

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

COUNSELOR EDUCATION WITH SPECIALIZATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELING: MASTER OF SCIENCE

Course and Capstone Requirements (60 credits):

(Available only to those students in the Professional Program in Teacher Education)
Graduates are prepared for positions as counselors in public and private schools. The program is designed to meet the certification requirements of the State of Connecticut and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Core Courses (15 credits):

CNSL 500 The Dynamics of Group Behavior 3
CNSL 501 Theories and Techniques in Counseling 6
CNSL 505/MFT 505 Counseling and Human Development Across the Lifespan 3
CNSL 598 Research Methods in Counseling 3

Specialized Courses (45 credits):

SPED 501 Education of the Exceptional Learner 3
CNSL 503 Supervised Counseling Practicum 3
CNSL 504 Professional Studies in Counseling 3
CNSL 506 Counseling Children & Adolescents 3
CNSL 520 Professional School Counseling I 3
CNSL 521 Career Counseling and Development 3
CNSL 522 Appraisal Procedures in Counseling 3
CNSL 524 Collaborative Consultation 3
CNSL 525 Multicultural Counseling 3
CNSL 526 Professional School Counseling II 3
CNSL 568 Alcohol and Drug Counseling 3
CNSL 571 Mental Health Counseling 3
CNSL 572 Assessment, Treatment and Recovery in Counseling 3
CNSL 591 Supervised School Guidance Internship (three credits for two semesters) 6

ELECTIVE 3

Capstone (0–3 credits):

Plan A: CNSL 599 Thesis 3
or

Plan B: Comprehensive Exam (consists of a major case presentation done in conjunction with the student's internship experience)

Program Rationale:

The School Counseling Program prepares students for professional careers as ethical, multi-culturally competent counselors in elementary, middle, and high schools. Emphasis is on designing, implementing, and evaluating a comprehensive model of school counseling that is described in the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) within an effective multi-tiered system of support (MTSS). The curriculum follows the certification requirements of the Connecticut State Department of Education and the program is CACREP accredited.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Students in this program will be expected to:

- demonstrate knowledge of theory, practice, and ethical standards relative to the practice of school counseling;
- demonstrate appropriate counseling techniques and interventions for use within the academic, career, and social and emotional domains;
- demonstrate the ability to consult and collaborate with teachers, staff, administrators, and community-based organizations in understanding and meeting the needs of all students;
- promote understanding and appreciation for diverse populations and cultures as well as issues of equity confronting Connecticut Educators; and
- demonstrate knowledge of federal and state laws pertinent to the role, function, and services of the school counselor.

Admission Requirements for School Counseling

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

Admissions to the School Counseling, Professional and Rehabilitation Counseling, and Student Development in Higher Education programs are made on a competitive basis only one time per year. All applications must be completed and received by February 1 for fall admission. Candidates for admission will be considered on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Grade point average: Minimum 2.70 grade point average (GPA) for all undergraduate courses and a 3.00 for all graduate courses, based on a 4.00 point scale where A is 4.00
2. Three recommendations from individuals able to testify to the student's suitability as a prospective counselor
3. A 2–3 page typewritten (double spaced) essay describing the following:
 - a. Reasons for entering the counseling profession.
 - b. Personal and professional experiences that influenced you to pursue the counseling profession.
 - c. Personal characteristics you believe will contribute to your success as a counselor.
4. All candidates to the program must provide test scores from one of the following with their application materials: Praxis Core, SAT, or ACT.
5. A group interview by the program's faculty admissions committee. The committee will assess the student's personal attributes and life experiences that might contribute to the student's potential for success as a professional counselor.

The admissions application, application fee, and official transcripts from each college/university (except CCSU) where any course has been taken must be sent directly to the Graduate Recruitment and Admissions Office.

Recommendation letters and the essay can be uploaded to the Graduate Admissions Department during the Application process.

Additional Admissions Requirements for School Counseling: Praxis

Documentation that the applicant has completed Praxis Core Test or qualifies for a waiver. More information about the PRAXIS Core tests may be obtained by calling 609-771-7395 or by accessing the PRAXIS website at www.ets.org/Praxis.

Background Check: Connecticut law requires all students in educator certification programs to undergo state and national criminal history background checks before participating in school-based field experiences. The procedures for obtaining the background checks and the length of time they are valid is established by the State Department of Education and the local RESC, and cannot be changed. Students are responsible for the cost of the background check and will be provided with the necessary consent forms and other documents needed to conduct it. As part of the background check, students need to be fingerprinted. **Students who fail to pass the background check may be unable to complete their chosen degree program at Central Connecticut State University.** The University is not responsible for a student's inability to complete their chosen degree or certification program.

Graduate students who are not currently employed in the Public School will need to complete the background check before being placed in field experiences or doing research in the schools. Current school employees with background checks in place but who are placed in field experiences or do research outside of the district where they are employed may also be required to complete a new background check.

Fieldwork Requirements

Practicum CNSL 503

Students complete one semester of unpaid practicum of 100 hours (1 day a week). Students complete a minimum of 40 hours of direct service to students.

Internship CNSL 591

Students complete 2 semesters of unpaid internship a minimum of 700 hours (2-3 days a week) over the span of the 10-month school year. Students who have 3 years of successful teaching as a credentialed educator, can complete a 600-hour internship in one semester.

Licensed Professional Counselor, LPC

Students who choose to also become an LPC take their National Certification Exam at the conclusion of their program. They must complete an additional 600 hour internship CNSL 594 in a mental health agency. A special section of CNSL 594 for school counseling students who also wish to obtain their LPCs will be offered each Summer. They will also complete 3,000 paid hours under the supervision of an LPC, LMFT, LCSW or APRN.

Dr. Peg Donohue
Associate Professor
Program Coordinator
peg_donohue@ccsu.edu

Dr. Ikone Mason
Assistant Professor
imason@ccsu.edu

Dr. Sarah Evans Zalewski, LPC
Assistant Professor
slzalewski@ccsu.edu

Contact: 860-832-2154

www.ccsu.edu/grad



