

Admissions Requirements

Prospective students complete an application for [admission](#) which includes demographic information, academic history, MAT score, transcripts, personal statement, and two references. Applications are reviewed by the Acceptance Committee which includes the Program Coordinator, Chair, Program Director, and full-time faculty within the Adult School of Psychology and Counseling. Admission requirements include a minimum of: a cumulative GPA (CGPA) of 2.75, a MAT score of 365, and 15 credit hours (5 courses) in Psychology. Students who meet the admission requirements are then offered admission into the program. Students who do not meet the academic requirements for admission can submit a request to the admissions committee to be accepted into the program as a provisional student. To be considered for provisional enrollment the student must have a CGPA (or last 60 credits) of 2.5 or higher and a MAT score of 363 or greater. Students must achieve a grade of at least a “B” **in each** of the first three courses and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 thereafter. In the event that a provisional student earns lower than a B, one retake will be allowed. If, after repeating a course, the student is still unable to earn the required grade of a B or better, the student must submit a letter of appeal to the Chair of the Adult School of Psychology and Counseling to request permission to retake the course a second time. No more than 10% of the admissions enrolled in a given cohort start can be offered provisional enrollment. Decisions regarding the recommendation from the admissions committee are given in writing to the student.

All applicants complete a personal statement and two [references](#) designed to specifically evaluate the individual’s career goals, appreciation of diversity, and potential success in forming effective counseling relationships. The following personal statement requirements are completed by each applicant:

1. Personal Statement:

- a. In your own words, provide an overview of your understanding of the role of the Professional Counselor/Clinical Mental Health Counselor.
- b. Describe your career goals and how these align with your pursuit of a Master’s degree in counseling and the professional practice of Clinical Mental Health

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Counseling; Marital, Couples, and Family Counseling/Therapy; or Clinical Mental Health and Addictions Counseling.

- c. The ACA *code of ethics* states the importance of “honoring diversity and embracing a multicultural approach in support of the worth, dignity, potential, and uniqueness of people within their social and cultural contexts.” Identify and discuss your understanding of matters of client culture and diversity as they relate to your desired future work as a Professional Counselor. Include a specific experience you’ve had with an individual or group different from you (in terms of race, socioeconomic background, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, culture or age, etc.) and discuss what challenges and lessons you learned from this. How did the interaction affect your personal views about this individual/group and your overall perspective on establishing therapeutic alliance with diverse populations?
- d. A major portion of your development as a Professional Counselor in training involves a willingness to look inward as you seek to help others through Professional Counseling. Discuss your openness to personal and professional self-examination and positive and constructive feedback. Specifically, describe your (1) personal asset(s)/skillset that uniquely qualifies you to be a counselor and (2) areas for growth that you anticipate in pursuing this degree and professional career.

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