

# COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY M.S. PROGRAM

Degree Requirements for First-time  
Students Enrolling in  
Summer or Fall 2018

Orientation: August  
17, 2018

## PREFACE

The purpose of this document is to provide specific course and other academic program requirements at the time of entry into the masters program in Counseling Psychology at the University of Kansas. Students are bound by the requirements presented to them at their CPSY Orientation, in August of their first fall enrollment. Students who begin taking courses during the summer session prior to their first fall enrollment are bound by the requirements outlined at their fall Orientation.

From time to time the faculty make changes in the program that might be to the advantage of students bound by an earlier set of requirements. Students always have the option to choose an entire set of program requirements from any year subsequent to their first enrollment. It should be noted, however, that students are not allowed to choose one section of requirements from one year (e.g., the number of hours necessary to enroll in practicum) and another set of requirements from a different year on a different topic (e.g., the number of required electives). A student must adhere to one contiguous set of Program Requirements.

All program policies and procedures are outlined in a separate **COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK** at <http://epsy.soe.ku.edu/documents-and-resources>

The Policies and Procedures Handbook has many sections related to this Degree Requirements document, and students are bound by the contents of both documents. One difference is that the Policies and Procedures Handbook is updated frequently, and students are bound by the current handbook as it appears on the website, while their specific course and degree requirements are established one time, at their fall Orientation, and spelled out in this Degree Requirements document.

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY**

The Counseling Psychology program area has as its primary purpose the preparation of professional personnel in the field of Counseling Psychology. The master's degree is the first professional degree in Counseling Psychology. Graduates holding this degree should have achieved the basic understandings and skills necessary for professional practice as a counselor.

Students earning degrees from KU MS program have been employed in community colleges, four-year colleges, specialized areas of large universities (e.g., career planning and placement, drug and alcohol counseling), the court system, and community-based mental health services. Many students go on for doctoral degrees.

The philosophy and conceptual model guiding the program always has been that of the scientist-practitioner and that of counseling psychology having a basic educational, developmental, and preventive orientation. In this regard, Gelso and Fretz (2001, pp. 52-55), in their text on Counseling Psychology, reference two distinct and relevant uses of the term "science": 1) Citing the proceedings of Counseling Psychology's 1951 Northwestern Conference (APA, 1952), they suggest that, "being scientific" means having the "ability to review and make use of the results of research (APA, 1952, p. 179); i.e., the ability to review research and apply research findings to practice; 2) Citing Pepinsky and Pepinsky (1954), they suggest that the "scientist" portion of the model is reflected in the way counseling psychology practitioners go about thinking about practice and the manner in which they conduct their practice. "Scientist-practitioners" follow what is perhaps the most fundamental tenet of the scientific attitude: they think critically and are duly skeptical about theories, research findings, and clinical practices (whether their own or those of others).

Our training model then seeks to prepare generalists in counseling psychology with the ability to be scientist-practitioners as defined by each of these meanings of the term. This view is reflected in the distribution of both required and elective coursework. There is a strong commitment to a balance of coursework in theory, research, and practice. It is the belief of the program faculty that students must be well grounded in each of these basic areas in order to adequately prepare to function as counselors. Opportunities for specialization exist through elective work, but overall we intend the program to provide broad and general training and do not consider this program designed to train students in specialized areas beyond that of counseling psychology. Accordingly, the faculty seeks broadly educated students to admit to and graduate from the program.

The faculty aspire to train counselors who are able to identify and integrate their own strengths and passions into an area consistent with the specialty of counseling psychology. We aspire to do this within an atmosphere of teaching and learning that respects individual and cultural diversity, is characterized more by cooperation and collaboration than by competition, and that allows students, faculty, and staff to maintain a sense of healthy balance in their lives.

The following represents degree requirements as approved at the present time. As program review is a continuing process, it is possible that degree requirements may be altered. The student is responsible for the requirements as they stand at the time of their first enrollment as a

degree-seeking student.

Licensing is a function of the State, not the Department or the University of Kansas. Persons interested in the educational requirements for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor may obtain that information from the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board at <http://ksbsrb.ks.gov>.

The MS program has two tracks, the Terminal MS track (for those intending to finish at the masters degree), and the PhD Aspirant track (for those considering going on for a PhD at some point after the completion of the masters degree). In either track, the student will need to accumulate 60 credit hours of coursework in order to meet all of the requirements. A full-time student who first enrolls in the fall term may expect to complete the degree at the end two academic years. A part-time student should anticipate taking a minimum of two and a half to three calendar years to complete the degree. Officially, students have six years to complete the degree from the time of their first enrollment.

While some of the coursework required for this track is also available at the Edwards Campus, students should anticipate taking courses at the Lawrence Campus and meeting with faculty at the Lawrence Campus during the day. Complete descriptions of courses and prerequisites are available online at <http://epsy.ku.edu/academics/courses>

#### Capstone Research Options for Completing the Master's Degree

As one goal of the Master's program is to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate skill in the integration of scientific and practice-related knowledge, students elect to complete one of the research options outlined below. To gain the requisite skills to complete the research options, students are required to complete additional coursework. These classes satisfy the Research Component requirements and are divided between students who choose the Master's Thesis option, students who choose one of the Master's Project options, and students who choose the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) option. The best option for your research component is decided on collaboratively between you and your advisor. The Thesis and Project options all require an oral examination over the thesis or the project.

Students who pass the CPCE and also *complete* the thesis or project option can use up to 3 hours of thesis or project as elective hours. If a student is currently enrolled in thesis or project hours and wishes to continue with the research after passing the CPCE, the student should change the research hours to Independent Study in order to have the credits count toward graduation.

**M.S. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: Terminal M.S. Track**

<b><u>COURSE</u></b>	<b><u>COURSE TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>CREDIT</u></b>
EPSY 705	Human Development Through the Lifespan	3 hrs
EPSY 715	Understanding Research in Education*	3 hrs
EPSY 725	Educational Measurement**	3 hrs
EPSY 740	Counseling and Interviewing Skills***	3 hrs
EPSY 742	Counseling Theory and Techniques***	3 hrs
EPSY 830	Individual and Group Assessment	3 hrs
EPSY 844	Group Theory and Process	3 hrs
EPSY 846	Career Development	3 hrs
EPSY 875	Individual and Cultural Differences in Counseling Psychology	3 hrs
EPSY 880	Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Psychology	3 hrs
EPSY 890	Diagnosis and Psychopathology	3 hrs
EPSY 896	Advanced Counseling Skills	3 hrs
EPSY 956	Theory of Couples and Family Counseling	3 hrs
EPSY 845	Substance Abuse Counseling	3 hrs
EPSY 842a	Counseling Practicum**** (Fall)	6 hrs
EPSY 842b	Counseling Practicum (Spring)	6 hrs

*\*Should be taken early in the program.*

*\*\*May substitute EPSY 822 if the student had a strong undergraduate measurement course.*

*\*\*\* Normally EPSY 740 and 742 should be taken in the same semester, early in the program.*

*\*\*\*\*Pre-enrollment with Practicum Coordinator required during preceding semester.*

*These courses must be completed prior to practicum: **EPSY 740, 742, 830, 880, 890 & 896.***

*These courses must be completed prior to or during practicum: **EPSY 844, 845, 846, 875, 956.***

**Capstone Research Options for Completing the Master's Degree**

<b>OPTION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CREDIT</b>
Option 1	EPSY 898: Master's Project	3 hrs
<i>Prior or concurrent enrollment in EPSY 715 is required.</i>		
Option 2	EPSY 899: Master's Thesis	3 hrs
Data analysis course approved by advisor 3 hrs		
<i>Prior or concurrent enrollment in data analysis course AND EPSY 715 are required.</i>		
Option 3	Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE)	
<i>All coursework except electives must be completed prior to or during the semester in which the exam is taken, and you must be enrolled the semester you take the exam.</i>		

**ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES:** *Chosen in consultation with advisor* 0-6 hrs  
*(program must add up to 60 hours of graduate credit)*

**M.S. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: PhD/Aspirant Track**

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>CREDIT</b>
EPSY 705	Human Development Through the Lifespan	3 hrs
EPSY 715	Understanding Research in Education*	3 hrs
EPSY 725	Educational Measurement**	3 hrs
EPSY 740	Counseling and Interviewing Skills***	3 hrs
EPSY 742	Counseling Theory and Techniques***	3 hrs
EPSY 830	Individual and Group Assessment	3 hrs
EPSY 844	Group Theory and Process	3 hrs
EPSY 846	Career Development	3 hrs
EPSY 875	Individual and Cultural Differences in Counseling Psychology	3 hrs
EPSY 880	Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Psychology	3 hrs
EPSY 890	Diagnosis and Psychopathology	3 hrs
EPSY 896	Advanced Counseling Skills	3 hrs
EPSY 842a	Counseling Practicum**** (Fall)	6 hrs
EPSY 842b	Counseling Practicum (Spring)	6 hrs

*\*Should be taken early in the program.*

*\*\*May substitute EPSY 822 if the student had a strong undergraduate measurement course.*

*\*\*\* Normally EPSY 740 and 742 should be taken in the same semester, early in the program.*

*\*\*\*\*Pre-enrollment with Practicum Coordinator required during preceding semester.*

*These courses must be completed prior to practicum: **EPSY 740, 742, 830, 880, 890, & 896.***

*These courses must be completed prior to or during practicum: **EPSY 844, 846, 875.***

**Capstone Research Options for Completing the Master's Degree**

Data analysis course required for all 3 options, approved by advisor (e.g., 710/711, 810, 811) 3 hrs

<b>OPTION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CREDIT</b>
Option 1	EPSY 898: Master's Project	3 hrs
<i>Prior or concurrent enrollment in EPSY 715 is required.</i>		

Option 2	EPSY 899: Master's Thesis	3 hrs
<i>Prior or concurrent enrollment in data analysis course AND EPSY 715 are required.</i>		

Option 3	Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE)	
<i>All coursework except electives must be completed prior to or during the semester in which the exam is taken, and you must be enrolled the semester you take the exam.</i>		

**ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES:** *Chosen in consultation with advisor (program must add up to 60 hours of graduate credit)* 6-9 hrs

More detailed information on these options is available in the **CPSY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK** at <http://epsy.soe.ku.edu/documents-and-resources>

Sample 1st-Year MS Program

**Fall:**

EPSY 740  
EPSY 742  
EPSY 846  
EPSY 725  
EPSY 715 (if taking 15 hours)

**Spring:**

EPSY 830  
EPSY 875  
EPSY 880  
EPSY 890  
EPSY 896: Advanced Counseling Skills

*If students are only enrolling in 9 hours in the fall, they should exclude either EPSY 725 or EPSY 846 and take those in subsequent semesters.*

Sample 2nd-Year MS Program

**Fall:**

EPSY 842a  
EPSY 844  
EPSY 705  
Elective

**Spring:**

EPSY 842b  
EPSY 845  
EPSY 956  
Elective