Course Descriptions

Graduate Counseling

6301. Theories of Counseling 3 hours
An introduction to the theories and techniques of counseling and psychotherapy. An emphasis will be placed on the development of basic counseling skills and the major theories of counseling.

6302. Lifespan/ Human Growth and Development 3 hours
This course covers biological, cognitive, social, and emotional development across the lifespan. Practical applications of the material to counseling situations will be discussed.

6303. Techniques of Appraisal and Assessment 3 hours
Investigates the theories, principles, and practices of psychological testing. Explores test item development, test format development, and statistical analysis. Reviews established intelligence tests, achievement tests, mood measures, and personality assessments. Examines the appropriate role of the counselor and psychological testing in the clinical use of tests and assessments in the counseling profession.

6304. Multicultural/ Cross-Cultural Counseling 3 hours
Examines factors relevant to successful counseling with different populations within a culturally diverse society. Explores counselor characteristics, attitudes, and strategies for developing cultural competence. Reviews cultural uniqueness through research, literature, films, and discussion.

6305. Advanced Human Sexuality and Sexual Dysfunctions 3 hours
Practical study of biological, psychological, and social factors influencing the development of both sexual health and sexual dysfunctions are examined. Special emphasis is placed on how to address sexuality relate issues in counseling sessions.

6306. Research Methodology and Program Evaluation 3 hours
Prerequisites: COU 6303
Focuses on clinical methodology in evaluating programs. Examines, in detail, topics essential to clinical research: validity, single-case research design, group designs, assessment methods, statistics, and ethical issues. Students learn to plan a program evaluation, develop measures, and apply clinical research methodology. At the end of the course, students will be able to design and implement an effective program evaluation.

6307. Career Development & Assessment 3 hours
A study of the theories and assessment techniques currently used in career guidance and development.

6308. Advanced Counseling and Crisis Skills 3 hours
Prerequisites: COU 6301 or 6311
A practical study of advanced counseling techniques, application of those techniques, and a focus on interventions with clients in crisis.

**6309. Ethical and Professional Conduct for Counselors 3 hours**
Introduces the ethical standards and professional codes of conduct essential for professional behavior. Develops the concept of the ethical professional through research and philosophy. Examines guidelines from various licensing organizations.

**6310. Advanced Psychopathology 3 hours**
*Prerequisites: COU 6301 or 6311*
A survey of the basic concepts of neurochemistry, psychopharmacology, diagnosis, and treatment.

**6311. Marriage & Family Counseling 3 hours**
A study of the historical development of systemic therapy, and an overview of the current use of the major theories in the field of marriage and family therapy.

**6312. Group Counseling 3 hours**
*Prerequisites: COU 6301 or 6311*
Studies the current theories and techniques of various theoretical models including the dynamics of interpersonal relationships and the social, diagnostic, and environmental factors that affect group counseling. Students engage in a six week group therapy practical experience.

**6313. Counseling Children and Adolescents 3 hours**
*Prerequisites: COU 6301 or 6311, and 6302*
A study of the major counseling theories as they apply to counseling children, adolescents, and their parents. Students will become aware of developmental, sociocultural, ethical, and professional issues unique to counseling children and adolescents.

**6314. Professional Identity and Pre-Practicum Skills 3 hours**
*Prerequisites: COU 6301 or 6311, and 6302, 6303, 6305, 6308, 6309, 6310, 6313*
A practical, supervised experience designed to foster the transition from theoretical classes to the practical counseling setting. Students will be preparing to start their counseling experiences. *COU 6304, COU 6307, COU 6309, and COU 6312 may be completed concurrently. However, all courses must be completed by the end of your second practicum.*

**6315. Mental Health Clinical Practicum I 3 hours**
*Prerequisites: COU 6301 or 6311, and 6302, 6303, 6305, 6308, 6310, 6313, 6314*
First part of supervised field experience in mental health counseling while working with individuals, couples, and families. Students will see clients and work within their selected theoretical bases. Practical experience will be supervised by a field supervisor, faculty member(s), and peers. *COU 6415 and COU 6416 may be taken in either order. COU 6304, COU 6307, COU 6309, and COU 6312 may be completed concurrently. However, all courses must be completed by the end of your second practicum.*
6316. Mental Health Clinical Practicum II 3 hours
Prerequisites: COU 6301 or 6311, and 6302, 6303, 6305, 6308, 6310, 6313, 6314
Second part of the supervised field experience in mental health counseling while working with individuals, couples, and families. Students will see clients and work within their selected theoretical bases. Practical experience will be supervised by a field supervisor, faculty member(s), and peers.
COU 6415 and COU 6416 may be taken in either order. COU 6304, COU 6307, COU 6309, and COU 6312 may be completed concurrently. However, all courses must be completed by the end of your second practicum.

6317. Introduction to School Counseling 3 hours
An introduction to the theories and principles of school counseling and guidance for classroom teachers who are beginning their master’s studies. This course emphasizes the issues involved in being a helping professional in grades K-12, and the development of basic solution focused therapy skills as they relate to school counseling and guidance.

6318. Programs in School Counseling 3 hours
An introduction to programs applicable to school counseling and guidance in the elementary and secondary school settings. This course emphasizes program development and activities according to TEA requirements and expectations for school counselors in Texas.

6319. Practicum in School Counseling 3 hours
Prerequisites: COU 6301 or 6311, and 6302, 6303, 6304, 6307, 6308, 6310, 6317, and 6318
Completion of state-mandated 150 practicum hours to be arranged with the student and an ISD school counselor supervisor.

6320. Principles for Marital Therapy 3 hours
Prerequisites: COU 6311
This course is a fundamental introduction to the systems approach to interventions that integrates information regarding the marital, sibling, and individual subsystems, as well as family of origin and external social influences. Special emphasis will be placed on the substance abuse issues and systemic treatment approach to it.

6321. Strategies for Interventions in Family Therapy 3 hours
Prerequisites: COU 6311
This course will focus on different therapeutic interventions that are based on family therapy models. Students will become familiar with importance of language and process in the session and how it can be applied to different family or couple issues.

6322. Family Systems 3 hours
Prerequisites: COU 6311
A fundamental introduction to the systems approach to intervention that integrates information regarding the marital, sibling, and individual subsystems, as well as family of origin and external social influences. Clinical diagnosis and treatment are emphasized.

6323. Family of Origin 3 hours
**Prerequisites: COU 6311**
Theoretical bases of family of origin work and transgenerational family systems approach. In-depth examination of the student’s own family history and review of concepts and therapeutic techniques used in family of origin education and counseling.

**6424. Family Therapy Practicum 4 hours**
*Prerequisites: COU 6302, 6303, 6305, 6310, 6311, 6313, 6314, 6415, 6416, 6320, 6321, 6322, and 6323*
Professional supervised experience in counseling couples and families; supervision of live and videotape sessions.

**6331. Psychopharmacology 3 hours**
*Prerequisites: COU 6301 or 6311, 6310*
An overview of medications, their intended clinical uses, side-effects, and hazards for the mental health counselor.

**6332. Crisis Intervention Counseling 3 hours**
*Prerequisites: Completion of 18 hours of COU*
Students are prepared for responding effectively in critical situations, both situational and developmental. Special emphasis on suicide, disaster response, and crises in schools.

**6333. Counseling for Substance-related and Other Addictive Disorders 3 hours**
*Prerequisites: COU 6301 or 6311, 6310*
An in-depth study of addictive behaviors associated with alcohol, drugs, and other compulsive patterns. Emphasis on development of addiction counseling skills.

**6334. Community and Clinical Mental Health Administration 3 hours**
*Prerequisites: Completion of 18 hours of COU*
An overview of community mental health systems, including administrative, organizational, socio-cultural, and clinical aspects of policy formation, managed care, and mental health service delivery.