

UMKC M.A. in Counseling Program Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find information about the program, such as program requirements?

The best source is the student handbook, found under the Program Resources button on the program's home page.

<https://education.umkc.edu/academics/masters-program/ma-in-counseling/>

When are classes held? Are any online?

With the exception of a couple of weekend classes, our classes are held once a week, from 4:30-7:15 or 7:30-10:15 in regular semesters. Summer semester is an 8-week semester, so classes are held twice a week in the same timeframes.

Most classes are scheduled to be in-person; however, changes in the situation with COVID-19 infections could result in modifications. If classes are taught on line, a synchronous format is used with a few exceptions (meaning that you must be at class at a given time, with camera and microphone activated). These requirements are a result of the rules for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor in Missouri, which stipulate that classes meeting core educational requirements be online synchronous.

If a class is not typically used to meet licensure requirements, it may be taught asynchronously. Several program requirements and electives may be taught this way. Students in the program, however, should always check with their advisors about the status of a course taught asynchronously.

Applicants wishing to transfer courses into the program should know that any used to meet licensure requirements will likely not transfer if completed asynchronously.

Where are practicum and internships completed?

Practicum for students in the mental health and couples/family emphasis areas are completed in our in-house training clinic, the Community Counseling Services <https://education.umkc.edu/outreach-research/community-counseling-and-assessment-services/>. Internships for these emphasis areas are completed in community settings. More information can be found under the Program Resources button on the home page in the Practicum and Internship file.

School counseling students complete practicum in school settings. There are further requirements for school counseling students that can be found in the school counseling folder under the Program Resources button.

Are application deadlines flexible? If I miss a deadline, can I still take classes?

Application deadlines for the mental health and couples/family emphasis areas are **not** flexible. Applications for school counseling are accepted on a year-round basis, but it is recommended that your materials be submitted at least one month prior to the semester you wish to begin the program.

A list of classes that can be taken by students not admitted to the program can be found under the Program Resources button in the MA folder. However, completing these courses does not in any way guarantee admission to the program.

Do I need any particular undergraduate degree to apply? Prerequisite coursework?

We do not require any specific undergraduate major to apply to the counseling program. There is also no required prerequisite coursework.

What does the faculty look for in applicants for admission to the program?

Candidates should meet the admissions criteria found on the homepage. The faculty also looks for candidates with clear professional goals that are consistent with our program goals and outcomes, have good interpersonal skills, and solid professional references. As of spring 2021, online interviews are required for applicants being considered for admission. At this time, the Graduate Record Examination is not required. An undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution is required, but there is no specific requirement for major.

Is the program accredited? What about CACREP?

The UMKC Master's program in counseling is accredited by the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (<http://mpcacaccreditation.org/>). We are not accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs. These two sets of standards are very similar, although MPCAC is a newer system. Both require quality in all educational experiences associated with the program. MPCAC recently received recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), which also accredits CACREP. CHEA accreditation is a national standard recognized by licensing boards and other entities (see chea.org/chea-national-voice-accreditation for more information).

Graduates of our program are routinely licensed in the states of Missouri and Kansas, as well as other states in the U.S. Although several (very few) states in the U.S. have written regulations that require a degree from a CACREP-accredited program, these regulations are very recent and haven't been tested. Most states establish their own standards, or require CACREP accreditation or an equivalent degree.

Is financial aid available and how do I set it up?

You can find out how to apply for financial aid and get your questions answered about it by going to this link <https://finaid.umkc.edu/>

How much is it going to cost me to complete this degree? How much is it per credit hour?

The cost of the program will vary based on where you live and other factors. The best way to get a rough idea is to go to the cost calculator on the cashier's office site.

<https://www.umkc.edu/cashiers/tuition-fees/index.html>

Are there any scholarships or assistantships available?

Unfortunately, assistantships aren't easy to come by for master's students but there are some. You just have to look around and ask various faculty and departments. We also routinely send information about student funding out to our program's email listserv. The School of Education offer some scholarships; information can be found at the link below.

<https://umkc.academicworks.com/opportunities?utf8=%E2%9C%93&term=&scopes%5B%5D=11&commit=Filter+Opportunities>

What if I have further questions about the program after reading this document?

You can contact one of the individuals listed below. Due to the number of inquiries, please do so by email. Please also make sure that you have read all of the information included on this sheet, as well as the web links and handbooks. These resources will give you a better idea of what to ask.

School Counseling Coordinator, Marvalee Collins, at mcollins@umkc.edu

Dr. Nancy Murdock, MA Program Coordinator, couple/family and mental health emphasis areas murdockn@umkc.edu