

COUNSELING MS

The purpose of the Department of Counseling is to prepare a diverse student population at the master's degree level for professional service as school counselors, clinical mental health counselors, student affairs professionals, and/or for advanced study. Graduates of the program are prepared to function professionally within their area(s) of concentration.

As dedicated practitioners, reflective scholars, and responsible citizens, our graduates are prepared to fill the need for highly trained professionals. Graduates are trained to support the broad range of counseling needs of the metropolitan community including: individual, couples, family and group counseling.

Program Related Information

Program Contact

unocounadmission@unomaha.edu
402.554.2764

Program Website (<https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-education-health-and-human-sciences/counseling/>)

Other Program Related Information

- Earning a graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling or school counseling satisfies only the academic requirements for licensure and/or certification in the state of Nebraska. Students should consult the appropriate state agency/department for guidance on gaining state licensure and/or certification.
- Students should be aware that licensure and/or certification requirements often vary by state. Students interested in gaining professional licensure and/or certification outside of Nebraska should consult their intended state's licensing/certification office/department for appropriate guidelines and timelines.
- An alternative counseling endorsement is available for students in the school counseling concentration who do not hold degrees in education. This endorsement eliminates the two-year teaching requirement and includes an additional 12 credit hours. Students choosing the alternative endorsement route will complete a 48 credit school counseling curriculum instead of the 36 credit school counseling curriculum.
- Successful completion of all courses and a comprehensive exam in the student's respective concentration are requirements for graduation.
- Graduates are recommended only for positions consistent with the concentration they completed.
- Professional background checks are required by students in the clinical mental health counseling and school counseling concentrations prior to beginning any practicum experience.
- Candidates are admitted and permitted to continue programs in counseling on the basis of their potential for successful training and professional practice. Candidates are evaluated on an ongoing basis while enrolled with respect to their suitability for continuation in the program prior to taking the counseling practicum or internship courses. Specific course and grade requirements to take practicum courses are available in the Department of Counseling.
- The clinical mental health counseling concentrations are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP; 2016), the national accrediting agency for counselor education programs.

Unclassified Students

Students who have already earned a master's degree in counseling and need to enroll in additional courses for licensure should apply as unclassified students. Unclassified students are allowed to take courses

for which they meet the prerequisite. Successful completion of graduate courses as an unclassified student does not obligate the department to accept those courses for credit toward the fulfillment of degree requirements. Formal advisement in an endorsement area is required.

Admissions

General Application Requirements and Admission Criteria (<https://catalog.unomaha.edu/graduate/admission/>)

Application Deadlines

- **Clinical Mental Health Counseling**
 - Spring 2027: September 15
 - Summer 2027: February 15
 - Fall 2027: February 15
- **Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education, P-12 Counseling, and Unclassified**
 - Spring 2027: November 1
 - Summer 2027: April 1
 - Fall 2027: July 1
- Please note, applications submitted for the student affairs practice in higher education, P-12 counseling or unclassified **cannot** be changed to the clinical mental health counseling concentration.

Other Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- Three credit hours of behavioral science coursework is suggested.
- **English Language Proficiency:** Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, **OR** a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list, (<https://www.unomaha.edu/office-of-graduate-studies/admissions/entrance-exams.php>) must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.
 - Internet-based TOEFL: 80, IELTS: 6.5, PTE: 53, Duolingo: 110
- **Statement of Purpose:** 2 pages (double-spaced) addressing the following:
 - Motivation for the counseling profession
 - Describe your reasons for pursuing a career in professional counseling. Discuss the personal, academic, and/or professional experiences that have influenced your decision and how your values align with the ethical responsibilities and professional identity of a counselor.
 - Relevant experiences and interpersonal learning
 - Describe experiences that have prepared you for graduate study in counseling (e.g., helping roles, employment, volunteer work, leadership, academic experiences, or significant life experiences). Focus not only on what you did, but on what you learned about yourself, particularly in relation to interpersonal relationships, boundaries, empathy, and working with diverse individuals.
 - Self-awareness, professional dispositions, and growth
 - Counselor education requires ongoing self-reflection and personal development. Reflect on your interpersonal strengths and areas for continued growth as they relate to counseling practice. Provide examples that demonstrate your capacity for self-awareness, your ability to accurately assess your own strengths and limitations, and your openness to feedback, supervision, and personal change.
- Professional goals and program fit

- Describe your short- and long-term professional goals in counseling and how graduate training will support these goals. Explain why you are applying to the University of Nebraska at Omaha's counseling program, including how the program's mission, training model, and values align with your professional goals and your development as a counselor-in-training.
- **Resume or curriculum vitae**
- **Letters of Recommendation:**
 - Clinical Mental Health Counseling, P-12 Counseling and Unclassified require two letters of recommendation and should be from persons who can speak to the applicant's professional competence and/or academic ability.
 - Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education concentration requires no letters of recommendation.
- Group admissions interview (required for admission to the clinical mental health counseling and P-12 school counseling concentrations).

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Concentrations		
Select an area of concentration:		
	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	60
	P-12 School Counseling ¹	36
	Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education	30

¹ Alternative endorsement for school counseling students without education degrees (48 hours). Contact your advisor for more information.

Special Note

- Transfer credit is limited to nine hours except for credit earned within the University of Nebraska. Clinical Courses cannot be transferred, COUN 8030, COUN 8220, COUN 8250.
- Only nine hours completed as non-degree at UNO are permitted to count toward a UNO counseling degree. Admission to the counseling program is not guaranteed for students who complete courses as non-degree.

Exit Requirements

- Comprehensive Examination for concentration area.

Concentrations

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
COUN 8100 or TED 8010 or EDL 8010	RESEARCH IN COUNSELING INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH INTRODUCTORY RESEARCH METHODS	3
COUN 8010	INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELING	3
COUN 8110	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	3
COUN 8030	COUNSELING PRACTICES ¹	3
COUN 8040	ETHICAL ISSUES FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS	3
COUN 8200	COUNSELING THEORIES	3
COUN 8020	COUNSELING FOR WORK AND WELLNESS	3
COUN 8230	ASSESSMENT IN COUNSELING	3
COUN 8360	GROUP THEORY & TECHNIQUES	3

COUN 8400	ADVANCED THEORY AND TECHNIQUES IN COUNSELING	3
COUN 8520	MULTICULTURAL COUNSELING	3
COUN 8610	COUPLE AND FAMILY THERAPY	3
COUN 8700	CHILD AND ADOLESCENT COUNSELING	3
COUN 8920	TREATMENT PLANNING AND THE DSM	3
COUN 8280	TRAUMA AND CRISIS COUNSELING	3
COUN/SOWK 8516	CLINICAL TREATMENT ISSUES IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS	3
COUN 8220	COUNSELING PRACTICUM ¹	3
COUN 8250	INTERNSHIP: CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING ^{1,2}	6
Elective		
Select three hours with the following graduate course prefixes: COUN, CRCJ, GERO, PA, PHHB, PSYC, SOC, SOWK, or SPED		3
Total Credits		60

¹ A student must receive grades of "B" or higher in clinical practice, practicum, and internship courses. (COUN 8030, COUN 8220, and COUN 8250.)

² COUN 8250 (6 hours) will be completed over two semesters.

P-12 School Counseling Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Research Course		
COUN 8100	RESEARCH IN COUNSELING	3
TED 8010	INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH	
EDL 8010	INTRODUCTORY RESEARCH METHODS	
Concentration Courses		
COUN 8030	COUNSELING PRACTICES ¹	3
COUN 8040	ETHICAL ISSUES FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS	3
COUN 8110	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	3
COUN 8520	MULTICULTURAL COUNSELING	3
COUN 8440	TRAUMA INFORMED EDUCATION	3
COUN 8016	MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS: RISK FACTORS AND INTERVENTIONS	3
COUN 8630	FOUNDATIONS AND ISSUES IN SCHOOL COUNSELING	3
COUN 8670	CAREER DEVELOPMENT POST-SECONDARY TRANSITIONS	3
COUN 8740	SCHOOL COUNSELING GROUPS	3
COUN 8430	INTERNSHIP IN SCHOOL COUNSELING ¹	3
COUN 8460	ADVANCED INTERNSHIP IN SCHOOL COUNSELING ¹	3
Total Credits		36

¹ A student must receive grades of "B" or higher in clinical practice, practicum, and internship courses. (COUN 8030, COUN 8430, COUN 8460)

Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
COUN 8030	COUNSELING PRACTICES ¹	3
COUN 8850	THE COLLEGE STUDENT EXPERIENCE	3

COUN 8930	HISTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS	3
COUN 8940	DIVERSITY AND WELLNESS ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION	3
COUN 8950	ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND LEADERSHIP IN HIGHER EDUCATION	3
COUN 8980	DIGITAL LEARNING: POLICY, PROGRAMMING, & SYSTEMS	3
COUN 8810	LAW AND ETHICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS	3
COUN 8820	CRISIS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION	3
COUN 8830	CURRENT ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS	3
COUN 8450	COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL FIELD EXPERIENCE ¹	3
Total Credits		30

¹ A student must receive grades of "B" or higher COUN 8030 and COUN 8450

Academic Performance

Ethical Conduct: It should be understood that academic performance is not the only criterion for continuation in the program or for graduation. Candidates are expected to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct pertaining to academic course work, professional practice and research activity. Any breach in ethical conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action, regardless of the candidate's prior or current academic performance. See the "American Counseling Association Code of Ethics" for specific guidelines.