

Student Name: _____ Program Start Semester/Year: _____

SMU MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COUNSELING PROGRAM

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SPECIALTY: ELECTIVE OPTION

(63 Credit Hours; Core Courses Fulfill Texas LPC Academic Requirements)

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling Specialty: Elective Option is comprised of the standard core curriculum and clinical training sequence for the M.S. in Counseling degree, which is taken by all students. Beyond the standard curriculum, students are permitted any combination of three elective courses. This program of study prepares students to seek licensure as Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) in the State of Texas. Students who wish to pursue other/additional professional licensures or credentials are encouraged to explore some of the Program's other specialty areas: Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling; School Counseling; or the Clinical Mental Health Specialty with elective concentrations in Child and Adolescent Counseling, Addiction Counseling, LGBTQ+ Affirmative Therapy, or Expressive Arts Therapies.

PRE-CLINICAL CORE REQUIREMENTS Required before entry into Practicum	CREDIT HOURS
HDCN 6320: Life Span Human Development: Individual and Family (take in first semester of enrollment)	3
HDCN 6302: Basic Clinical Methods for Individuals, Couples, and Families (take in first semester of enrollment)	3
HDCN 6301: Counseling Theories: Individual and Systemic Perspectives (Take as close to the beginning of program as possible)	3
HDCN 6316: Family Therapy I: Intergenerational Theories and Treatment	3
HDCN 6304: Counseling Diverse Communities	3
HDCN 6303: Counseling Methods: Group	3
HDCN 6330: Psychopathology: Adult	3
HDCN 6349: Research Design and Statistics (prerequisite for 6340 Assessment; Students are recommended to take 6349 in their first year of enrollment)	3
HDCN 6340: Assessment	3
HDCN 6318 Ethics I and Professional Orientation (pre-requisite for 6319 Ethics II)	3
HDCN 6319 Ethics II and Mental Health (take as close to Practicum as possible)	3
HDCN 6305: Advanced Clinical Methods for Individuals, Couples, and Families (Pre-Practicum; Take as close to Practicum as possible)	3
MINIMUM CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED BEFORE ENTRY INTO CLINICAL SEQUENCE	36
ADDITIONAL CORE REQUIREMENTS: May be taken concurrently with Practicum, Internship I, or Internship II	
HDCN 6331: Psychopathology: Child/Adolescent	3
HDCN 6321: Lifestyle & Career Development	3
HDCN 6352: Psychology of Addictions	3
TOTAL CORE CREDIT HOURS	45

OPEN ELECTIVES (3 COURSES = 9 CREDIT HOURS)**May be taken concurrently with Practicum, Internship I, or Internship II**

Open elective (may take concurrently with Clinical Sequence to satisfy enrollment requirements)	3
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CLINICAL SEQUENCE: PRACTICUM, INTERNSHIP I & INTERNSHIP II (3 COURSES = 9 CREDIT HOURS)

Students must complete a minimum of 36 credit hours of the required core classes listed above before starting the Clinical Sequence. In addition, students must pass the MOCCe Exam and complete other requirements prior to the start of Practicum. Please refer to the Counseling Program Student Handbook for additional details.

HDCN 6395: Supervised Clinical Practicum	3
HDCN 6398: Internship I	3
HDCN 6399: Internship II	3
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	63

Combining Additional Coursework with Practicum & Internship*(Also see Examples below this table)**

Students should plan ahead regarding the possible need to take additional credit hours concurrent with Practicum and/or Internship. Students who rely on financial aid (which requires a minimum of 6 credit hours/semester) or who need to maintain full-time enrollment (minimum of 9 credit hours/semester) should plan to take electives and/or additional core requirement courses (listed above) concurrent with the Clinical Sequence. Depending on the course load a student intends to take during the Clinical Sequence, students must complete between 36 (minimum) to 54 hours prior to entry into Practicum. Courses taken concurrently with the Clinical Sequence may include electives and/or the following three required courses: Child Psychopathology, Lifestyle & Career, and Psychology of Addictions. **All students must complete the 36 credit-hour pre-clinical required coursework prior to entry into the Clinical Sequence.**

****Students should also be aware of certain electives that may qualify them to work with populations of interest during Practicum (e.g., child/play/activity) and take those electives *prior to entry* into Practicum. All students who have taken the Family Therapy I course or the Family Therapy requirement prior to 2018 will be eligible to work with couples and families in Practicum. Also see “Pre-Practicum Elective Considerations” below.**

Students must complete a minimum of 300 clinical hours in practicum/internship. Details regarding clinical hour requirements are available in the Counseling Program Student Handbook and the Clinical Experience Handbook.

***EXAMPLES: COMBINING ACADEMIC COURSES WITH THE CLINICAL SEQUENCE**

All students must complete a **minimum of 36 credit hours (required pre-clinical core coursework)** prior to beginning the clinical sequence. Some students should plan on completing **more** than the 36 core credit hours prior to the clinical sequence, as shown in the examples below:

Example 1: Students **may** begin the clinical sequence with the minimum of **36 credit hours ONLY** if they plan to be enrolled **full-time** during the clinical sequence (9 credit hours per semester):

- ▶ Practicum + two more courses
- ▶ Internship I + two more courses
- ▶ Internship II + two more courses

Example 2: Students should complete **45 credit hours** prior to beginning the clinical sequence if they plan to be enrolled part-time (6 credit hours per semester) during the clinical sequence:

- ▶ Practicum + one additional course
- ▶ Internship I + one additional course
- ▶ Internship II + one additional course

Example 3: Students who *only* enroll in their clinical sequence courses (3 credit hours per semester) should complete **54 credit hours** (all core and electives) prior to the beginning of the clinical sequence:

- ▶ Practicum only
- ▶ Internship I only
- ▶ Internship II only

Note that Students enrolling in only 3 credit hours per semester will not qualify for financial aid.

**PRE-PRACTICUM ELECTIVE CONSIDERATIONS:	
Please Note: Courses designated as “required” must be completed in full before students will be permitted to work with the corresponding populations during practicum. Courses designated as “also acceptable” may be <i>substituted</i> for the stated required course. Courses designated as “recommended” are suggested <i>in addition to</i> the stated required course.	
POPULATION	COURSES
Children ages 2 – 6 (indiv. play)	Required: HDCN 6343 – Child Counseling: Play Therapy
Children ages 7 – 9 (indiv. play)	Required: HDCN 6343 – Child Counseling: Play Therapy Recommended: HDCN 6323 - Adolescent Counseling
Pre-Adolescents ages 10 – 12 (indiv.)	Required: HDCN 6323 - Adolescent Counseling Also acceptable: HDCN 6327 - Family Play Therapy
Adolescents ages 13 – 17 (indiv./group)	Required: HDCN 6323 - Adolescent Counseling Also acceptable: HDCN 6316 - Family Therapy I + HDCN 6344 Expressive Art: Therapeutic & Creative Processes
Couples	Required: HDCN 6316 - Family Therapy I Recommended: HDCN 6311 - Couples Counseling
Families with Children ages 2 - 7	Required: HDCN 6316 - Family Therapy I + HDCN 6327 - Family Play Therapy Also acceptable: HDCN 6316 Family Therapy I + HDCN 6343 – Child Counseling: Play Therapy
Families with Children ages 8 - 18	Required: HDCN 6316 - Family Therapy I Recommended: HDCN 6327 - Family Play Therapy or HDCN 6323 - Adolescent Counseling
Group Parent Training and CPRT	Required: HDCN 6316 - Family Therapy I + Parenting Training in the Clinic Also acceptable: HDCN 6325 - Therapeutic Parenting
One-to-One Parent Training	Required: HDCN 6316 - Family Therapy I + Parenting Training in the Clinic Also acceptable: HDCN 6325 - Therapeutic Parenting

Master of Science in Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Specialty

Degree Timeline

Students typically complete the Counseling degree in 3 calendar years. During the first semester students must take specified required coursework (6 hours). Students are not required to take other courses in a prescribed order, however, certain core requirements must be completed prior to the clinical sequence. A few courses within the program are sequenced.

***Required first term courses**

****1st course in a sequence of two courses**

***** Clinical sequence**

Template Degree Timeline – MS in Counseling, CMH Example

		Required Courses	Electives	Other Requirements and Milestones
Year 1	Fall (9 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *HDCN 6320 (Life Span) • *HDCN 6302 (Basic) • HDCN 6313 (FT 1) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete developmental counseling sessions
	Spring (9 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDCN 6302 (Theories) • **HDCN 6318 (Ethics 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One elective course 	
	Summer (3 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDCN 6304 (Diversity) 		
Year 2	Fall (9 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • **HDCN 6349 (Research) • HDCN 6303 (Group) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One elective course 	
	Spring (9 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDCN 6340 (Assessment) • HDCN 6319 (Ethics 2) • HDCN 6330 (Adult Psychopathology) 		
	Summer (3 hour)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDCN 6305 (Advanced) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One elective course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for Practicum

Year 3	Fall (6 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ***HDCN 6395 (Practicum) • HDCN 6331 (Ch Psychopathology) 		
	Spring (6 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •*** HDCN 6398 (Intern 1) • HDCN 6321 (Career) 		
	Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ***HDCN 6399 (Intern 2) • HDCN 6352 (Addiction) 		