

# Master of Arts in Family Counseling

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Coursework for the 60 credit hours Master of Arts in Family Counseling program fulfills the requirements for state licensure, the CACREP Specialty Track, the National Academy for Certified Family Therapists, Inc., and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Clinical memberships. Although most accrediting bodies use the words "Marriage and Family" to describe their specialty, this program has elected to use the word "Family" to represent what the program believes to be a better description of the practice methods.

The Family counseling program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Graduates of CACREP accredited programs are eligible to sit for the National Counselor Exam (NCE) during their last year of study. The eight core curricular areas of CACREP are the comprehensive foundation of the exam questions used for the NCE. After successful completion of the NCE and upon graduation, one can then apply for the National Certified Counselor credential through the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).

## Admission Requirements

Applicants to the M.A. in Family Counseling program must meet the admission requirements of the College of Graduate Studies and Research and the following additional requirements:

1. Submit recent scores for the general test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Scores will be considered along with other aspects of the application; and
2. Participate in an evaluative Preadmission Workshop after application materials have been submitted. The Department of Counselor Education admits students twice a year, in the spring and fall terms. Admission to the program is competitive. It is possible for an otherwise acceptable applicant to be denied admission due to the competitive strength of the applicant pool. Those not selected for admission may reapply only once.

## Eligibility to Enroll in Classes

Once students are officially admitted to the program, they may register for classes in the department during regular registration periods. Those who have not yet been reviewed for admission may take one course, COUN-401 (<http://catalog.neiu.edu/search/?P=COUN-401>), as a student-at-large. Upon formal acceptance into the program, the credits for this course will be applied towards fulfillment of degree requirements.

To qualify for the master's degree, students must complete 60 credit hours of prescribed coursework, which includes three credits of practicum, six credits of internship, and successful completion of the written departmental proficiency examination. Students may not enroll for more than four (4) three-credit hour courses (12 credit hours) in a term.

Once admitted, students must demonstrate satisfactory progress. To continue in the program, a 3.0 GPA average is required, and students may not have more than six credit hours below the grade of B. In the clinical courses, COUN-405 (<http://catalog.neiu.edu/search/?P=COUN-405>) and COUN-406 (<http://catalog.neiu.edu/search/?P=COUN-406>), students must earn a grade of B or better to continue in the program. Therefore, an ongoing evaluation, for the purpose of making retention decisions, is made of all admitted students in the areas of academic achievement, professional growth, and personal growth. Although evaluation will take place during every class, formal evaluation procedures are applied prior to practicum, and on the annual date of one's admission to the program. Students may also be reviewed for retention at the request of individual faculty members.

Should a student be recommended for non-retention in the program by the faculty Professional Standards Committee, the student's faculty advisor will communicate the reasons to the student in writing. Further, depending upon the circumstances, the advisor may:

- direct the student to seek a more appropriate field of study;
- advise specific remedial steps that must be taken before continuation in the program is permitted; and
- inform the student of the procedure used to appeal the committee's decision.

A copy of all communication recommending non-retention will be forwarded by the Department of Counselor Education to the College of Graduate Studies & Research for final action.

## Curriculum in Family Counseling

Family Counseling requires a minimum of 60-credit hours (20 courses):

COUN-401	Professional Orientation & Legal/Ethical Practices	3
COUN-402	Developmental Counseling	3
COUN-403	Theories Of Counseling	3
COUN-404	Assessment And Evaluation In Counseling	3
COUN-405	Individual Counseling Skills	3
COUN-406	Group Counseling	3

COUN-407	Mental Health Counseling	3
COUN-408	Research Seminar	3
COUN-409	Career Development	3
COUN-415	Children And Youth In School And Family Systems	3
COUN-420	Introduction To Family Counseling	3
COUN-421	Advanced Marriage And Family Counseling	3
COUN-427	Diagnostic Systems For Counseling	3
COUN-430	Social & Cultural Diversity In Counseling	3
COUN-431	Couple And Family Systems Study	3
COUN-432	Counseling Couples	3
COUN-445	Practicum I:Group Supervision In Couple And Family Counseling	3
COUN-465	Internship I:Group Supervision In Couple And Family Counseling	3
COUN-475	Internship II:Group Supervision In Couple And Family Counseling	3
Electives #1		3
Total Hours		60

### Clinical Experience

Practicum is a 100 hour, field-based experience which requires a minimum of 50 hours of clinical contact with clients (contact hours), and is a prerequisite for Internship. Practicum is offered in the Fall semester.

### Internship

Internship is a 600 hour, field-based experience which requires a minimum of 250 hours of clinical contact with clients. Students are strongly encouraged to complete all coursework prior to beginning Internship. Students earn six credit hours for internships I and II.

### Departmental Proficiency Examination

All candidates are required to pass a comprehensive examination. Candidates may take the examination after 39 credit hours of required coursework have been completed.

This sample curricular map is provided to guide you in the planning of your progression for this major. This guide should not replace regular consultations with your program advisor. For specific recommendations of courses not identified, please consult your program advisor.

***The Plans of Study for the programs in Counselor Education should be used as general guidelines for the completion of courses. These plans suggest how a student might complete a program in two calendar years by beginning in the fall semester and attending through two summer semesters. There are many factors that affect how students complete their programs, including whether they begin in the fall or spring semesters and whether they attend full-time or part-time. The plan for school counseling is based on the student possessing a teacher or professional educator license. School counseling students who are not licensed must complete an additional three courses outside of the Department of Counselor Education: EDFN 405 Development of Educational Thought; EDFN 407 Learning Theories and Educational Practice; and SPED 404 Introduction to Special Education.***

***All students in Counselor Education will have a mandatory orientation at the beginning of their programs and have a faculty advisor who will help in the planning of each student's course of study.***

### First Year

Term 1		Hours
COUN-401	Professional Orientation Legal/Ethical Practices	3
COUN-402	Developmental Counseling	3
COUN-403	Theories Of Counseling	3
COUN-404	Assessment And Evaluation In Counseling	3
Term Hours		12
Term 2		
COUN-405	Individual Counseling Skills	3
COUN-409	Career Development	3
COUN-420	Introduction To Family Counseling	3
COUN-430	Social Cultural Diversity In Counseling	3
Term Hours		12

<b>Term 3</b>		
COUN-406	Group Counseling	3
COUN-415	Children And Youth In School And Family Systems	3
COUN-427	Diagnostic Systems For Counseling	3
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Term Hours		9
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Term 1</b>		
COUN-407	Mental Health Counseling	3
COUN-431	Couple And Family Systems Study	3
COUN-445	Practicum I:Group Supervision In Couple And Family Counseling	3
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Term Hours		9
<b>Term 2</b>		
COUN-408	Research Seminar	3
COUN-421	Advanced Marriage And Family Counseling	3
COUN-465	Internship I:Group Supervision In Couple And Family Counseling	3
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Term Hours		9
<b>Term 3</b>		
COUN-432	Counseling Couples	3
COUN-475	Internship II:Group Supervision In Couple And Family Counseling	3
COUN-425	Addictions Counseling	3
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Term Hours		9
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Total Hours:		60