural society. School counselors accomplish this by employing such interventions as guiding and counseling students individually or in small groups, by providing information through group guidance, by contributing to the development of effective learning environments, through student advocacy and through consulting with others. Teaching experience is not a requirement for the Colorado school counselor license.

**REQUIRED CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOL COUNSELING**

\*Core Courses

***I. Foundations of School Counseling***

COUN 501	*Theories and Techniques of Individual Counseling	3
COUN 502	*Lab in Individual Counseling	3
COUN 504	Human Growth and Development	3
COUN 510	*Theories and Techniques of Group Counseling	3
COUN 511	*Lab in Group Counseling	3
COUN 512	*Practicum in Professional Counseling	3
COUN 513	*Introduction to Marriage and Family Counseling	3
COUN 541	Measurement and Appraisal	3
LEAD 570	Introduction to Research and Statistics	3
COUN 586	Social and Cultural Foundations of Professional Counseling	3

***II. The School Counselor in the School System***

COUN 533	Issues, Ethics and Trends in Professional Counseling	3
COUN 543	Career Development	3
COUN 580	Roles & Functions of the School Counselor	3
COUN 581	Organization/Administration of the School Counseling Program	3

***III. Specialized Study in School Counseling***

COUN 570	Internship in Elementary/Middle School Counseling (6 to 12 semester hours)	6
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**Total Semester Hours      48**

<p><b>TRACK TWO</b>  <b>COMMUNITY COUNSELING</b></p>
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The Community Counseling program within the Department of Counseling and Human Services is designed to prepare graduate students to assume positions in the provision of professional counseling and consultation services involving the principles of psychotherapy. Students will be prepared in the areas of human development, learning theory, group dynamics, and the etiology of mental illness and dysfunctional behavior. They will be prepared to provide professional services to individuals, couples, families and groups for the purposes of treating psychopathology and promoting optimal mental health. Promotion and enhancement of healthy, self-actualizing, and satisfying life-styles is the goal of community counseling, whether the services are rendered in an educational, military, business or industrial, health or medical, private practice or human services setting.

The Community Counselor training program is accredited by CACREP and is based on national training standards. The program is designed to meet the academic requirements for licensure as a professional counselor in Colorado (LPC) to practice psychotherapy. In addition to completing the Master’s Degree, applicants for the Professional Counselor License must complete appropriate post-master’s degree supervised experiences and pass a written examination. A rigorous 48 semester-hour training program has been developed to prepare Community Counselors for the responsibility of professional practice. Students graduating from the degree program will be able to take the National Counselor Exam on campus during their last semester in the program. The state of Colorado accepts this exam for the Licensed Professional Counselor examination. Other requirements must be met prior to being eligible to be licensed.

**REQUIRED CURRICULUM FOR COMMUNITY COUNSELING**

\*Core Courses

***I. Foundations of Community Counseling***

COUN 501	*Theories and Techniques of Individual Counseling	3
COUN 502	*Lab and Practicum in Individual Counseling	3
COUN 504	Human Growth and Development	3
COUN 510	*Theories and Techniques of Group Counseling	3
COUN 511	*Lab and Practicum in Group Counseling	3
COUN 512	*Practicum in Professional Counseling	3
COUN 513	*Introduction to Marriage and Family Counseling	3
COUN 541	Measurement and Appraisal	3
LEAD 570	Research	3

***II. Community Counselors and the Mental Health Care System***

COUN 533I	Issues, Ethics, and Trends in Professional Counseling	3
COUN 543	Career Development	3
COUN 544	Advanced Psychopathology and Diagnosis	3
COUN 586	Social and Cultural Foundations of Professional Counseling	3
COUN 592	Role and Function of the Community Counselor	3

***III. Community Counseling: Clinical Services***

COUN 572	Internship in Community Agency Counseling (6 to 12 semester hours)	6
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**Total Semester Hours      48**

DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING AND HUMAN SERVICES  
**APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

Selection of a university and graduate program of study is an important decision. Therefore, prospective students are required to meet and consult with a departmental faculty advisor as part of the application process. Schedule an appointment to discuss your career goals and special circumstances with a member of the faculty **as soon as possible** by calling 719-262-4526.

The Department of Counseling and Human Services faculty select a new class that begins the program each **summer**. Admission to the program is a **selective** process with enrollment limited to 50 qualified students. Students are selected in the spring semester for admission the following summer. Up to nine hours of approved coursework may be completed as an Unclassified Student prior to admission. Successful completion of Unclassified Student coursework does not ensure admission to the program. Consult with a faculty member about courses you wish to take as an unclassified student, as certain rules apply to these courses.

To be considered for admission to the Counseling and Human Services program, prospective students must complete the following procedures:

Application deadline is February 28

**Phase I of the Application Process**

- Carefully read this Program Information Bulletin and identify questions you have about the program.
- Obtain an application package from the College of Education and complete all required forms and procedures. **Submit your application fee of \$60.00 to start your file.** Call 262-4526 to request an application.
- Contact the Financial Aid office to determine your eligibility for aid. (Phone: 262-3460)
- Schedule an “information” appointment with a faculty member of the Counseling and Human Services program early in the process. This appointment is to answer questions you have and to clarify the procedure for admission to the program, and to determine your level of interest in and preparation for the program. Call 262-4526 to set up the appointment.
- Have two copies of **all** previous academic transcripts sent directly to the College of Education. (see below for address)

- Prepare a written “Goals Statement” to include a self-evaluation following the instructions in the application package. We are particularly interested in your level of self awareness, academic potential and your human relation skills.
- Take the Miller’s Analogies Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Have results sent to UCCS, College of Education. Contact Student Support Services in Main Hall or phone at 262-3265, to determine available test dates.
- Obtain four letters of recommendation that speak to your ability to successfully complete a graduate program in Counseling and Human Services and your ability to establish effective relationships with others. Choose your references carefully. Persons who have been in positions to supervise and/or evaluate your human relations skills are often effective references. **Do not ask** friends or others who might be biased to write a recommendation.
- Participate in a small group activity that will engage in a structured scenario. The goal of this activity is to observe and determine interpersonal relationship skills and self awareness.

**Admission is based on a combination of the following factors:**

- (1) past academic record, including GPA;
- (2) results of the MAT or GRE;
- (3) written communications skills and ability to identify important personal characteristics as measured by the career goals statement and admission interview.
- (4) oral communication and personal qualities that are important for professional counselors as determined in the admissions interview and other application activities.
- (5) experience in counseling and human services and related positions, paid or volunteer;
- (6) congruence of fit between your career goals and the objectives of the program, as determined by Goals Statement and admission interview;
- (7) letters of recommendation (evaluated for relevance and strength);
- (8) recent successful graduate course work in counseling as an unclassified student or from another institution. Maximum of 9 hours of relevant and recent (completed within six years of your projected graduation from the Counseling and Human Services program) transfer credit **may** be allowed.
- (9) performance in the structured group exercise as evaluated by program faculty. Self awareness and interpersonal skills are being observed.

Prospective students interested in applying for the Master of Arts degree in Counseling and Human Services may obtain an application package by writing to the address or calling the number listed below:

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs  
College of Education  
Department of Counseling and Human Services  
P.O. Box 7150  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80933-7150  
Phone: (719) 262-4526

**This program description brochure was prepared on the basis of the best information available at the time, however all information is subject to change without notice or obligation.**

## Tentative Course Schedule\*\*

	SUMMER I	FALL I	SPRING I
<b>CORE</b> (all tracks)	COUN 501 COUN 502	COUN510 COUN 511	COUN 513 COUN 512
<i>Foundations (all tracks)</i>	COUN 504	COUN 533	
<i>Community</i>			COUN 592
<b>School</b>		COUN 580	COUN 581
	SUMMER II	FALL II	SPRING II
<b>Foundations and Field Experience (All Tracks)</b>	COUN 586 LEAD 570	COUN 541  COUN 570 or 572 Internship*	COUN543 Comps Place NCE COUN 570 or 572 Internship*
<b>COMMUNITY</b>		COUN 544	
<b>School</b>			

\*Internship begins **ONLY IN THE FALL SEMESTER** and is designed as a two semester process. Students may not begin internship until practicum and all internship prerequisite requirements have been met.. An internship orientation must be completed before students will be allowed to enroll in internship

\*\*The University reserves the right to alter this schedule when necessary to meet program demands. Every effort will be made to assist students to complete their degree plans as scheduled.

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