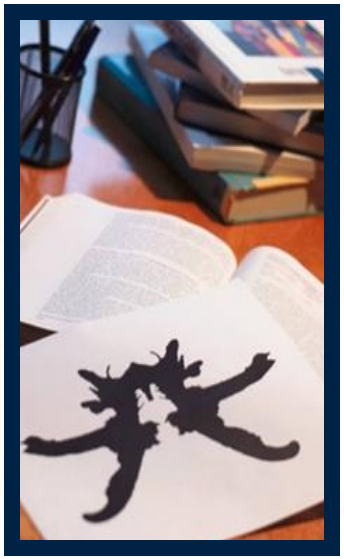
In today's modern world, the term counselor has been applied to anyone who provides help or assistance. However, the term professional counselor applies specifically to those who hold a master's degree or higher, completed specific coursework, and received supervision. Counselors can be found in a variety of settings, from schools and colleges, to hospitals and mental health clinics.



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APPLICATION INFORMATION

To apply, please submit the following to the Department of Educational Studies, Leadership, and Counseling in 3201 Alexander Hall:

- An application to the MSU Graduate School.
- An application to the School Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, or School Psychology Program (which can be obtained by contacting the ELC Department at 270-809-2793).
- A recent (<5 yrs) Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score.
- Written statement of intent reflecting graduate level writing ability.
- Three letters of recommendation from people who can address the applicant's potential as a counseling professional.
- A current resume.
- An interview with the Counseling Program Admissions Committee will be scheduled after the completed application has been submitted.

NOTE: *Students are not required to have certification in teaching to enter these programs.*

QUESTIONS?

Contact the faculty in the Department of Educational Studies, Leadership and Counseling Division:

- Dr. Alan Bakes (counseling) at (270) 809-5313
- Dr. Susana Bloomdahl (counseling) at (270) 809-6968
- Dr. Samir Patel (counseling) (270) 809-6123
- Dr. Rebecca Pender (counseling) (270) 809-6905
- Dr. Marty Dunham (school psychology) at (270) 809-6466

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COUNSELING & SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMS

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The **Masters of Education in School Counseling** is a 48-hour program, which includes a 150-hour practicum and a 600-hour internship. The curriculum has a clinical mental health focus with an emphasis in school counseling. Graduates are prepared to work in P-12 schools and, upon graduation, are eligible for provisional certification in school counseling (P-12).

The **Specialist in Education in School Counseling** is a 60-credit hour degree that builds upon the 48-hour master's degree. Upon completing the master's degree in school counseling, students take an additional 12 credits to receive the Specialist in Education degree. In addition to being eligible for certification as school counselors, completion of the program will qualify them to pursue professional counselor licensure. Graduates from this program find employment in public and private schools, as well public and private mental health agencies.

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

The **Specialist in Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling** is a 60-credit hour program that includes a 150-hour practicum and a 600-hour internship. This program focuses on developing clinical expertise in providing mental health counseling in public and private agencies, including hospitals and mental health clinics. Upon completion of this degree, students will be eligible to pursue professional counselor licensure.

Career Outlook- According to the United States Department of Labor-

"Overall employment of counselors is expected to increase by 18 percent between 2008 and 2018, which is faster than the average for all occupations. However, growth is expected to vary by specialty."

"Employment for educational, vocational, and school counselors is expected to grow by 14 percent…"

"Employment of mental health counselors is expected to grow by 24 percent…"

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

The **Specialist in Education in School Psychology** is a 66-credit hour program, which includes a year-long supervised internship. School psychologists work in public and private P-12 schools providing individual psychoeducational assessment, intervention, and consultation services. Upon completion of this program, graduates will have a terminal degree in school psychology and be eligible for certification in school psychology.

Post-Masters Endorsements- you can choose to pursue a "certificate" program, which does not result in a degree, but in Kentucky endorsement/ certification to work in PreK-12 schools. The endorsements include:

- Standard Counseling Certificate
- Individual Intellectual Assessment Endorsement
- 6th year program in School Psychology