

Lindenwood University –
Belleville
Catalog Addendum for
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Education and Counseling Division

~~PROFESSIONAL~~ COUNSELING M.A.

The Lindenwood University ~~Professional~~ Counseling Program is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (info@hlcommission.org) and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE, <http://dese.mo.gov/>).

The program leading to a Master of Arts in ~~Professional~~ Counseling is designed to prepare master's level counseling practitioners. The program provides students with a broad base of psychological knowledge and theory integrated with extensive training and practice in the use of counseling skills. Graduates of the ~~professional~~ counseling program are qualified to work in a variety of mental health settings with individuals, groups, and families.

The ~~professional~~ counseling program is intensive and comprehensive, requiring a minimum of 48 credit hours of coursework and applied experience. Admission to the counseling program is selective, yet flexible. Please see an earlier section of the catalog for general LU-Belleville admissions requirements. Students who do not meet those requirements should contact the Counseling Department in order to discuss options.

The American Counseling Association *Code of Ethics* (2005) requires that institutions providing counselor education screen students for professional, personal, and academic fit within the profession of counseling. Completion and graduation from the MA in ~~Professional~~ Counseling program requires successful completion of all graduate courses with appropriate academic success; development of appropriate interpersonal and counseling skills evidencing competency as a counselor; and being deemed fit for the counseling profession by program faculty as determined by development of counseling knowledge, skills, and counselor formation; interpersonal relations with others in the program, and openness to supervision and feedback.

Acceptance into the graduate program in ~~Professional~~ counseling is required in order for potential counseling candidates to enroll in the preliminary course IPC 51100 Foundations of Professional Counseling (3). This foundations class serves as a screening class. Foundations instructors will evaluate all students, using the *Comprehensive Counselor Candidate Assessment (CCCA)* introduced at the beginning of the Foundations class (see Program Handbooks at www.lindenwood.edu/counseling). Any student identified by Foundations instructors as lacking clinical or academic potential to develop a career as a ~~professional~~ counselor will be referred to the LU-Belleville ~~Professional~~ Counseling faculty to determine whether or not the candidate will continue in the program or receive remedial actions, e.g., personal counseling or an action plan developed by the candidate and his or her advisor. The faculty will make recommendations to rehabilitate the student. Efforts at rehabilitation will be reviewed again the following semester. If sufficient progress has been made, the student will continue in the program. If the student demonstrates the same or additional deficits, as described above, the student may be removed from the program.

Students admitted to the MA degree program in counseling must attain a 3.0 GPA for the first 12 hours of graduate course work with no grade less than a B or a report from any instructor for deficits according to the CCCA. Failure to maintain such standards will result in the candidate being referred to the Counseling Review Board to determine if the student will continue in the program. It is the objective of the counseling program to, as early as possible, identify students who demonstrate difficulty achieving the standards for competent practice and to initiate appropriate intervention to assist them. Thus, the faculty of the counseling program reserves the right to review students at any stage of their coursework. A student earning any grade less than a B in IPC 51100, IPC 55100 or IPC 55300, IPC 52400, or IPC 62000 (professional internship) will be allowed to repeat the course one time and must earn a grade of B or better to continue in the program. Any instructor may submit a CCCA form to the Counseling Review Board to insure appropriate clinical skills at any time during the program. The Counseling Review Board process, however initiated, may result in the termination of the student's degree program or other required or recommended remedies to address deficiencies judged by the Counseling Review Board as related to the skills that are essential to the development of competent and ethical practices as a professional counselor.

After a candidate has successfully completed the first 12 hours of coursework, completion of the Counseling Program is contingent on the following criteria:

1. Maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.0; and
2. Completing the required number of courses, based on the current curriculum; and
3. Satisfactory resolution of any Disposition documentation provided by candidates' instructors; and

4. Receiving satisfactory evaluations from site supervisors during internship or field placement experiences; and
5. Passing the CPCE (professional)

A brief description of the exit requirements is provided below. Further information regarding exit requirements is provided in the **Professional** Counseling Handbook.

Background Check

Some states will not provide a professional counseling license to those with a failed background check. If an applicant or student has questions regarding such, check with the state professional counseling licensure board, preferably prior to applying to the MA in **Professional** Counseling program. A conviction, guilty plea, or *nolo contendere* plea involving a crime involving drugs, moral turpitude, or other criminal charges may prohibit licensure or employment as a school or professional counselor.

Some professional internship sites require completion of a background check prior to commitment to the field experience. All background checks are at the expense of the student. See the Assistant Dean (Lindenwood-St. Charles) or Department Chair (Lindenwood-Belleville) for more information. Citizenship/authorized alien/immigrant status is now a prerequisite for a professional license by an agency of a State or local government under Title 8 US Code Section 1621.

All students are periodically reviewed to assess their academic progress. Only those students who meet program standards will be allowed to continue. Students must obtain a minimum of 600 hours of supervised internship experience. Internship placements may be arranged with a variety of mental health agencies that provide counseling services to clients. Internship students receive individual supervision from qualified professionals at their field sites and will also participate in a group supervision course conducted by a faculty member of the Department of Counseling. The **Professional** Counseling Handbook specifies the details for the internship experience.

Illinois Practitioners

The 48 credit hour program listed below is designed to meet the academic requirements toward licensure as a professional counselor set forth by the State of Illinois. Additional requirements for licensure can be found at www.idfpr.com.

Requirements

Core Curriculum

IPC 51100	Foundations of Professional Counseling
IPC 51200	Ethics and Professional Issues
IPC 52100	Human Growth and Development
IPC 52200	Personality Theories and Psychopathology
IPC 52400	Adult Diagnosis and Treatment Planning
IPC 53100	Family Counseling
IPC 54100	Research Methods and Program Evaluation
IPC 55100	Counseling Theory and Practice
IPC 55200	Counseling Skills Lab
IPC 56100	Group Dynamics, Process and Counseling
IPC 56200	Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling
IPC 56500	Introduction to Substance Abuse Counseling
IPC 58100	Appraisal of the Individual
IPC 58200	Lifestyle and Career Development
IPC 62000	Counseling Internship

IPC 58100, IPC 58200, IPC 62000: fee required

Note: Courses are three credit hours unless otherwise indicated.

Internship Requirement

Students in the professional counseling track are required to complete a minimum of 600 hours of supervised internship experience over two semesters. Prior to Internship, students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students are expected to earn a grade of A or B in Counseling Internship (IPC 62000) in order to graduate. Students will be required to repeat the course if they earn less than a B. If students take an Incomplete during their first semester of Internship and have less than half the required internship hours, they must enroll in IPC 62001 for 0 credit hours to allow them to attend internship classes while completing the required hours. If students take an incomplete during their second internship, regardless of how many hours are needed, they must enroll in IPC 62001 for 0 credit hours to allow them to attend internship class while completing the required internship hours. For each extension a fee of \$50 will be incurred.

Exit Requirements

In order to fulfill degree requirements, each student completes one of the following:

- IPC 60600 Scholarly Paper
- IPC 60500 Comprehensive Examination

Note: Courses are three credit hours unless otherwise indicated.

The student must obtain a passing score on the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE). Further information regarding exit requirements is provided in the ~~Professional~~ Counseling Handbook.