



Master of Science in School Counseling

A hybrid, full-time, two and a half-year professional degree program (60 credit hours)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The School Counseling Program at Shenandoah University is a program that prepares students to become professional school counselors equipped to support the academic, career and personal/social development of children and adolescents in PreK-12 educational settings. Through a comprehensive curriculum covering counseling theory, counseling techniques and child and adolescent development students gain the knowledge and skills necessary for effective school counseling practice. Students will engage in practicum and fieldwork requirements that will be focused on developing their counseling orientation and theory.

The U.S. Bureau of Statistics identified within the Occupational Outlook handbook that school/career counseling jobs will increase 5% from 2022- 2032. Despite Counseling being a profession that is projected for continued growth, there are currently not enough counselors to meet the demand. The current average school counselor to student ratio is 389-to-1, whereas the recommended ratio is 250-to-1 (ASCA, 2022).

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with recommended 3.0 cumulative GPA.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate application and \$30 application fee.
- Unofficial transcripts from all institutions of higher education previously attended.
- Resume or C.V.
- Two letters of recommendation.
 - At least one faculty letter of recommendation is preferred.
 - Letters must indicate applicant's ability to participate in the rigors of graduate school as well as the traits applicants possess to be a future allied health practitioner.
- Essay (1-2 pages) addressing **one** of the following two prompts:
 - Discuss a current issue or trend in education that you believe significantly impacts student well-being. How might school counselors address this issue to support students effectively? Include specific strategies or interventions you would consider implementing.
 - Describe a time when you successfully helped someone overcome a personal, academic, or social challenge. What skills and qualities did you utilize? How does this experience relate to your vision of being an effective school counselor?
- Interview: Students that meet academic requirements will be invited to participate in an interview with faculty members.
- Language proficiency must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: <https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>

Prior to enrolling, admitted students will be required to complete state and federal background checks, obtain personal liability insurance, and will be required to adhere to immunization and vaccination policies of Shenandoah's School of Health Professions and practicum sites.

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Start Term

Fall (August)

Admission Deadline

Priority Deadline: March 15

Format/Location

Hybrid with on-campus courses at the Health Professions Building in Winchester, VA

How to Apply

Begin the application here:

<https://www.su.edu/admissions/graduate-students/division-of-counselor-education-application-information/school-counseling/>

Foreign Transcripts

International transcript evaluation by an accredited agency is an admission requirement. Approved services are listed at www.naces.org and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

Transfer Credit

Up to 9 graduate credits may be transferred when earned at an accredited institution. All transfer credits (earned grade of B or higher) must fill curricular requirements or electives.

Contact Us

Dr. Brittany Sager-Heinrichs
Division Director, Counselor Education
brittany.sager@su.edu

Jessica Jones
Program and Admissions Coordinator, Counselor Education
jessica.jones@su.edu

Office of Graduate Admissions
SUGradAdmissions@su.edu
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-546-6029

Office of Financial Aid
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/finaid@su.edu> | call: 540-665-4538



Dr. Brittany Sager-Heinrichs
Division Director, Counselor Education



Dr. Daniel Kimonyi
Assistant Professor, Counselor Education

This program is accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and is approved by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). This program will apply for CACREP accreditation when eligible.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Course	Title	Credits
Year 1		
COUN 520	School Counseling Leadership, Advocacy, & Consultation	3
COUN 505	Lifespan Development	3
COUN 511	Multicultural Counseling	3
COUN 519	School Counseling Ethics and Profession	3
COUN 506	Counseling Theory	3
COUN 501	Basic Counseling Skills	3
COUN 503	Group Counseling	3
COUN 508	Addictions Counseling	3
COUN 512	Grief, Loss, Trauma, and Crisis Counseling	3
COUN 514	Human Sexuality	3
Year 2		
COUN 507	Research Seminar I	1
COUN 525	School Counseling Practicum	3
COUN 601	Psychopathology and Diagnostic Procedures in Counseling	3
COUN 602	Systems Concepts in Counseling	3
COUN 550	Counseling Children and Adolescents	3
COUN 522	Classroom Management	3
COUN 650	Field Placement I	3
COUN 517	Research Seminar II	1
COUN 603	Assessment Processes	3
Year 3		
COUN 527	Research Seminar III	1
COUN 660	Field Placement II	3
COUN 510	Career Counseling	3
TOTAL		60

SCHOOL COUNSELING CURRICULUM

Students enrolled in this program must complete 60 credit hours to align with CACREP Standards. Students will complete this program in eight semesters/two-and-a-half years.

**This program will be pursuing the accreditation process with CACREP.*

CAREER OUTLOOK

Earning a Master's Degree in School Counseling from Shenandoah University prepares students to become professional school counselors equipped to support the academic, career, and personal/social development of children and adolescents in PreK-12 educational settings. Graduates will be prepared to enter these career opportunities:

- School counselor
- Academic counselor
- Academic advisor
- Counselor for college and career readiness