PhD in Counselor Education

The PhD in Counselor Education Program is intended to enable qualifying master’s level counselors to extend their career opportunities. It is designed to facilitate the developing of requisite competencies for careers in academic and professional service settings. Coursework and research requirements prepare graduates to seek faculty positions in graduate-level counselor education programs and as educators, researchers, supervisors, and consultants in government, education, and community agency/school settings. The program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

Students generally enter the PhD program having earned a master’s degree in counseling, developed their counseling skills, and attained licensure as a professional counselor. Those students without the prerequisite training work with their advisors to cover any gaps in preparation. The PhD program prepares students to demonstrate proficiency in research, counseling theory and practice, teaching, supervision, consultation, leadership, advocacy, and diversity studies beyond the requirements of master’s level counselors. Doctoral students work toward articulating a theory of professional counseling; engaging in counseling supervision, teaching, and consultation; and developing an understanding of the variety of social-ecological factors that advance individuals’ mental health adjustment. The PhD program prepares students as counselor educators. It is not a psychology program and does not prepare students for licensure as a psychologist.

The Counselor Education Mission Statement (CACREP Section 1.N)

The Counselor Education Program prepares students to address the counseling and human development needs of a pluralistic society. The program recruits and retains students who reflect the broad range of diversity found in New Mexico. Students graduate with knowledge and skills in core competency areas that include professional identity, social and cultural foundations, human growth and development, career development, helping relationships, group work, assessment, and research and program evaluation.

The Counselor Education Program features an integration of theory, research, practice, and interdisciplinary collaboration. It is intended to prepare counselors who are informed; who will be sensitive to the diversity and uniqueness of individuals, families, and communities; and who will value and promote the dignity, potential, and well-being of all people. The program prepares professional school and clinical mental health counselors (master’s level) and counselor educators (PhD level) to respond to a world with challenging and pressing social problems.

Faculty members are committed to integrating teaching, scholarship, research, clinical practice, and service, while promoting a climate of social justice, systemic change, and advocacy. The faculty’s goal is to infuse multicultural and diversity training in all aspects of academic and clinical coursework in order to prepare multiculturally competent counselors and counselor educators. From the beginning of the graduate course of study, classroom education is combined with real-world integration and experiences. These experiences provide the opportunity for students to work in and with various educational settings and community agencies.

The Counselor Education Aspirations (CACREP Section 1.N)

Consistent with the goals and vision of UNM and the College of Education, the Counselor Education Program is committed to promoting excellence and diversity in teaching, scholarship, and community service. Faculty and students work to promote an understanding of human development and psychological health that will improve and foster optimal potential for individuals, families, and our communities.

The program features an integration of theory, research, and practice along with interdisciplinary collaboration that is intended to prepare counselors who are informed; who will be sensitive to the diversity and uniqueness of individuals, families, and communities; and who will value and promote the dignity, potential, and well-being of
all people.
Matriculation Requirements

Students generally enter the PhD program having earned a master’s degree in counseling, developed their counseling skills, and attained licensure as a professional counselor. The basic UNM requirements for domestic applicants follow. Applicants who do not qualify as “domestic applicants” should consult the OGS website https://grad.unm.edu/prospective-students/admissions-criteria.html for additional requirements.

1. Must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or its equivalent in another country.

2. Must hold a master’s degree in counseling from an accredited college or university in the United States or its equivalent in another country. The master’s degree in counseling should be from a CACREP-accredited masters program. Students without a CACREP-accredited masters degree need the following coursework and experiences in their graduate training.
   - Professional counseling orientation and ethical practice
   - Social and cultural diversity
   - Human growth and development
   - Career development
   - Counseling and helping relationships
   - Group counseling and group work
   - Assessment and testing
   - Research and evaluation
   - Practica and/or internships in counseling totaling to a minimum of 280 direct hours and 420 indirect hours.
   - Course work in one of the following: Clinical mental health counseling, school counseling, addictions counseling, career counseling, clinical rehabilitation counseling, college counseling and student affairs, marriage/couple/family counseling, rehabilitation counseling.

3. Generally, applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) or its equivalent in their last two undergraduate years and in their major field.

4. Must indicate all academic institutions they have previously attended on their applications.

5. Failure to disclose any previous college attendance or any other misrepresentation of the record may result in disciplinary action, including revocation of admission to the University.

Application and Admission Procedure

To apply to the PhD Program in Counselor Education Program start by calling (505) 277-4535 or emailing ifce@unm.edu if you have questions. The program website, http://coe.unm.edu/departments-programs/ifce/counselor-education/phd.html, includes the program information sheet and application instructions. Please carefully follow the instructions stated on our website for all required documentation that is submitted through the UNM Online Application System/Office of Admissions at http://grad.unm.edu/prospective-students/admissions-criteria.html. You will also need to submit an official transcript from every university or institution of higher learning that you have attended. Transcripts can take up to a month to be sent from your prior universities; be sure to request them as soon as possible. Applications without transcripts are incomplete and not reviewed. There is a nonrefundable application fee. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and reviewed monthly by program faculty.

How Your Application Is Evaluated

The department support staff under the auspices of the program’s admissions coordinator (faculty member chosen by faculty vote) assembles all complete applications. The admissions coordinator then informs program faculty that the applicants’ admissions folders are ready for initial review and screening by faculty.
Each faculty member reviews all applications and using the PhD application evaluation form provides a numerical rating of 1–5 on the following criteria:

1. Masters in counseling, preferably from a CACREP program.
2. Scholarship—both previous GPA and Graduate Record Examination scores (academic aptitude for doctoral program)
3. Relevant academic background (program fit and academic aptitude for doctoral program). Meeting the criteria delineated above (Matriculation requirements item 2).
4. Relevant work experience (program fit and relevant professional experience)
5. Letters of reference (aptitude for doctoral program, fit with the profession, communication skills, potential for scholarship and teaching, emotional stability, motivation, self-awareness)
6. Personal statement (program fit, fit with the profession, career goals, written communication skills)
7. Multicultural competence (diversity experience)
8. Writing ability as demonstrated in a writing sample (written communication skills)

The admissions coordinator collects the ratings from faculty members, tabulates the total score for each applicant and presents these data to the faculty.

There is no established quantitative cut-off for initial screening scores. Applicants whose scores are significantly lower than other applicants are eliminated from further consideration. Such applicants are not deemed strong enough and would likely have difficulty succeeding in the program.

A date is set for invited applicants to interview with faculty. Applicants must attend an in-person interview or participate in a telephone/video-conference call held the same day to be considered for admission. Faculty members interview each applicant individually. Applicants are typically asked to expand on their submitted application materials regarding their strengths and weaknesses, relevant professional experience, and motivation for seeking a doctoral degree in counselor education.

Following interviews, each applicant is discussed by faculty and qualitatively assessed on the following additional criteria:

1. Eligibility as a licensed counselor in the state of New Mexico
2. Cultural sensitivity and awareness
3. Self-awareness and emotional stability
4. Compatibility of the applicant’s professional aspirations with the program’s mission and goals as a preparation program for those seeking a career as a counselor educator
5. Fit with the counseling profession
6. Oral communication skills
7. Research, scholarship, advocacy, and leadership potential
8. Compatibility of the applicant’s professional and research interests with the program faculty’s expertise
9. Program faculty willingness to sponsor an applicant and serve as mentor

Following discussion of application materials and the interview, faculty members vote on applicants who will be offered admission. A faculty member must agree to serve as an applicant’s mentor for the applicant to be admitted.

**The Counselor Education PhD Program of Studies**

The program of studies features several areas in which professional expertise must be attained. These are counseling theory and practice, supervision, teaching, diversity/multicultural issues, research and scholarship, advocacy/leadership, ethical and legal issues, consultation, clinical experience, and a supporting area of study. A total of 97 credit hours are required to successfully complete the PhD degree. The Counselor Education Program will accept up to 36 hours of graduate transfer credit to be applied to the PhD.
PhD Degree

Master’s Program Credits (15 credits matching CACREP curriculum required masters curriculum)

Courses

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

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Theories (3 credits required)

COUN 621: Advanced Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy

Supervision (3 credits required)

COUN 626: Supervision of Counseling Services

Instructional Theory and Methods in Counselor Education (3 credits required)

COUN 625: Teaching in Counselor Education

Multicultural and Diversity Studies (3 credits required)

COUN 636 Advanced Multicultural Counseling

Assessment Methods and Use of Data (3 credits required)

EDPY 572: Classroom Assessment
EDPY 574: Introduction to Educational and Psychological Measurement
EDPY 515: Survey and Questionnaire Design and Analysis
Or other courses with program faculty approval

Ethical and Legal Issues in Counselor Education and Supervision (3 credits required)

COUN 615: Leadership, Advocacy, and Professional Issues

Consultation and Evaluation (3 credits required)

COUN 646: Consultation, Program Evaluation, and Research in Counselor Education

Clinical Experiences (15 credits required)

COUN 650: Advanced Group Counseling and Psychotherapy
COUN 630: Advanced Practicum in Counseling (clinical)
COUN 696: Internship (9 credits)
Supporting Area (24 credits required)
The 24-credit supporting area consists of 12 credits outside of the Counselor Education Program plus 12 credits of research classes (as defined below). Non-Counselor Education Program credits are typically taken in areas such as Educational Administration, Educational Psychology, Family and Child Studies, Health Education, Management, Psychology, Public Administration, Public Health, Training and Learning Technologies, or Sociology. Note: Some programs are very specific about the course work required for a supporting area in their discipline. Alternatively, students may combine courses from more than one discipline for the supporting area with their advisor’s approval.

Research courses
EDPY 603: Applied Statistical Design and Analysis (required)
EDPY 604: Multiple Regression Techniques as Applied to Education (required)
LLSS 502: Introduction to Qualitative Research (required)

At least one additional quantitative or qualitative research course
EDPY 607: Structural Equation Modeling
EDPY 651: Advanced Seminar in Quantitative Educational Research
LEAD 605: Qualitative Research in Education
LLSS 605: Advanced Qualitative Research Methods
LLSS 623: Ethnographic Research
Or other courses with program faculty approval

Dissertation Seminar (1 credit required)
EDPY 650: Dissertation Seminar
LLSS 650: Dissertation Seminar
Or other courses with program faculty approval

Dissertation (18 credits required)
COUN 699: Dissertation

Additional Program Electives (to reach minimum 97 credits total)
COUN 576: Diagnosis of Mental Disorders
COUN 541: Counseling Children and Adolescents
COUN 560: Family Counseling
COUN 561: Sexuality in Counseling and Psychotherapy
COUN 516: Crisis, Disaster, and Trauma Counseling
COUN 577: Substance Use and Abuse
Or other courses with program faculty approval

Note: Any substitution to courses listed must be approved by faculty prior to being used to fulfill a program requirement. To request a substitution, a petition must be submitted. A course may be used to fulfill more than one requirement as long as the student’s program of studies meets the 97-credit minimum requirement.

To learn more about the UNM’s College of Education and Counselor Education Program, please visit coe.unm.edu.

Disclaimer: The Counselor Education Program complies with UNM admissions policies and Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) guidelines and dates. Admission to the MA or PhD programs in no way guarantees traverse, practicum, and/or internship placement; licensure; or employment. Additionally, finger printing and background checks may be required.

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