

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

DEGREES OFFERED

The Counselor Education Program at Florida A&M University offers a planned sequence of educational experiences for (a) individuals seeking a Master's of Science (M.S.) or a Masters of Education (M.Ed.) degree in Counselor Education and (b) individuals who possess a Master's degree and wish to certify in Guidance/School Counseling. The program is a 60-hour program leading to the Master's of Science or Master's of Education in Counseling: School Counseling or Clinical Mental Health Counselor. The School Counseling program prepares candidates for employment as a school counselor in elementary, middle, and high schools. Graduates of School Counseling are eligible to apply for and obtain school counseling certification upon successful completion of all components of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE). Graduates in Clinical Mental Health Counseling are board eligible to apply as a Mental Health Intern leading to full licensure through the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling.

A. SCHOOL COUNSELING SPECIALIZATION

First Year

FIRST SEMESTER (FALL)

MHS 5005	Introduction Counseling Profession
MHS 6050	Personality Theories
MHS 6420	Counseling Minority Populations

SECOND SEMESTER (SPRING)

MHS 6220	Individual Psycho-Educational Testing
MHS 5400	Methods and Techniques of Counseling
MHS 5340	Career Development Systems

****IMPORTANT: ALL school counseling students must pass F.T.C.E. General Knowledge (GK) and Professional Education (PE) prior to taking Practicum**

THIRD SEMESTER (SUMMER)

MHS 5700	Legal and Ethical Issues in Counseling
MHS 5420	Human Development and Learning
MHS 6800	Practicum in Counseling

Second Year

FOURTH SEMESTER (FALL)

EDF 5481	Intro. Educational Research
SDS 6820	Internship in School Counseling
MHS 6600	Consultation Skills
TSL 5700	ESOL

****EDA or EDF ELECTIVE**

FIFTH SEMESTER (SPRING)

SDS 6830 Internship in School Counseling
RED 5336 Reading in the Content Area
MHS 5423 Counseling Children and Adolescents Counseling
**EDA or EDF ELECTIVE

TOTAL: MINIMUM 60 CREDITS

** Candidates with Non-Teacher Education Undergraduate Degrees are required to take the following courses:

General Methods Courses (EDA) (6 credit hours)
Education Foundations (EDF) (6 credit hours)

B. CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIZATION

First Year

FIRST SEMESTER (FALL)

MHS 5005 Introduction Counseling Profession
MHS 6050 Personality Theories
MHS 6420 Counseling Minority Populations

SECOND SEMESTER (SPRING)

MHS 6220 Individual Psycho-Educational Testing
MHS 5400 Methods and Techniques of Counseling
MHS 5340 Career Development Systems

THIRD SEMESTER (SUMMER)

MHS 5420 Human Development and Learning
MHS 6800 Practicum in Counseling
MHS 5700 Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling

Second Year

FOURTH SEMESTER (FALL)

MHS 6450 Substance Abuse Counseling
MHS 6600 Consultation Skills
MHS 6466 Trauma and Crisis Counseling

FIFTH SEMESTER (SPRING)

MHS 6070 Diagnosis/Treatment Psychopathology
MHS 5500 Group Counseling
MHS 6470 Human Sexuality

[Comprehensive Exam – Required to Graduate]

SIXTH SEMESTER (SUMMER)

MHS 5620 Organization and Administration of Human Services
MHS 6830 Internship in Mental Health
MHS 6831 Family Counseling

Third Year

SEVENTH SEMESTER (FALL)

EDF 5481 Intro. Educ. Research
MHS 6831 Internship in Mental Health

TOTAL: MINIMUM 60 CREDITS

NOTE:

1. The specialization in school counseling or clinical mental health counseling is completed in approximately five to six semesters of full-time study. Due to the developmental nature of becoming a counselor, it is imperative for students to follow their academic plan and take courses in the proper sequence or recommended by advisor and program coordinator. There is no accelerated program of study.
2. Unless specified otherwise, each course is 3 semester hours.
3. Candidates may select the Master of Science Degree option. This degree requires completion of sixty-hours (60) semester hours of prescribed course work with the addition of 3-6 Thesis hours (SDS 6970 Thesis).

The curriculum for both the M.Ed. and M.S. degrees complies with the standards for state and national accrediting groups, and certification and licensure requirements. The Counselor Education Program is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and fully approved by the Florida Department of Education, and the Florida Board of Governors. In addition, the program seeks to adhere to all of the standards mandated by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP 2016 Standards).

Proposed coursework and Internship setting must be approved by the candidate's advisor and by the faculty member supervising the internship, respectively. All internships must be applied for during the first month of the semester prior to the semester in which the internship is to be done.

THESIS

Candidates in the graduate program in Counselor Education must complete sixty (60) semester hours of graduate credit to obtain the educational requirements for certification in school counseling. If a student elects the M.Ed. degree, he/she completes the required hours in course work. If a student elects the M.S. degree, he/she completes a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours of school guidance course work along with a maximum of six (6) hours for a thesis.

A research project or thesis is designed to:

1. Study an individual or group of individuals in depth relating to counseling theory and/or development.
2. Discover and/or define a problem in the counseling field, and construct and test hypotheses concerning the problem. The problem may be descriptive or inferential in nature.

A graduate candidate who plans to complete a thesis will be assigned a major professor from the program area by the second semester of enrollment by the department chair. This professor must have graduate faculty status

(approval from the University Graduate Council). One other graduate faculty member must come from the College of Education, and one graduate faculty member must come from outside the College of Education. The graduate committee form is completed with the signatures of the committee members; this form is submitted to the Department Chair, the Dean of the College of Education and then to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

The candidate works closely with the committee members to develop the thesis topic and the prospectus. The prospectus must be signed by all committee members, the Department Chair, the Dean of the College of Education and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. After the prospectus is completed, the graduate student expands it into the full thesis. The major professor with the written approval of the Department Chair sends an announcement to the faculty, the Dean of the College of Education, and the Dean the Graduate School that a defense will be held on a designated date and place. When the graduate student successfully defends the thesis, the thesis committee members sign the thesis. The thesis is then forwarded to the Program Coordinator and Department Chair for his or her initial signature and then submitted to the Dean of the College of Education and the Dean of the Graduate School for signatures. A minimum of eight (8) copies are bound with one copy for the major professor, committee members and the Department Chair, Dean of the College of Education, the Graduate School, the University Reference Library, and the graduate student. The official documentation format for theses in the Counselor Education Program is the APA format latest edition.