

For:

The Master of Science in Counseling (MSC) degree with a specialization in School Counseling is designed for people who want to create career opportunities; to become school counselors and also expand their horizons into Clinical Mental Health counseling. Thomas University recognizes the need for Professional School Counselors and has created a program to fit an adult's schedule.

What you learn:

The Professional School Counseling track prepares students to work with PreK-12 school-aged children by helping them reach their academic, social, personal and career goals. School counselors advocate for students' well-being by addressing issues such as bullying, depression, learning disabilities, poor academic performance and parental issues by developing a positive and realistic path to overall wellness. School counselors develop strategies with teachers, administrators and parents to help students succeed based on student need.

How you learn:

Fully online courses are taught by doctoral level professors with years of experience and credentials in the field. Each core curriculum class maintains a cap of 1:12 faculty-to-student ratio. We are a diverse faculty and serve a diverse student population. This is a 60 credit hour program with two in-person residencies. 75% of the courses are asynchronous. Classes are offered year around: Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. Of the 25% of courses that are synchronous, they are specifically tailored to meet the needs of the students. The group counseling course, for example meets in the evening one night per week for 10 weeks. There are usually several sections of the course being offered per semester so students can enroll in the section that offers classes at times they are free to attend. ***Field Work Requirements** - Three of the synchronous courses are fieldwork courses. Practicum has 100 fieldwork hours. Internship I has 300 fieldwork hours. Internship II has 300 fieldwork hours. All fieldwork for school counselors occurs in the school system with opportunities spread across each level of K-12 school and occurs Fall and Spring semesters. We provide students with a variety of professional experiences through these 700 experiential fieldwork hours, which are completed closer to the end of the student's degree progression. Fieldwork courses require a weekly 90-minute synchronous meeting via Teams as part of the CACREP required standards for the courses. These Teams meetings are typically scheduled in the evenings to meet student schedules. Georgia school counselors and those students opting to gain the Georgia professional standards commission (PSC) school counseling certification must take and pass the GACE test to graduate with the state certification.

Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of the 60-credit hour program, all students, regardless of specialty area, are eligible to apply for licensure as professional counselors in their state. The MSC program offers all courses necessary for professional counselor licensure in every state. The Professional School Counseling track leads to certification as a school counselor, as well as licensure as a professional counselor (LPC/LMHC). ***Examples of Career Options:** School counselors; mental health counselors in private and public agencies; work at non-profit agencies; work at marriage and family agencies; work as substance abuse counselors (with one or two more courses); run their own private practice.

Degree Requirements:

COU 602	Foundations and Techniques of Counseling	3
COU 657	Substance Abuse Counseling Methods	3
COU 656	Crisis and Trauma Counseling	3
COU 627	Theories & Techniques of Counseling	3
COU 628	Theories and Techniques of Group Counseling	3
COU 634	Assessment and Testing	3
COU 670	Psychopathology and Diagnosis	3
COU 606	Ethics and Professional Orientation	3
COU 646	Foundations of Career Development and Job Placement Services	3
COU 612	Human Growth & Development	3
COU 673	Research and Program Evaluation	3
COU 680	Counseling Practicum (100 hours)	3
COU 681	Counseling Internship I (300 hours)	3
COU 682	Counseling Internship II (300 hours)	3
COU 698	Counseling Capstone	3
Total Hours		45

Professional School Counseling Specialization (5 classes)

PSC 600, PSC 625, PSC 624, PSC 611. Take one of the following: COU 671, COU 613, COU 664, AAC 678

Total Hours: 15