**MA School Counseling 2011-2012 Catalog Year**

The Counseling program offers an M.A. in School Counseling. Students in the School Counseling program take coursework in the areas of human development, legal and ethical issues of the profession, career development, appraisal methods, counseling theories, group-work, practicum and research, and program evaluation. Additional specialized courses focusing on school counseling are offered in areas such as internship, special populations, consultation, and professional development.

Students are engaged in field-based activities during almost every enrollment. Students without prior training as teachers who wish to become certified school counseling professionals must complete additional courses in classroom management, curriculum and instruction, and reading.

**Program Admission Requirements**

* A four year undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
* Any one of the following:
  1. a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale for the last 60 semester hours attempted accruing to the undergraduate degree; or
  2. a combined score of 1000 or higher on the quantitative and verbal sections of the GRE exam; or
  3. a 400 or higher on the MAT; or
  4. a graduate degree from a regionally accredited institution.   
       
     Note: All applicants must submit GPA and graduate admission (GRE or MAT) test scores regardless of which of the above criteria are met for admissions. Some programs may have additional admissions criteria (refer to program information). Students may be required to take specific undergraduate course(s) if they do not have the necessary prerequisites for the graduate level course or program.
* Submission of three favorable recommendations from professionals in the field.
* Students who are entering an initial education certification program without prior teacher certification or eligibility or those who are adding a teaching certification area from an approved program must also have passed all subsections of the FTCE General Knowledge Test for admission. Applicants may substitute a score of 1000 or higher on the GRE for the admission score requirement.
* As students entering a Florida-approved initial certification program, School Counseling applicants must adhere to state regulations for admittance. Those students seeking admittance to the initial certification program must have passed the General Knowledge section of the Florida Teachers Certification Exam (FTCE) unless they present passing scores for all subsets of the CLAS taken prior to July 1, 2002. (Applicants may substitute a score of 1000 or higher on the GRE for the General Knowledge section of the FTCE for admission purposes.) However, all students must show evidence of passing all subsections of the FTCE, including General Knowledge, Professional Educator Examination and the Guidance and Counseling Subject Area Exam prior to graduation.
* Performance in courses taken post baccalaureate will be taken into consideration for admission to the School Counseling Program.
* Submission of a written statement of career goals.
* Participation in a personal interview, if requested by admissions committee.
* Counseling Criminal Record Policy Statement:  All applicants are advised that in order to complete the program they must complete internships.  Most internship facilities do background checks and will not  permit the placement of counselor interns with criminal records.  The department reserves the right to deny program admission to any applicant if it appears that applicant is unlikely to be able to complete the internship requirement due to a criminal record, thus inhibiting their ability to complete the program.

**Program Requirements**

The M.A. program is designed for individuals without prior teaching certification who wish to become school counselors. This initial certification program includes additional coursework and begins in the fall semester.

* **Required courses:**
  + MHS 6010  Introduction to School Counseling (3)
  + MHS 6051  Human Development for School Counselors (3)
  + MHS 6200  Appraisal Procedures in Schools (3)
  + MHS 6340  Career Development (3)
  + MHS 6400 Counseling Theory for School Counselors (3)
  + MHS 6401 Advanced School Counseling Methods (3)
  + MHS 6500 Group Work for School Professionals (3)
  + MHS 6601 Consultation & Collaboration Problem Solving (3)
  + MHS 6605 Special Needs Counseling & Consultation (3)
  + MHS 6700  Legal & Ethical Issues in the Counseling Profession (3)
  + MHS 6710  Research & Program Evaluation (3)
  + MHS 6720  Seminar in Professional Development and Supervision (1)
  + MHS 6800  Practicum in Counseling (3)
  + MHS 6805  Advanced Practicum in Counseling (3)
  + MHS 6831  Internship I (2)
  + MHS 6832  Internship II (3)
  + SDS  6830  Internship in School Counseling (3)

In addition to the above required courses, the following must be completed (usually taken in the fall semester but under advisement a student may elect to take two courses in fall and the remaining course in another semester):

* EDF 6259  Classroom Mgmt & Organization (3)
* EDG 4620  Curriculum and Instruction (3)
* RED 5147 Developmental Reading (3)

Note: Requires 15 hours of field observation in a school setting during the day.

**TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS REQUIRED:   57 HRS**

**Additional Graduation Requirements**

* Students must satisfactorily complete the minimum number of credit hours specified by the graduate degree program.
* A grade of B or higher must be earned in all School Counseling Program graduate courses used as prerequisites and each core courses.
* Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher in all work attempted.
* A cumulative GPA of 3.0 for all coursework in program.
* Students must complete and pass a culminating demonstration of learning and competence at the end of the program. These may include comprehensive examinations, portfolios, special practicum projects, or research projects. (Students seeking certification must fully demonstrate Educator Accomplished Practices.)
* Students seeking certification by graduating from a state approved program must show evidence of passing all FTCE exam components as required by the state of Florida. These may include the Professional Education examination (taken by all applicants applying for an initial teaching certificate, a subject area examination (taken by all applicants in their subject area specialty: Guidance and Counseling Subject Area Exam prior to graduation), and the General Knowledge Test (if they do not already have Florida certification or if they have not already passed all subsections of the CLAST prior to July 1, 2002.) (See individual program requirements and/or advisors for information.)

**Transfer Notes and Acceptable Substitutes**

The College of Education limits the transfer of coursework into its graduate programs to a maximum of 12 credits or three courses. To be considered, courses must have been completed with a minimum grade of B and no more than seven years prior to the date of entry into the graduate program and no more than ten years prior to graduation from the graduate program.