Master of Science in Counseling Psychology

M.S. Degree Program

The master's program in counseling psychology prepares individuals aspiring to work as counselors or in counseling-related fields or those hoping to proceed on into doctoral training. The curriculum provides a broad and general introduction to Counseling Psychology theory, research, and clinical practice. For the Master of Science in counseling psychology degree, students earn a concentration in mental health counseling.

Graduate Admission to the School of Education

Graduate programs in education are open to students with acceptable baccalaureate and graduate degrees whose academic records indicate that they can do successful work at the graduate level. Regular admission requires a grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Individual departments may require additional information and may have more stringent admission and retention requirements.

Some departments may offer special provisional admission categories to students who may not qualify under traditional admission criteria. Departments that offer provisional admission require a grade-point average of at least 2.5. Applicants must provide evidence of ability to work successfully at the graduate level, including experience in and commitment to the profession. Exceptions to established policies must be sought individually by petition to the Graduate Division of the School of Education.

See Admission in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog for more information.

Each department in the School of Education sets its own application deadlines. Prospective graduate students should contact their departments for more information.

Graduate Admission

Prerequisites for Regular Admission

Prerequisites include the following:

- Undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Graduate grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Graduate Record Examination general test scores
- Completed bachelor's or master's degree in counseling, psychology, or a related area. (An applicant who does not have an undergraduate degree in education or psychology should have a minimum of 14 undergraduate credit hours in the behavioral sciences.)

At the first enrollment, a doctoral student reviews any previous graduate work with an advisor to identify any course work in which the student is deficient. Students holding master's degrees in other areas should recognize that such course work may require up to a year to complete and, in some instances, must be taken before the actual doctoral course requirements.

See individual programs for specific admission requirements and deadlines.

Submit your graduate application online (http://www.graduate.ku.edu). Send 1 copy of all original transcripts to the department:

The University of Kansas
Department of Educational Psychology
Joseph R. Pearson Hall
1122 W. Campus Road, Room 621
Lawrence, KS 66045-3101

Admission Requirements

The admission deadline is December 15 to begin course work in the following summer or fall.

Required Admission Materials

1. Graduate application (http://www.graduate.ku.edu) and application fee. See Admission in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.
2. 1 copy of official transcripts of all previous college work, sent directly to the Graduate Application Processing Center (http://www.graduate.ku.edu). The original transcript is forwarded to the School of Education to complete licensing and/or certification paperwork.
3. GRE (general test) scores: Institution code, R6871; Department code, 2005.
4. Letter of intent.
5. Résumé.
6. 3 letters of recommendation from people who can assess the applicant’s prospects for completing the program.

M.S. Degree Requirements

The mental health concentration requires about 60 credit hours of course work. Individuals wishing to become licensed professional counselors in Kansas need to meet additional requirements, described online (http://www.ksbsrb.org). You also may wish to consult the American Counseling Association's website (http://www.counseling.org) for additional information. Besides a core of work in counseling psychology (including counseling theory, career development, interviewing, assessment, group counseling, professional issues, and practicum), work is required in developmental psychology, research, and diagnosis and psychopathology. All students complete either a thesis, a research project, or a comprehensive examination. After entering the program, students should meet with an advisor to plan a schedule for completing degree requirements. Students in the Kansas City area may take a few courses at the KU Edwards Campus (http://edwardscampus.ku.edu) in Overland Park.