

# MO STATE COUNSELING FAQ

Most commonly asked questions all answered right here!



**Q: When can I start the program?**

**A:** We accept students into the program for a Fall start date and for a Spring start date. However, Fall is considered the primary path.

**Q: What does it mean when it says that I will be joining a cohort?**

**A:** You will follow a general schedule set for the group of students that enter with you during the semester in which you enter the program. For example, if you begin our program Fall 2021, you will be a part of the Fall 2021 cohort, and all students entering during that semester will follow the same set schedule of classes each semester (with few exceptions) through completion of the program.

**Q: How long is this program?**

**A:** Our program is a 60-credit hour, CACREP-accredited program. For students who enroll in the program as a full-time student and follow the cohort model, it will take 2.5 years, summers included. If completing the program as a part-time student, completion times may vary, depending on the number of courses that you decide to complete each semester. However, you should plan for at least 4 years in the program, summers included.

**Q: What instructional modalities does the MSU Counseling Program use to deliver courses?**

**A:** The MSU Counseling Program classes are offered in a variety of modalities appropriate to the specific course. Some courses are in person, some are offered through a virtual course delivery such as Zoom, and a few are delivered in an asynchronous online format. Be sure to check the course schedule closely each semester to determine how your specific classes are delivered. No counseling degrees are offered 100% online at this time.

**STILL HAVE  
QUESTIONS?**

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Contact Lisa Monkres,  
application coordinator, by  
emailing  
[LMonkres@missouristate.edu](mailto:LMonkres@missouristate.edu)

**Q: Do I need to complete the GRE/MAT to be admitted into the program?**

**A:** We are currently waiving the GRE/MAT requirement for the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 semester start dates. Therefore, you do NOT have to take the GRE/MAT so long as your GPA meets the minimum requirement of 2.75 or higher.

**Q: What are the admission requirements for the Counseling Program?**

- A:**
1. Completed Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
  2. Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or higher, or 3.00 for the last 60 hours of course work
  3. Completed Application for Graduate Admissions
  4. Official MAT or GRE test score reports (no cutoff scores) - currently waived for Spring 2021 start date
  5. Three letters of reference
  6. One official copy of transcript(s) showing your bachelor's degree and any course work taken since then (transcripts must include the last 60 hours of credit)

**Q: If I choose to apply for and pursue the school counseling track, will I still be eligible for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)?**

**A:** Yes. All students, whether school or clinical mental health counseling track, are eligible to take the National Counselor Examination (NCE) towards the end of the program. Upon passing the NCE, you will be eligible to apply for your Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor (PLPC) through the MO Committee for Professional Counselors Board. This is the first step you must take in obtaining your LPC in Missouri.

**Q: If I choose to apply for and pursue the clinical mental health counseling (CMHC) track, will I still be eligible for certification as a school counselor?**

**A:** No. The MO Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) requires that to satisfy internship for a certification level, K-8 or 7-12, that the internship be in that school level setting. Good news! We do offer a School Counseling Graduate Certificate that you can ADD on to your CMHC master's degree if you wish to do BOTH CMHC and School Counseling.

**Q: What is the School Counseling Graduate Certificate?**

**A:** This graduate certificate is for those who already possess a master's degree in Counseling or a related field (mental health counseling, Counseling Psychology, and Clinical Psychology) that would like to add on certification in school counseling. A student can choose to add on certification in elementary school counseling (K-8) or secondary school counseling (7-12) or BOTH. This certificate consists of approximately 17 credit hours, give or take a few. Please see the [School Counseling Graduate Certificate Program of Study](#) sample and contact the program for the courses required for this certificate as this varies case by case.

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**Q: Will it take me longer to complete the program if I add on the school counseling graduate certificate to my master's degree in CMHC?**

**A:** It depends on if you plan to pursue certification in one or both areas (elementary and secondary) of school counseling. If you plan to pursue BOTH elementary and secondary certification, then it will likely add one semester to your program, as you will be required to complete an internship in an elementary school setting and a secondary school setting IN ADDITION TO at least one internship in a CMH setting for your CMHC master's degree program. If you only choose to pursue one area of school counseling certification (either elementary or secondary) with the graduate certificate, then you could replace one of your two required CMHC internships with the internship needed in the school setting of the area of your choosing (elementary or secondary) and thus make it possible to still graduate on time.

**Q: Do I have to be a certified teacher in order to be accepted into the school counseling program?**

**A:** No. In Missouri, you do have to be a certified teacher in order to be eligible for certification as a school counselor. However, if you enter our program and are NOT a MO certified teacher, you will be required to complete, in addition to your 60-credit hour counseling curriculum, three educational courses (9-credit hours) that will allow you to apply for teacher certification. You will be able to work these additional three courses into your counseling program sequence of courses without prolonging your time in the program. Note: This only applies to those who are seeking school counselor certification, whether through our master's in school counseling program or through our school counseling graduate certificate.

**Q: What exams must we pass for this program?**

**A:** In order to successfully complete the program, you must pass a comprehensive exam, often referred to as Comps. You are given 3 chances to pass this exam in order to exit the program. We encourage all of our students to take the NCE, the National Counselor Exam. Students must pass this exam in order to be eligible for your LPC. This exam will also be taken towards the end of your program. Upon successful completion of your master's program, those seeking school counselor certification (whether for elementary, secondary or BOTH) MUST take the Missouri Content Assessment (MOCA) in the area of school counseling.

**Q: How do I earn the Play Therapy Graduate Certificate?**

**A:** You can easily add the play therapy graduate certificate on to your master's degree program by first applying to the program and then ensuring that you complete the following required courses (9-credit hours)

COU 708: Play Therapy and Child Counseling Techniques

COU 757: Group Counseling through Play

COU 765 or 799: Completion of a seminar paper or thesis on a play therapy topic

Please note that if pursuing the play therapy graduate certificate as a non-degree seeking student (meaning you are not currently enrolled in any of our other programs), the Association for Play Therapy (APT) requires that, in order to be eligible for licensure as a Registered Play Therapist (RPT) or a School-Based Registered Play Therapist (SB-RPT), one must hold a current, active and unconditional clinical mental health license in one of the following fields: counseling (including school), marriage and family therapy, psychiatry, psychology, or social work that allows for independent practice. Therefore, if you do not have one of these licenses, successful completion of our play therapy graduate certificate will still not allow for you to pursue certification as an RPT or SB-RPT. However, this graduate certificate will show on your transcript and count as courses taken in play therapy education.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE  
VISIT THE COUNSELING MASTERS  
WEBSITE BY CLICKING HERE**