



Master of Arts in School Counseling (528)

Northwestern State University

The School Counseling program is housed within the College of Education and Human Development. Graduates earn a Master of Arts degree and are prepared to serve as Professional School Counselors in a K-12 Louisiana school setting or work with children and adolescents in other settings. Importantly, graduates are prepared to seek the National Certified Counselor (NCC) credential and the National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) credential. The program of study meets requirements to become a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Louisiana and certification in Louisiana school counseling.

The 48 hours of coursework can be completed in two years, including summers, if taken according to the course rotation (see FULL-TIME COURSE ROTATION). The minimum is four semesters and one summer of enrollment. Students may also complete the program through part-time enrollment. Coursework includes supervised field experiences, a comprehensive examination and portfolio defense, and a thesis or paper-in-lieu of thesis.

Classes are a combination of face-to-face and online classes. Those in the full-time rotation will have at least one face-to-face class each semester. Some classes may be offered at the Alexandria and Leesville campuses.

Professional Model:

This program is based on the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) National Model for a Comprehensive School Counseling Program with a focus on student success and achievement. The ASCA Model provides standards for what program graduates should know and be able to do within a school setting. Additionally, ASCA provides basic standards of practice for Professional School Counselors.

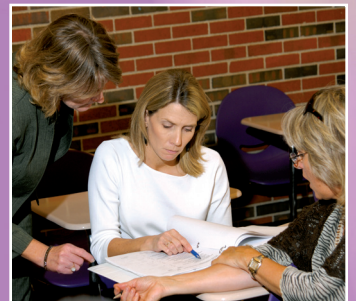
Program Admission:

No teaching certificate or particular undergraduate degree is required for admission. However, applicants must attain regular admission to the Graduate School at Northwestern to be admitted to the School Counseling Program. Additionally, students must earn a grade of "B" or better in introductory courses, COUN 5000 and COUN 5530; and attend an interview session with School Counseling faculty.

Our Commitment:

Professional School Counselors play a vital role in helping K-12 students succeed and learn. Our program's primary mission is to help its graduates learn and demonstrate professional best practices. The curriculum aligns to both the ASCA Model and the College of Education and Human Development's Conceptual Framework (CF): Models for Learning. The CF has four guiding principles—problem solving, creative and critical thinking, decision making, and responsibility taking—which are core components of each course. Further, we have a firm commitment to diversity and incorporating technology to improve learning.

The College's logo of the old school house is to honor our legacy as the state's first "Normal School" established in 1884 for training teachers. Today, that legacy has evolved into current programs that educate teachers and other school professionals with the belief that all students can learn and deserve fair, equitable school settings that respect individual differences.



FULL-TIME COURSE ROTATION

1st Year Fall

COUN 5000 – Skills
COUN 5530 – Theories
EPSY 5460 – Human Growth

1st Year Spring

COUN 5540 – School Counseling
COUN 5610 – Multicultural
COUN 5600 – Children & Adolescents
*EDUC 5010 – Research & Program Eval.

1st Year Summer

COUN 5580 – Group
COUN 5510 – Career
COUN 6500 – Ethics/Professional Orientation

2nd Year Fall

**EPSY 5520 – Appraisal
COUN 5570 – Practicum
*Special Populations Elective (Choices: SPED 5640, SPED 5830, SPED 5510, COUN 5870, COUN 5800, COUN 5650 or other course approved by advisor)

2nd Year Spring

COUN 6520 – Abnormal Behavior
COUN 5560 – Counseling Internship – 6 hrs.
Paper/Thesis

*EDUC 5010 and elective for special populations may be taken any semester.

**Prerequisite of EPSY 5400 or equivalent statistics course

Points of Contact

- **For more program information:**
Dr. Gerra Perkins
School Counseling Program Coordinator
Email: perkinsg@nsula.edu
(318) 357-6915.
- **For admissions information:**
Office of University Recruiting
(800) 327-1903
<http://recruiting@nsula.edu>

Office of Admissions
(318) 357-4078
<http://admissions@nsula.edu>
- **For graduate school information:**
The Graduate School
(318) 357-5851
<http://graduateschool.nsula.edu/>

ACCREDITATION

Northwestern State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, and specialist's degrees.

Northwestern's College of Education and Human Development has been continuously accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since its initial accreditation in 1954. All other professional preparation programs are recognized as accredited by NCATE. This designation describes the professional education unit's conceptual framework and provides evidence that demonstrates NCATE's six standards are met.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of Northwestern State University of Louisiana not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs, activities



Northwestern State University
is a member of the
University of Louisiana System