Counselor Education
An Overview of the CACREP-Accredited Programs
The University of Alabama

This Overview Will:

■ 1. Introduce you to our program and faculty;
■ 2. Introduce you to accreditation, program assessment, program evaluation, and the curriculum; and
■ 3. Offer suggestions for the application process and financial aid options.

Graduate Programs in Counselor Education
Welcome and thank you for your interest in our program.

Counselor Education has been in existence since 1966 at the University of Alabama.

Our Program
Graduate Programs in Counselor Education

We offer three CACREP-accredited programs:
- M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling;
- M.A. in School Counseling; and,
- Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision

*We offer one CORE-accredited program.
*See website link for Rehabilitation Counseling

Where Are We?

- We are one of the four programs in the Department of Educational Studies (ESPRMC) in the College of Education.
  - 1. Educational Research
  - 2. Educational Psychology
  - 3. School Psychology
  - 4. Counselor Education

Where Are We Located?

Counselor Education is housed in Bibb Graves Hall.
Seek assistance in 315 Bibb Graves Hall

Our Faculty
Our Faculty

- Please go to the faculty link on the Counselor Education website.
- We are a diverse faculty with varied research interests, skills, credentials, and training.
- Examples of research interests: mental health care, supervision, legal and ethical issues in counseling, children’s fears, and neuroscience.

Our Accreditation

- We were among the initial programs to be accredited by CACREP (1982).

National Accreditation

- The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS - COC)
- The College of Education is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The School Counseling track has NCATE accreditation.
- The program is accredited by a specialty Counseling Accreditation Bodies

Our Specialty Accreditation

- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) -
  - M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling;
  - M.A. in School Counseling; and,
  - Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision
Specialty Accreditation

Specialty accreditation is relevant for certification, licensure, and employment.

We feel these are important because they distinguish us from other programs of graduate study that do not have these types of specialty accreditation.

CACREP Specialty Accreditation

1. Clinical Mental Health Counseling (formerly Community Counseling 1982-2012);
2. School Counseling; and,
3. Counselor Education and Supervision

We have been continuously accredited by CACREP since 1982.

International Registry of Counsellor Education Programs

Our Counselor Education program is a recognized member of International Registry of Counsellor Education Programs (IRCEP).

“The International Registry of Counsellor Education Programs (IRCEP) was created in 2009 to foster excellence in the education and training of professional counsellors worldwide” (IRCEP, 2014, ¶ 1).

http://www.ircep.org/ircep/template/index.cfm

Assessment and Program Data
Job Placement and Test Results
- We track and report the job placement rate of our graduates.
- We track our National Counselor Examination and our Praxis II results.
- See website link, Vital Statistics

Program Evaluation
- We collect program evaluation data annually from current students, graduates, site supervisors, and employers.
- The findings are very positive in terms of the satisfaction, training, and competence.
- See website link, Comprehensive Assessment Plan Executive Report for the Public

Comprehensive Assessment Plan
- We complete a 20 point data analysis of our overall program annually.
- These data are vetted among faculty and our advisory committee. The overall findings are published annually.
- See website link, Comprehensive Assessment Plan Executive Report for the Public

Our Counseling Degrees and Curriculum
**Student Handbook**

- Our Student Handbook (see link on our website) is a comprehensive illustration of our counseling tracks.
- Refer to this document for specific information about the program, program planning records, curriculum, scholarships, financial aid, necessary forms, and so forth.

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**Master’s Degrees Offered**

**Clinical Mental Health Counseling**

This program is designed to prepare its graduates for employment and practice in public and private mental health settings. Curriculum offers coursework and applied experiences for students’ specialty interests, such as:

- Couple/family counseling
- Addictions counseling
- Other similar specialty practice

This is a 60 semester hour program.

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**Master’s Degrees Offered**

**School Counseling**

This program is designed to prepare its graduates to work in public or private school settings (preK-12). After completion, students can apply for state certification. Currently, the program consists of 48 semester hours.

- Teacher certification is not required. Note specific state certification requirements will vary. Students without teacher certification/teaching experience must pass the National Counselor Examination (NCE) prior to graduation.
- School Counseling is certified by the Alabama Department of Education (ALSDE).

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**Doctor of Philosophy**

- Counselor Education and Supervision (Ph.D.)

This preparatory program features a variety of preparation options for students, including:

- Counselor educators for professional positions in colleges and universities;
- Agency/school administrators;
- Counselor supervisors; and,
- Advanced practitioners in governmental agencies, non-profit settings, or private practice.

A common core of preparation in doctoral study includes: advanced theoretical foundations, counselor pedagogy, advanced practice with groups and other counseling modalities, counselor supervision training, and research.
Doctor of Philosophy

- There is a pre-admission online interview that is required before admission decisions are made for doctoral applicants.
- Note: The Graduate School sets the terms for doctoral residency. Students are required to be enrolled full-time (at least 9 hours of coursework) for two contiguous terms or semesters.
- See link, Student Handbook for further doctoral information.

Curriculum

- We have common foundational courses across all three Master’s programs (e.g., counseling theory, career development, group counseling, and appraisal).
- We have specialty courses for each major. For course details for each major, see the Program Planning Records (see Student Handbook link on website, go to specific major)

Clinical Sequence and Clinical Laboratory

- We have a clinical sequence of courses (e.g., from counseling skills to the practicum, to the internship).
- Students move from practice and role playing to actual clients in a structured, developmental, supervised sequence.
- We have a state of the art counseling laboratory housed in Graves Hall.
Application Process

1. Application and fee (apply at graduate.ua.edu)
2. Submission of transcripts from previous coursework, either graduate or undergraduate study.
3. Writing a statement of purpose.
4. Taking an entrance examination – either the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
5. Three letters of recommendation

Scholarships and Graduate Assistantships

- College of Education Scholarships – see section in Student Handbook for details
- Graduate Assistantships – limited number for 10 hours a week – see section in Student Handbook for details and application
- Graduate School – go to graduate.ua.edu – see Financial Assistance Handbook link

Application Process/Deadlines

Apply at the Graduate School website: graduate.ua.edu

1. Review Graduate School deadlines, procedures, and requirements.
2. Go to Counselor Education website for our program deadlines – see link, Counselor Education Calendar
   - Find Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, and Doctoral deadlines
In Review: Where Can I Find Information?

- Counselor Education Website – see website links to the Counselor Education Academic Calendars, Student Handbook, and for inquiry meetings
- Graduate School Website – application process starts here
- Administrative Assistant – (205-348-5174 or visit us at 315 Graves Hall)
- Faculty (email addresses are given on the Counselor Education website)

Thank you for your interest in the Program in Counselor Education at The University of Alabama.

For Further Information:
Contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Rick Houser at rahouser@uta.edu