

Master's or Doctorate in School Counseling

The master of education in school counseling (M.Ed.) is designed to prepare an individual for a professional position as an elementary, middle/junior high or high school counselor. This degree is nationally accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and its successful completion will qualify the student for a Washington Initial Educational Staff Associate (ESA) K-12 certificate as a professional school counselor. This graduate program is also closely aligned with the standards and guidelines of the American School Counselor Association, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, and the Washington School Counselor Association.

A year-long (9-credit) internship comprises a part of the degree program in school counseling. This vital, integrative experience in which students conduct supervised counseling in a school setting, has as its primary objective the provision of practical experiences in the duties and activities of the school counselor. The internship includes a minimum of 450 hours participation in a variety of meaningful activities related to the competencies required by the state of Washington knowledge base for school counselors (WAC 180-78A-270) as well as those recommended by the School of Education.

OUR GOAL is to provide graduates with a strong foundation using up-to-date theories, research, and best practices, as well as advanced training in a variety of areas that relate to being an effective educational leader and professional school counselor.

OUR DISTINCTIVES include a research-based, hands-on, and collaborative instruction model based on implementing a comprehensive school counseling program, as well as an emphasis on understanding a student's spirituality, family and community systems, and multicultural development.

It is generally recommended that applicants for this program have previously obtained official certification as a classroom teacher with two years teaching experience, OR a bachelor's degree in psychology, social work or a related field with two years professional experience working with children and youth. If the applicant does not have this experience, please discuss your situation with the program chair.

Potential applicants can choose from three options for their program of study:

OPTION 1: M.Ed. in SCHOOL COUNSELING with an ESA Certification in School Counseling (71 credits)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Professional Core (18 credits)

EDU 6085 Values and Ethics in Education (3)
EDU 6120 Foundations: Issues and Ideas in American Education (3)
EDU 6655 Advanced Educational Psychology (3)
EDU 6970 Educational Statistics (3)
EDU 6971 Introduction to Graduate Research (3)
EDU 6972 Research Evaluation (3)

Major Courses (38 credits)

EDCO 6600 Introduction to Systems Theory (1)
EDCO 6670 Introduction to School Counseling (4)
EDCO 6671 Counseling Theory and Practice I (3)
EDCO 6672 Organization and Administration of K-12 Guidance Programs (3)
EDCO 6930 Counseling Theory and Practice II (3)
EDCO 6931 Counseling Theory and Practice III (3)
EDCO 6673 Group Counseling in the Schools (3)
EDCO 6674 Introduction to Psychoeducational Assessment (3)
EDCO 6675 Legal and Ethical Issues for School Professionals (3)
EDCO 6676 Students at Risk: Assessment and Intervention (3)
EDCO 6677 Multicultural Counseling in the Schools (3)
EDCO 6678 Advanced Developmental Foundations (3)
EDCO 6679 Career Counseling in the Schools (3)
EDCO 6680 Special Education: Program and Methods (3)

Internship (9 credits)

EDCO 6940 School Counseling Internship (3,3,3)

Note: The internship requires a minimum of 450 hours spread over an entire school year (three quarters). Interns register for 3 credits per quarter.

OPTION 2: SCHOOL COUNSELING ESA CERTIFICATE "ONLY" PROGRAM

People who otherwise qualify to enter the School Counseling Program and already have a master's or other advanced degree need not complete a second master's degree in school counseling in order to obtain ESA (educational staff associate) certification as a school counselor. It is generally only necessary to complete only the major courses (38 credits), elective (3 credits), internship (9 credits) and the comprehensive exam. The same guidelines and procedures for program admission apply.

OPTION 3: DOCTORATE IN EDUCATION (Ed.D.) WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELOR (WITH

OR WITHOUT ESA CERTIFICATION)

For specifics on this option, please contact the Director of Doctoral Studies in the School of Education.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

This two-hour essay examination is usually completed during the last quarter of coursework or the quarter thereafter. Comprehensive exams are scheduled once per quarter. An application available from the School of Education should be submitted to the graduate program manager two quarters in advance. To take the comprehensive exams, students must have completed all School Counseling courses (except the internship).

EDUCATION BLOCK

School Counseling students who do not have a valid teacher's certificate may be required, at the discretion of the program chair, to complete the "Education Block." The Education Block includes a minimum of:

- 100 hours of work in one classroom as a teacher's assistant., and
- One 3-credit education class: EDCO 6130 Classroom Management.

For additional information and application forms, please contact the [Graduate Admission Office's](#) web site.