

New Program Proposal

Career Counseling, Graduate Certificate

The Career Counseling Graduate Certificate is for individuals and students who want to add an additional focus of career counseling to their academic credentials. The goals of the Graduate Certificate in Career Counseling are: (a) to provide an academic program to help counselors, career development professionals, and students increase their competency in supporting the career development of all their clients across various settings; (b) to provide a curriculum focused on helping counselors, career development professionals, and students apply knowledge and skill to practice in the areas of career assessment, career decision making, career counseling with PK-16 students and adults; (c) increase career development professionals' awareness of social justice issues and their impact on career development.

The Career Counseling Certificate may be pursued as a stand-alone credential or in conjunction with another mental health or related program (such as Master's in Education, Master's in Adult & Higher Education, Master's in Social Work, Ed.D. or the Ph.D. in Education, or Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology). With advance planning, all 12 credits may be applied to the Master's of Education in School or Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree at UMSL. Completion of the Career Counseling Certificate, however, does not guarantee acceptance into any other degree program (separate application required for admission).

The counseling degree coordinator will act as the program director for this graduate certificate.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the general graduate admission requirements of the Graduate School, described in the UMSL catalog. Students are considered for admission to the graduate certificate in Career Counseling only after they have formally applied for admission through the Graduate School. Applications may be completed online.

In addition, to Graduate School admission requirements, the following requirements apply to the Career Counseling Graduate Certificate program:

Current “good standing” (non-probation) in an UMSL graduate mental health practitioner training program (counseling, social work, or psychology)

Or

All of the following criteria must be met:

1. Undergraduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 or better;
2. Enrollment in a graduate mental health practitioner or related training program or earned Master’s degree in mental health field (or related);
3. Two letters of recommendation with at least one from a current or former college-level instructor (or someone with a graduate degree who can attest to the applicant’s capacity to complete graduate-level work);
4. Two-page personal statement explaining the applicant's personal and professional goals.

Certificate Requirements

Core

CNS ED 6400	Career Information and Development	3
CNS ED 6410	Advanced Career and Leadership Development	3
CNS ED 6630	Career Development in K-12 Schools	3

Electives **3**

CNS ED 6220	Counseling Individuals with Disabilities	
CNS ED 6820	Counseling Women Toward Empowerment	
CNS ED 6830	Counseling African American Clients	
CNS ED 6840	Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity in Counseling	

CNS ED 6850	Social Class and Poverty Issues in Counseling
CNS ED 6870	Counseling and Cultural Competence in a Global Society
CNS ED 7000	Advanced Theories and Practice of Counseling

Other CNS ED 6800-level courses as offered

Total Hours **12**

Justification for request:

The UMSL counseling program is qualified to establish a graduate certificate program in career counseling due to the established history and commitment equipping school and clinical mental health counselors with the knowledge, skills, and competencies to support clients’ career development. Additionally, with the recent STL 2030 Jobs Plan dedicated to boosting economic growth, increasing the number of quality, living-wage jobs, there is a need for more career development professionals who can contribute to the increase in the number of quality workers, especially quality Black workers. The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook (2020) projects career counseling will have a faster than average job outlook in the next decade due to expected employment growth of workers. Furthermore, as people seek to re-enter the workforce after experiencing job loss due to COVID-19, counselors with competency in providing career counseling can better support clients in their reentry process by integrating their support of clients’ mental and vocational health.

This certificate program will not require additional resources. Existing faculty members provide the needed expertise for this program, and the required courses are regularly scheduled.