Master of Science
School Counseling

Kansas State University
College of Education
Master of Science in School Counseling

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The official title of this degree that was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents is MS in Counseling and Student Development.

This program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

MISSION STATEMENT

The College of Education is dedicated to preparing educators to be knowledgeable, ethical, caring decision makers for a diverse and changing world through excellence in the:

- delivery of exemplary instruction to students at the undergraduate and graduate levels;
- production, interpretation, and dissemination of sound and useful research and scholarship;
- provision of leadership, collaboration, and service within the profession; and
- promotion, understanding, and celebration of diversity.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The master’s program in school counseling at Kansas State University prepares dynamic school counselors to be team leaders who implement comprehensive school counseling programs that are integral to the total educational program. School counselors are prepared to support students’ achievement and learning and their academic, career, and personal/social development.

The Master of Science in School Counseling is a 48-hour program and is one requirement for licensure as a school counselor. There are two options for licensure as a school counselor in the State of Kansas. One option is for individuals who have a professional teaching license; the second option, the parallel pathway, is for individuals who do not have a professional teaching license. The parallel pathway option requires additional field experiences and activities in schools over two semesters during the master’s degree program to enhance a candidate’s understanding of the school culture degree.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to graduate study is granted by the Dean of the Graduate School upon the recommendation of the faculty in the graduate program. Applicants seeking admission to this master’s degree program must submit the information noted below. Before starting the online application, gather all information and documents for all of the admission requirements so that they can be uploaded into the application system. All materials must be received before review will begin.
A. A Completed Online Graduate School Application.
Go to the Kansas State University Graduate School home page http://www.k-state.edu/grad/ and click on “Apply Now.” Follow the prompts for completing the application process.

Application Deadlines.

U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents: Applications are accepted throughout the year.

International Students: The online application, application fee, test scores, transcripts, financial documents, and all required application materials need to be submitted by the following dates:

- **January 1** for fall (August) enrollment
- **August 1** for spring (January) enrollment
- **December 1** for summer (June) enrollment

B. Graduate School Application Fee.
*Domestic Students*—A $50 application fee is required for all domestic students; *the application will not be processed without this fee.* The fee can be paid by credit card when completing the online application.

*International Students*—A $75 application fee is required; *the application will not be processed without this fee.* The fee can be paid by credit card when completing the online application.

C. Official Transcripts.
You must upload into the online application system a scanned copy (PDF preferred) of the official transcript(s) from each college or university where you received your bachelor's degree(s) and completed any post-baccalaureate course work or degrees. Transcripts become part of your records at Kansas State University and cannot be returned. Please be aware that printouts from university student portals are not considered a copy of your official transcript.

If you are admitted, you will be required to submit an official transcript for GPA and degree conferral verification from the institution(s) where you received your degree(s) and completed any post-baccalaureate credits.

Students whose transcripts are not in English must furnish a translation by an appropriate authority. Failure to list any colleges or universities attended may result in dismissal from the university.

For consideration for regular admission, applicants must have a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) in their junior and senior years of the bachelor’s program. Those with GPA’s between 2.65 and 2.99 may be considered for probationary admission if it can be demonstrated that there is potential for success in the graduate program. This potential is demonstrated, in part, on the basis of results from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT).
D. Statement of Goals and Professional Experience.
You must upload into the online application system a 1-2 page, double-spaced statement that includes the following information:

- Career and professional goals and aspirations, and how being accepted to the program will benefit the goals and aspirations;
- The reason for interest in seeking the master’s degree in school counseling;
- Evidence of motivation, leadership, and strong work ethic; and
- Professional experiences that support application.

The paper is to be well written and thoughtfully presented. For resources to help with writing the paper, see the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/.

E. Letters of Recommendation.
Three letters of recommendation are needed from college or university educators and/or colleagues or supervisors who are qualified to address your professional skills and your potential for success in the graduate program. Enter the names and email addresses of the recommenders into the appropriate area in the online application.

F. A Professional Resume or Vitae.
You must upload into the online application system a professional resume/vitae that includes previous academic degrees, past and present employment, professional activities and roles, and other pertinent information.

G. An Interview.
An interview with faculty members in this program may be requested before an admission decision is made.

H. English Language Proficiency.
To demonstrate competence in the English language, an official report of scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System - academic exam (IELTS) or Pearson Test of English (PTE) must be sent to Kansas State University for all applicants whose primary language is not English. Enter your scores in the online application and upload the report of your scores.

Learn more about English proficiency requirements at:
http://www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/application-process/international/
THE REVIEW PROCESS

These are the steps in the application and review process:

• First, the applicant completes the online graduate application. This includes paying the application fee and uploading all required documentation.
• Second, once the online application has been completed and all needed documentation has been provided, the graduate program to which the student is applying will review the application and make an admission recommendation to the Graduate School.
• Third, the Graduate School reviews the application and the recommendation from the department. The Graduate School then sends an official decision letter to the applicant.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nondegree Status. In some cases, a student may wish to take a course(s) prior to being admitted in a degree program. In these cases, a person must be admitted as a nondegree student. No more than nine credit hours earned as a nondegree student may be applied toward an advanced degree. However, successful completion of any hours taken as a nondegree student does not guarantee admission into the program. Nondegree students are not eligible for financial assistance. A faculty advisor is not assigned to nondegree students.

Financial Aid. Questions about financial assistance should be directed to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, 104 Fairchild Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506, 785-532-6420, finaid@k-state.ed. For information regarding financial aid, you may go to www.k-state.edu/sfa.

Graduate Assistantships. A limited number of graduate assistantships are available in the College of Education. Go to www.coe.ksu.edu/grad/assist.html for detailed information and application procedures. It is helpful to talk with the appropriate department chair as early as possible to learn of assistantships available in the department.

Graduate Handbook. Once admitted, students should become familiar with the Graduate Handbook at http://www.k-state.edu/grad/graduate-handbook/. This handbook includes policies and procedures about advising, the program of study, enrollment, transfer credits, the final oral/written exam, required approval forms, and other aspects of the graduate program.

Advisor and Program of Study. Once admitted to the program, an advisor is assigned. The advisor assists the student in developing the program of courses the student will take to earn the master's degree. A program of study listing the courses the student intends to take is submitted to the Graduate School before completion of nine hours (part-time students) or during the second semester (full-time students).

SCHOOL COUNSELOR LICENSURE

Initial Licensure. Students who want to apply for the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) school counselor license should contact the College of Education licensure officer Di Murphy at dim@ksu.edu or 785-532-5524. Go to the following College of Education website for licensing information: www.coe.ksu.edu/academics/graduate/endorse/counselor.html.
After completing the coursework, applicants for the initial license must also meet the following KSDE requirements:

1. Hold a currently valid Kansas professional teaching license or have successfully completed field experiences in schools over two semesters during the master’s program. In addition to the field experience, the individual seeking licensure through the parallel pathway option must complete the required activities.

2. Complete the master’s degree in school counseling with a cumulative grade point average of 3.25.

3. Complete the Praxis exam for Professional School Counselor (test number 5421 — computer version) with a score of 156 or higher. To register for the Praxis exam, go to: www.ets.org/praxis. To have your score sent to Kansas State University, enter code # 6334 when registering for the Praxis.

4. Have recent teaching experience or coursework (i.e., at least one year of teaching or 8 credit hours within the last six years).

**Provisional Licensure.** An individual with a professional teaching license may be granted a provisional counseling license if a minimum of 50% of the counseling coursework is completed and the individual has a counseling position.
Program Objectives for the
Master of Science in School Counseling

Candidates will:

1. Appreciate the history, current status, and organizational perspective of the field of professional school counseling.

2. Understand the philosophical and theoretical principles related to the process of counseling individuals with a developmental perspective.

3. Understand principles of human growth and development necessary to create and deliver a professional school counseling program that addresses the needs of all learners and clients.

4. Understand learner assessment procedures and principles and apply ethical research and evaluation methods.

5. Understand and apply strategies and processing of counseling individuals and groups to enhance their personal social, academic, and career development.

6. Demonstrate knowledge and competence in counseling culturally diverse learners and clients.

7. Understand and apply counseling and assessment practices that are ethical, fair and without bias for all learners and clients.

8. Be open to self-examination and personal and professional self-development, and be knowledgeable of and apply legal and ethical standards in decision making.
Program Requirements for the Master of Science in School Counseling

48 credit hours

A. Core Requirements (27 credit hours)
   - EDCEP 721 Mental Health in Schools
   - EDCEP 822 Principles of Guidance (online)
   - EDCEP 823 Counseling Theory
   - EDCEP 852 Career Development for School Counselors
   - EDCEP 856 Guidance in the Elementary School
   - EDCEP 857 Guidance Program Management
   - EDCEP 871 Consultation for Counselors (online)
   - EDCEP 921 Advanced Educational Psychology: Development (online)
   - EDCEP 951 Multicultural Counseling (online)

B. Research and Appraisal Requirements (9 credit hours)
   - EDCEP 715 Principles of Assessment
   - EDCEP 815 Using Tests in Counseling
   - EDCEP 816 Research Methods in Education (online or in person)

C. Clinical Requirements (12 credit hours)
   - EDCEP 858 Group Processes
   - EDCEP 877 Practicum in Counseling
   - EDCEP 887 Counseling Internship - elementary and secondary level (6 hours total over two semesters)

For EDCEP 887: The counseling internship will consist of 600 clock hours under weekly supervision of a licensed school counselor and counseling program faculty member. The student will attend class for group supervision and provide at least 240 clock hours of direct service in the school setting. Included activities are individual counseling, group work, developmental classroom lessons, and consultation. The student will earn a total of 6 credit hours of internship over two semesters. Students are required to have liability insurance coverage during the Practicum and Internship. The parallel pathway option is required for all students who do not hold a professional teaching license.

The parallel pathway licensure option requires additional school field experiences and activities over two semesters as part of the graduate program. See Dr. Judy Hughey to develop an individual plan.

A professional portfolio is developed during the program and submitted for final review during the final semester of one’s program. A master’s comprehensive written exam is completed during the final semester of one’s program. A portfolio rubric and format guidelines are provided throughout coursework and on the program webpage.
Graduate Faculty

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