

## New Program Proposal

# School Counseling, Post-Master's Graduate Certificate

This graduate certificate is designed for students who want to become professional school counselors and have already earned a Master's degree in another counseling specialty. The goals of the Post-Graduate Certificate in School Counseling are: (a) to provide an academic program to help counselors increase their competency to design, implement, and assess comprehensive school counseling programs in K-12 settings and (b) to provide an academic pathway for counselors to pursue state school counseling certification.

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

## Admission Requirements

Requirements for admission to the Post-Graduate School Counseling Certificate program include:

1. Cumulative GPA (undergraduate and graduate) of 2.75 or better on 4.0 scale and graduate GPA of 3.0 or better;
2. Successful completion of a Master's degree in Counseling (e.g., Clinical Mental Health Counseling; Community Counseling; Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling; Career Counseling) from an accredited university with a minimum of 48 semester credit hours completed;
3. Two letters of recommendation with at least one from a current or former college-level instructor or counseling supervisor who has observed their clinical work;
4. Supplemental application with coursework review;
5. Two-page personal statement explaining the applicant's personal and professional goals.
6. Video role play of counseling skills with mock-client.

## Certificate Requirements

Certificate students should have completed the following courses or their equivalencies from their previous counseling graduate program:

- Theories of Counseling
- Helping Relationship Skills
- Ethical and Professional Issues in Counseling
- Foundations for Multicultural Counseling
- Group Procedures in Counseling
- Career Information and Development
- Assessment and Testing
- Psychopathology or Diagnosis
- Lifespan Development
- Education Research Methods

If any of these courses were not completed, the required course will need to be completed as part of the post-graduate certificate plan of study.

Fifteen semester credit hours of graduate course work are required for the graduate certificate. Twelve of these semester credit hours must consist of the core courses. A minimum of three additional hours are to be chosen from the list of electives. All courses must be completed at UMSL.

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<b>CORE</b>		
CNS ED 6200	Foundations of School Counseling	3
CNS ED 6680	School Counseling in the Classroom	3
CNS ED 6280	School Counseling Field Experience <sup>1</sup>	3
SPEC ED 6412	Psychology of Exceptional Children	3

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or ED PSY 6532	Psychoeducational Differences	
<b>Electives</b>		
Choose three hours from the list of courses:		3
CNS ED 6280	School Counseling Field Experience	
CNS ED 6600	Theories and Techniques of Counseling Children and Adolescents	
CNS ED 6615	Introduction to Play Therapy	
CNS ED 6630	Career Development in K-12 Schools	
CNS ED 6730	Counseling for Loss, Crisis, and Trauma	
CNS ED 6730	Counseling for Loss, Crisis, and Trauma	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

<sup>1</sup> A 300 hour internship must be accomplished in a K-12 school site. Course-embedded Department of Elementary and Secondary Education performance assessment occurs in CNS ED 6280. Students who wish to pursue both elementary and secondary school counseling certification in Missouri will need to complete 600 hours of field experience with placements at different school levels. These students must complete another 3 credits of School Counseling Field Experience as their elective.

Beyond completion of graduate course requirements, students will need to pass the Missouri Content Assessment (MoCA) in School Counseling and apply to the state department of education before they can be recommended by the university for elementary or secondary school counseling certification.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

Department	Contact Person	Phone #	Objections
S003350	Nancy Singer		No
S007050	Michael Griffin		No

Rationale

UMSL is qualified to establish a post-graduate certificate program in school counseling due to the established accredited school counseling program at the institution. UMSL has the region's only school counseling program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Also, there is no other institution in the region or UM System that offers a post-graduate school counseling certificate program for students who have completed a master's in another counseling specialty. UMSL's school counseling program has a history of allowing students to enroll as non-degree seeking students as described in this certificate proposal; however, there has not been a formal program admission process or graduate certificate earned. This certificate program creates an organized pathway to navigate post-master's school counselor certification. There is also an advantage to those seeking jobs as school counselors to have a certificate recorded on their student transcript. The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook (2020) projects school counseling will have a faster than average job outlook in the next decade due to increasing school enrollments. There is a current proposal in the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) 6 Standards and Indicators to reduce the minimum school counselor:student ratio in Missouri to 1:250, which would create a need for many more school counselors in the state. Whether this passes or not, there is an emphasis in the state to increase the number of school counselors. 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.