MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.), MAJOR IN PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

Major Program
The master of arts (M.A.) with a major in professional counseling consists of three specializations:

• community counseling,
• marital, couple and family counseling, and
• school counseling.

These three areas of specialization in the professional counseling major have required course sequences that build skills through three levels, from basic to advanced, via didactic and experiential activities. The curriculum includes core foundations in theories, interventions, assessment, and research. In addition, core tenets that are emphasized throughout the program include diversity, ethics, professional development, and self-awareness. There is a strong emphasis on experiential learning integrated with the application of didactic, research-based knowledge. Internship is required as the capstone experience. The specializations in community counseling, marital, couple, and family counseling; and school counseling are nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Programs (CACREP).

Admission Policy
For information regarding admission application requirements and deadlines, please visit The Graduate College website at http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/coun.html.

Degree Requirements
The master of arts (M.A.) with a major in professional counseling consists of three specializations. Two specializations with a minimum of 61 semester hours are community counseling and marital, couple, and family counseling. Both areas of specialization meet academic requirements for the Texas Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) credential. The marital, couple, and family counseling specialization also meets academic requirements for the Texas Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) credential. A third area of specialization is a 55-hour program in school counseling. A grade of “B” or better must be earned in all course work counting toward a professional counseling degree.

Course Work Requirements
Professional Counseling Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundational Course Work</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUN 5305 Assessment in Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 5307 Theories of Counseling and Personality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 5316 Counseling Diverse Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 5350 Professional Orientation and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 5355 Career Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUN 5368 Developmental Issues in Counseling Children, Adolescents, and Adults</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>COUN 5391 Research Methods</td>
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Intermediate Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Counseling Specialization (Non-thesis)</th>
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<tr>
<td>COUN 5301 Community-based Counseling</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 5367 Marital and Family Counseling: Current Theories</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Advisor Approved Electives (Choose 6 hours)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Requirement (Choose 1 class)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUN 5366 Intermediate Methods in Adult Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUN 5370 Intermediate Methods in Counseling Adolescents</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUN 5373 Intermediate Methods in Play Therapy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 5389 Site-Based Internship (Taken twice)</td>
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<td>Thesis Courses (Choose a minimum 6 hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUN 5199B Thesis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 5372 Assessment and Treatment in Marriage and Family Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUN 5360 Intermediate Methods in Marital, Couple and Family Counseling</td>
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<td>COUN 5389 Site-Based Internship (Taken twice)</td>
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<td>COUN 5689 Clinical Practicum</td>
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<td>COUN 5351 Current Issues in Marriage, Couple and Family Therapy</td>
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COUN 5199B Thesis  
COUN 5299B Thesis  
COUN 5399A Thesis  
COUN 5399B Thesis  
COUN 5599B Thesis  
COUN 5999B Thesis

Total Hours: 33

School Counseling Specialization (Non-thesis)

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Total Hours: 21

If a student elects to follow the thesis option for the degree, a committee to direct the written thesis will be established. The thesis must demonstrate the student's capability for research and independent thought. Preparation of the thesis must be in conformity with the Graduate College Guide to Preparing and Submitting a Thesis or Dissertation. The thesis handbook may be accessed at http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/docs/Thesis_Diss_Guide.pdf.

Thesis Proposal

The student must submit an official Master's Thesis Proposal form to their thesis committee. The required thesis proposal form may be obtained from The Graduate College at http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/gcforms.html. After signing the form and obtaining committee members' signatures, graduate advisor's signature (if required by the program), and the department chair's signature, the student must submit the thesis proposal form with one copy of the proposal attached to the dean of The Graduate College for approval before proceeding with research on the thesis. If the thesis research involves human subjects, the student must obtain exemption or approval from the Texas State Institutional Review Board prior to submitting the proposal form to The Graduate College. If the thesis research involves vertebrate animals, the proposal form must include the Texas State IACUC approval code. It is recommended the thesis proposal form be submitted to the dean of The Graduate College by the end of the student's enrollment in 5399A.

Thesis Committee

The thesis committee must be composed of a minimum of three approved graduate faculty members.

Thesis Enrollment and Credit

The completion of a minimum of six hours of thesis enrollment is required. Enrollment for the thesis will be in course number 5399A for a student's initial thesis enrollment and a thesis B course for each subsequent thesis enrollment in the field in which the subject matter of the thesis falls, e.g., ENG 5399A, ENG 5199B, ENG 5299B, ENG 5399B, ENG 5599B, and ENG 5999B. Preliminary discussions regarding the selection of a topic and assignment to a research supervisor will not require enrollment for the thesis course.

A student will be required to enroll in and pay the fee for at least one hour of the thesis course during any term in which the student will receive thesis supervision or guidance and/or in which the student is using university resources. Failure to register for the thesis course during a term in which supervision is received may result in postponement of graduation. After initial enrollment in 5399A, the student will continue to enroll in a thesis B course as long as it takes to complete the thesis. In the rare case when a student has not previously enrolled in thesis and plans to work on and complete the thesis in one term, the student will enroll in both 5399A and 5399B. The only grades assigned for thesis courses are PR (progress), CR (credit), W (withdraw), and F (failing). If acceptable progress is not being made in a thesis course, the instructor may issue a grade of F. If the student is making acceptable progress, a grade of PR is assigned until the thesis is completed. The minimum number of hours of thesis credit ("CR") will be awarded only after the thesis is filed in the Alkek Library and the librarian has electronically returned the thesis card to the office of The Graduate College.

A student who has selected the thesis option must be registered for the thesis course during the term or Summer I (during summer the thesis course runs ten weeks for both sessions) in which the degree will be conferred.

Fee Reduction

A master's degree candidate for graduation may be eligible for a one-time fee reduction under V.T.C.A. Education Code, Section 54.054. Please refer to the section titled Fee Reduction in the Additional Fees and Expenses chapter of this catalog for more information.

Thesis Deadlines and Approval Process

Thesis deadlines are posted at the following web page: http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Thes-Diss_Info/T-D_Deadlines.html. The completed thesis must be submitted to the chair of the thesis committee no later than 41 days before the date of the commencement at which the degree is to be conferred.

The following must be submitted to the office of The Graduate College no later than 24 days, not counting weekends or holidays, before the date of commencement at which the degree is to be conferred (see The Graduate College webpage for specific deadlines):

1. The Thesis/Dissertation Committee Approval form bearing original signatures of the student and all committee members.
2. One (1) copy of the thesis in final form, approved by all committee members, on standard paper (Hard-copy Submission Option) or PDF of the thesis in final form, approved by all committee members,
Courses Offered

Counseling (COUN)

COUN 5158. Group Counseling Pre-Practicum.
This course is an experiential study of group dynamics, processes, and applications. Group stages, tasks and skills of group members and leaders, and the importance of developing an understanding of the therapeutic value of group, are covered. This course involves role-played participation in a group designed to closely resemble a real-life group experience. Students will participate as co-leader as well during the semester. Graded on a credit (CR), no credit (F) basis. Corequisite: COUN 5358.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Group Counseling Pre-Practicum

COUN 5178. Independent Study.
Individual problems or research topics designed to place emphasis on selected areas of study. May be repeated twice for additional credit at the discretion of the department chair.
about Independent Study
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Independent Study

COUN 5199B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.
about Thesis
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Thesis

COUN 5299B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.
about Thesis
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Thesis

COUN 5301. Community-based Counseling.
Community-based Counseling is presented as a basis for counselors who intend on working in community counseling agencies. This course includes theoretical and applied information based on a variety of settings, as well as a variety of intervention strategies, presented via didactic and experiential coursework.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Community-based Counseling

COUN 5305. Assessment in Counseling.
Problems and principles of administration, scoring and interpreting group and individually administered tests; utilization of test data for diagnostic, placement, predictive, and evaluative purposes; elementary statistical procedures; laboratory activities in test administration, scoring, and interpretation.

about Assessment in Counseling
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Assessment in Counseling

COUN 5307. Theories of Counseling and Personality.
This course surveys systematically derived theories of counseling and personality from their origins in social discourse, philosophy, and psychology to the present time. Each theorist is presented biographically and the theory considered with regard to its clinical, cultural, and ethical relevance and application to diverse populations. Prerequisite: COUN 5350 preferred.

about Theories of Counseling and Personality
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Theories of Counseling and Personality

COUN 5316. Counseling Diverse Populations.
This seminar is designed to sensitize students to the roles societal power disparities, therapist's racial identity and awareness, and client racial/cultural identity play in counseling persons of diverse backgrounds. The dynamics of counseling clients who are African-American, Asian-American, female, gay/lesbian, Latino/a, Native-American, and persons with disabilities, will be examined.

about Counseling Diverse Populations
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Counseling Diverse Populations

COUN 5328. Introduction to School Counseling: Leadership, Advocacy, and Accountability.
Orientation to identity and role of professional school counselors, and introduction to the study of comprehensive developmental guidance programs. Course reflects the Texas and ASCA Models with related standards. Topics include: program planning, implementation, and evaluation; use of data and accountability; leadership role; and ethical and legal practices in schools.

about Introduction to School Counseling: Leadership, Advocacy, and Accountability
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Introduction to School Counseling: Leadership, Advocacy, and Accountability
COUN 5338. Advanced Issues in School Counseling: Counseling, Consultation, and Coordination of Services.
Course covers advanced topics in counseling children and adolescents in schools. Emphasis will be placed on developmentally appropriate preventative and responsive counseling services. Consultation and collaboration with parents, school personnel, and community partners, as well as contextual issues in school counseling, will be addressed. Prerequisites: COUN 5328, COUN 5316, COUN 5368.
about Advanced Issues in School Counseling: Counseling, Consultation, and Coordination of Services
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Multi.Content & Perspective|Multicultural Content
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Advanced Issues in School Counseling: Counseling, Consultation, and Coordination of Services

COUN 5340. Loss and Grief Recovery Counseling.
An in-depth study of loss and its aftermath, grief. Emphasis is given to the counseling literature, loss and grief in the arts, personal loss experience, and particular counseling interventions. about Loss and Grief Recovery Counseling
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Loss and Grief Recovery Counseling

COUN 5344. Substance Abuse and Counseling: An Introduction.
This course focuses on chemical dependency across counseling settings, including school, agency, and private practice. This course includes theoretical and applied information on causative factors, assessment, and treatment strategies across a variety of settings and populations via didactic and experimental coursework. about Substance Abuse and Counseling: An Introduction
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Substance Abuse and Counseling: An Introduction

COUN 5345. Psychodrama Methods.
The course is both didactic and experimental. It provides a history of therapeutic drama beginning with the Greek theater of Dionysus. The work of J.L. Moreno is presented and the basic tenets of the theory studied. Students then engage in creating, producing, and acting out actual psychodramatic productions. about Psychodrama Methods
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Psychodrama Methods

COUN 5346. Filial Therapy.
Theoretical and practical application of the filial model will be addressed as well as techniques in training parents in the overall principles and methodology of child-centered play therapy. Graded on a credit (CR), no credit (F) basis. Corequisite: COUN 5689 or COUN 5389 or permission of instructor. about Filial Therapy
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Filial Therapy

COUN 5350. Professional Orientation and Ethics.
An introduction to the counseling profession as practiced in a variety of clinical and human service settings. Emphasis is placed on the philosophical and psychological foundations of mental health counseling, personal/professional traits and skills of effective counselors, professional ethics, licensure, credentialing and professional regulation, and contemporary professional issues. about Professional Orientation and Ethics
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Professional Orientation and Ethics

COUN 5351. Current Issues in Marriage, Couple and Family Therapy.
This course provides students with information regarding special issues in marital, couple and family counseling, including: grief and loss; domestic violence; substance abuse in the family; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues; divorce; and re-parenting. Prerequisite: COUN 5367.
about Current Issues in Marriage, Couple and Family Therapy
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Current Issues in Marriage, Couple and Family Therapy

COUN 5354. Basic Techniques in Counseling.
This course is designed to introduce the student to basic counseling skills via role-play and videotape. The course also provides a general model of effective counseling, including basic communication skills and theory techniques. Prerequisite: COUN 5350 or COUN 5328.
about Basic Techniques in Counseling
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Basic Techniques in Counseling

COUN 5355. Career Counseling.
Career choice and development are considered as critical aspects of persons in material cultures where occupation is a major component of one’s identity. Career concerns often addressed in counseling are presented and discussed along with the area of vocational guidance, occupational information and preference inventories. about Career Counseling
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Career Counseling

COUN 5358. Dynamics & Processes in Group Counseling.
An intensive laboratory experience requiring highly active student participation in the form of honest, direct, and open communication combined with authentic self-exploration within the group setting. Through participation and required reading, students will gain firsthand familiarity with the basic principles of the dynamics that are characteristic of therapeutic groups. Prerequisites: COUN 5354 and COUN 5307. Corequisite: COUN 5158.
about Dynamics & Processes in Group Counseling
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Dynamics & Processes in Group Counseling
COUN 5359. Abnormal Human Behavior.
The principles of understanding dysfunction in human behavior and systemic organization. This course includes diagnostic, preventive, and remedial methods and interventions. Prerequisite: COUN 5307.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Abnormal Human Behavior

COUN 5360. Intermediate Methods in Marital, Couple and Family Counseling.
Marital, couple, and family theory and techniques are discussed, selected, applied, and refined through lecture and supervised clinical practice. Specific skills include joining, diagnosis, goal formulation, treatment planning, termination, referral, and record keeping. Graded on a credit (CR), no credit (F) basis. Prerequisites: COUN 5354, COUN 5359, COUN 5367, and COUN 5369.
about Intermediate Methods in Marital, Couple and Family Counseling
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Intermediate Methods in Marital, Couple and Family Counseling

Provides experience in supervising practicum or intern students and integrating the theoretical foundations and current issues of professional supervision. Emphasis includes ethical, multicultural, gender, age, and lifestyle concerns in supervisory relationships, and academic requirements for supervisory status for Texas Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Specialist in School Psychology credentials. Course can be repeated once for credit. Graded on a credit (CR), no credit (F) basis.
about Practicum in Professional Supervision: Theories and Applications
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Practicum in Professional Supervision: Theories and Applications

Counseling theories and techniques are discussed, selected, applied and refined through lecture and supervised practice. Specific skills include initiating the helping relationship process, diagnosis, goal formulation, treatment planning, termination, referral, and record keeping. Graded on a credit (CR), no credit (F) basis. Prerequisites: COUN 5354 and COUN 5359.
about Intermediate Methods in Adult Counseling
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Intermediate Methods in Adult Counseling

COUN 5367. Marital and Family Counseling: Current Theories.
This course is designed to examine the principles of communication and the goals of marital, couple and family counseling. Selected theories, approaches and techniques used in marital, couple and family counseling will be examined.
about Marital and Family Counseling: Current Theories
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Marital and Family Counseling: Current Theories

COUN 5368. Developmental Issues in Counseling Children, Adolescents, and Adults.
Emphasis will be on understanding the interactions between the developmental needs of each of these age groups and counseling techniques and procedures used to deliver mental health services to each of these groups.
about Developmental Issues in Counseling Children, Adolescents, and Adults
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Developmental Issues in Counseling Children, Adolescents, and Adults

COUN 5369. Child and Adolescent Counseling Methods.
Course focus is an overview of counseling interventions with children and adolescents in agency, school, and private practice. Group, individual, and systems techniques will be covered. Assessment of child psychopathology and techniques for consulting with parents will be included. Prerequisites: COUN 5354 and COUN 5368.
about Child and Adolescent Counseling Methods
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Child and Adolescent Counseling Methods

This course will provide an overview of the physical, social, psychological, and behavioral characteristics of the adolescent. This course has a supervised practice experience. Emphasis will be placed on counseling interventions utilizing current research. Prerequisites: COUN 5359 and COUN 5369.
about Intermediate Methods in Counseling Adolescents
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Intermediate Methods in Counseling Adolescents

COUN 5372. Assessment and Treatment in Marriage and Family Counseling.
This course addresses the assessment of individual, couple, and family functioning and the planning and implementation of marital, couple and family treatment methods. Prerequisite: COUN 5367.
about Assessment and Treatment in Marriage and Family Counseling
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Assessment and Treatment in Marriage and Family Counseling

COUN 5373. Intermediate Methods in Play Therapy.
This course explores the philosophical basis for play therapy, the history of play therapy, theoretical applications, techniques, stages, ethical issues, and application to a variety of populations and diagnostic categories. Graded on a credit (CR), no credit (F) basis. Prerequisites: COUN 5369 and COUN 5359.
about Intermediate Methods in Play Therapy
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Intermediate Methods in Play Therapy
COUN 5378. Problems in Counseling.
Individual problems not related to thesis. Designed to place emphasis on selected areas of study. May be repeated once for additional credit at the discretion of the department chair.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COUN 5381. Sandtray Therapy Methods.
This course provides students with the philosophical basis for sandtray therapy as a therapeutic intervention for children and families, including a review of its history, applications, techniques, stages, and ethical issues. Didactic and experiential methods are used. Prerequisite: COUN 5369. Corequisite: COUN 5389 or COUN 5689 or permission of instructor.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COUN 5389. Site-Based Internship.
An on-site practicum-internship occurring in a school or agency setting with supervision by on-site and university supervisors. May be repeated based on the recommendation of the counseling faculty. Graded on a credit (CR), no credit (F) basis. Prerequisites: COUN 5689, recommendation of COUN 5689 supervisor, and consent of COUN 5389 supervisors.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

COUN 5391. Research Methods.
Research, measurement, and design procedures for addressing issues in school psychology, counseling, and education. A research project is required of each student.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COUN 5399A. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s initial thesis enrollment. No thesis credit is awarded until student has completed the thesis in COUN 5399B. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no credit (F) basis.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

COUN 5399B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no credit (F) basis.

5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit