

University of Missouri-Kansas City, School of Education Educational Specialist Degree in Counseling and Guidance

Program Information

The Educational Specialist degree in Counseling and Guidance is a post-master's program designed for experienced counselors who desire to improve, update or add another area to their professional expertise. The program is designed with flexibility to support the preparation of licensed professional counselors and certified school counselors.

Program Description

All students pursuing the Educational Specialist degree in Counseling and Guidance complete a minimum of 26 hours of required coursework (because of certification requirements, students may be required to complete additional courses). In addition to the core courses (1F credits), students will complete 9 or more hours depending on the emphasis area and certification and/or licensure requirements. The curriculum is individually designed with an emphasis on so each candidate meets his/her specific needs and professional objectives.

The program has two emphasis areas. In addition to 1F required courses in counseling theory (3), counseling supervision (6), and practica/internship (6), students can choose either a general mental health focus (see Option A below) or can become certified as school counselors (Option B).

OPTION A – General Mental Health

Individuals participating in this emphasis area would select from several courses that prepare practitioners for a broad range of clinical settings. Students choosing this emphasis area can select any combination of courses in couples and family counseling, gerontological counseling, and substance abuse counseling. As a result of selecting this emphasis area, students can develop further knowledge and skills in their work as professional mental health specialists. The course work, which includes a minimum of 9 hours beyond the required 1F credit core, would be somewhat flexible so students could enhance their professional expertise by selecting courses that best meet their needs.

OPTION B – School Counseling

Individuals with a counseling/counseling psychology degree and who are interested in seeking state certification as a school counselor at the K-8, 7-12, or K-12 level, would take an organized set of courses which would follow the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and UMKC guidelines. These courses include an introduction to school counseling and the guidance curriculum, education of the exceptional child, classroom management, and courses on psychological development. In addition, there is a required practicum and internship in a school setting.

UMKC requires 20 (seven courses) credits for provisional certification. These courses are Foundations of Elementary and Secondary Guidance, School Guidance Programs, Career Development, Counseling Theories, Counseling Methods, Practicum, and Child/Adolescent/Lifespan Development. A contract with a school district is also required.

Admission

Admission to the Education Specialist degree in counseling and guidance requires a master's degree in counseling. Students are required to have a 48-credit master's degree that includes several core areas. If applicants do not meet these requirements, they may still be considered for admission but will be required to take additional coursework to meet the credit-hour and/or course content requirements. The core areas are listed on the EdS Degree Equivalence Checklist.

Applications are accepted and reviewed on an on-going basis. Completed applications may take up to eight weeks to process. All materials must be submitted before applicants are considered for admission. Application materials must be submitted to two separate offices on campus: (1) the UMKC Admissions Office, AND (2) the Ed.S. Counseling and Guidance Admissions Committee, Division of Counseling and Educational Psychology.

University of Missouri – Kansas City, School of Education
Educational Specialist Degree in Counseling and Guidance

I. MATERIALS TO BE SENT TO THE UMKC ADMISSIONS OFFICE:

Please return the following materials to the UMKC Admissions Office:

**University of Missouri – Kansas City
Office of Admissions
120 Administrative Center
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499**

1. **UMKC Application for Admission** (Admission to UMKC does not guarantee admission to this program)

<http://www.umkc.edu/admissions/>

2. **Application Fee: \$35.00**

3. Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions.

A Master's Degree in Counseling from an accredited institution is required. An overall graduate grade point average of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale is required for regular-criteria applicants. A grade of B or better is required for courses in theories and methods of counseling and in counseling practicum.

4. **Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores**

A minimum Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score of 900 (Verbal + Quantitative) or a GRE Verbal score of 450 or better; and minimum Analytic writing score of 4.0, obtained within the last 5 years is required for consideration under regular admission criteria. The GRE requirement can be waived if the applicant is a graduate of master degree program equivalent to the UMKC Master's degree in Counseling and Guidance (at least 48 credit hrs) with a graduate GPA of 3.5 or better. If you do not have an official report of your performance on the GRE, you can make arrangements to take the test at the Counseling, Health, and Testing Center, 4825 Troost Avenue, (816) 235-1635, or at almost any university counseling center.

II. MATERIALS TO BE SENT TO DIVISION OF COUNSELING AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY OFFICE:

Please return the Division of Counseling and Educational Psychology materials to:

**University of Missouri – Kansas City
ATTN: Ed.S. Counseling and Guidance Admissions Committee
215 Education Building
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499**

1. Cover Sheet for the Educational Specialist Degree in Counseling and Guidance Program (attached)

2. Three letters of recommendation

- *Raters should address your suitability for professional studies in counseling.*
- *Raters should have knowledge of your interpersonal and intellectual functioning and skills in research, counseling, and written and oral communication.*
- *Raters should enclose their letters of recommendation along with the provided rating sheet in an envelope and sign their names across the back of the envelope.*
- *All letters should be collected by the applicant and returned with all other application materials.*
- *Raters should be professional references. This excludes friends and family members.*

3. Personal statement

- *Submit a concise 2-3 page statement concerning your professional goals.*
- *Include your professional and applied interests/experiences.*

Additional requirements may apply for international students

University of Missouri – Kansas City, School of Education
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APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Contact Information:

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
(Last, First, MI)

Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

UMKC Student Number (if applicable): _____

Educational Information:

Undergraduate Major area of study: _____

Undergraduate Minor(s): _____

Undergraduate Institution: _____

Graduate Degree: _____

Graduate Institution: _____

Emphasis area: ___ General Mental Health OR ___ School Counseling

Please submit this cover sheet with the following materials to:

University of Missouri – Kansas City
ATTN: Ed.S. Counseling and Guidance Admissions Committee
215 Education Building
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499

- Three letters of recommendation (from professional sources)
- Personal Statement

All **other** materials (*UMKC Admissions Application and fee, official transcripts, official GRE scores*) should be sent directly to the UMKC Admissions Office: UMKC Office of Admissions; University of Missouri – Kansas City; 5100 Rockhill Rd; 120 Administrative Center; Kansas City, MO 64110-2499; (816) 235-1111.

I understand that if I do not enter the Ed.S. degree program during the semester of the academic year for which I am admitted, I will be disenrolled from the program; and, should I seek admission to the program at a later date, I must reapply and will be subject to the criteria in effect at the time of reapplication.

Signature

Date

