The School Counseling Program is a master’s degree ranging from 50-56 semester-hours for teacher-certified individuals to 53-58 semester-hours for individuals not possessing a valid Michigan teaching certificate. The program provides competencies and proficiencies for entry-level positions as professional school counselors in elementary, middle/junior high, and high school settings. Upon completing the graduate program of study, teacher-certified students are eligible to apply for the school counselor endorsement on their valid Michigan teaching certificates and students without a valid Michigan teaching certificate are eligible to apply for K-12 school counselor licensure issued by the Michigan Department of Education. Candidates selected for this program are expected to make a major commitment to their graduate training and to enroll in coursework on a regular basis. The program includes a 600 clock-hour supervised counseling internship experience.

The School Counseling Program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), a specialized accrediting body which evaluates and grants accreditation to graduate-level programs in professional counseling. The program also meets the academic and internship requirements for limited licensure as a professional counselor (LLPC) in the State of Michigan. Information on full licensure as a professional counselor is available in the Student Handbook for Counseling Programs.

**Admission Requirements**

For admission an applicant must:

1. Complete the Graduate School Application online at emich.edu/graduate/apply/.
2. **ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE.**
3. Have earned a valid undergraduate degree from an accredited four-year institution of higher education. Official transcripts must be submitted. Official electronic transcripts can be sent to transcripts_admissions@emich.edu.
4. International students must meet the language requirements of the Graduate School.
5. Evidence of academic aptitude for graduate-level study, that includes **at least one** of the following:
   a. A 2.75 overall undergraduate GPA, or a 3.0 GPA in the second half of the undergraduate degree program.
   b. A graduate GPA of a 3.3 on a previously completed advanced degree.
   c. GRE scores that may not be more than five years old. The student must score at 50th percentile or above to be accepted.

6. Students without a valid Michigan teaching certificate **may** also be required to meet the following additional criteria:
   a. Experience: Three to five years of documented work experience, the majority of which involves working with school-aged (K-12) children or adolescents. This experience may consist of paid, professional roles or structured volunteer experiences in organized work settings and should represent the equivalent of at least 2 years of full-time work. The experience should be focused on improving the mental health, behavior, academic success or social skills of the children. Activities such as parenting, babysitting and day care do not qualify.
   b. Previous Coursework: Nine semester hours of undergraduate social science coursework, including coursework specific to foundations of education. If this coursework has not been completed prior to admission to the COUN program, students are required to complete it within the first 12 hours of the COUN program.

7. Personal Statement: A statement focusing on the applicant’s motivation and rationale for seeking admission to the school counseling program as well as his or her background and goals related to professional studies.

8. Résumé: A focused summary of program-relevant educational, career and/or life experiences. The resume should also document all paid or unpaid work experience with school-aged youth.

9. Three recommendations: These must be completed on rating forms available from the department office or website. They should be completed by professionals with knowledge of the applicant’s suitability for graduate work (e.g., supervisors, undergraduate professors).

**Admission Process**

Applications for Graduate Admission are processed in rolling admissions for candidates to begin their program of study in the Fall or Winter. Candidates who choose to begin taking courses in the Summer sessions should be aware that they may not have access to the recommended sequence of courses.

1. The Office of Admissions will receive and gather ALL required documents online. Contact the Office of Admissions via:
   - Email: documents_admissions@emich.edu
   - Phone: 734.487.3400

2. Each applicant will receive a rating on the following criteria: academic potential; the quality and extensiveness of career/life/educational experiences relevant to the field of school counseling; professional goals/objectives; and recommendations. Based on these ratings, applicants may move to the second phase of the process.

3. Applicants admitted to the second phase of the admission process will be invited to campus to participate in a personal interview. They will also receive information about programs of study, faculty expectations, and related topics such as professional counselor licensure. Applicants may be asked to submit additional materials at this time. Based on evaluation of all materials and the interviews, admissions decisions will be made. Denied applicants who wish to reapply may do so after a consultation with the coordinator of advising to understand the basis of their denial.

4. The admissions appeal procedure provides each applicant with the opportunity to formally appeal the admissions decision. Appeals must be based on an applicant’s perception that his/her due process rights were violated during the admissions process. The procedure is not intended for applicants who do not meet
minimum standards for admission as outlined above. Appeal must begin within five working days of the start of the semester following the admissions decision. Applicants wishing to appeal must contact the Coordinator of Advising to obtain written information regarding the appeal procedure.

5. Program advisors will be assigned after students have been admitted to the School Counseling Program. The advisor will assist the student in developing the program of graduate study that is required for full admission to the school counseling program. Students must meet with their advisor to develop a formal program of study before the completion of 12 credits toward their degree.

All courses and subsequent changes must be approved by the advisor. Transfer credit can be used toward graduation only if it has been reviewed and accepted by the student’s advisor and is within Graduate School guidelines. The master’s degree program must be completed within a six-year period.

Proposed Program of Study

The following outline describes the general program requirements leading to the master’s degree in school counseling.

Basic Counseling Core (required - 33 hours)
COUN 503 Dynamics of Life Development (3)
COUN 504 Counseling Research (3)
COUN 505 Counselor Development: Basic Skills (3)
COUN 508 Theories of Counseling (3)
COUN 515 Crisis Intervention (3)
COUN 520 Assessment in Counseling (3)
COUN 530 Career Development and Info Services (3)
COUN 540 Group Process I (3)
COUN 571 Cross-cultural Counseling (3)
COUN 580 Counselor Devl: Counseling Process (3)
COUN 622 Diagnosis &Trtmnt Planning in Counsel (3)

Specialization Area (required - 9-14 hours)
COUN 652 School Counseling (3)
COUN 651 Counseling with Children (3)
COUN 670 Postsecondary Planning for Schl Coun (3)
COUN 689 Field-Based Experience (2)
COUN 693 Ethical, Legal&Prof Iss Schl Counseling (3)

Supervised Counseling Experiences (8 hours)
COUN 686 Counseling Practicum I (4)
COUN 691 The Counseling Internship (4)

Cognate Course (3 hours)
SPGN 510 Intro to Inclusive Ed&Disability Studies (3)
(or equivalent)

Elective Courses (0-4 hours)
In consultation with their advisors, students may select elective courses to enhance their professional growth. Courses may be selected from this list or selected from other COUN courses that meet this objective.

COUN 575 Substance Abuse Counseling I (2)
COUN 590-592 Special Topics (1-3)
COUN 671 Advanced Multicultural Counseling (3)

Exam Requirement

To be eligible for graduation with a master’s degree in counseling, the student must successfully complete the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE). To be eligible for a school counseling credential from the Michigan Department of Education, the candidate must also pass the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) Test 51: School Counselor.

Coordinator of Advising Information
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Additional Department Information
Additional information can be found on the department website.
11/2016