



WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

M.ED. IN SCHOOL COUNSELING – ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, DUAL CERTIFICATION

OVERVIEW OF ALL PROGRAMS

The Department of Counselor Education at West Chester University offers degree programs in counselor education that are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The programs in counselor education include one that leads to the master of science degree for students who wish to work in higher education settings and/or student affairs (M.S.). The second leads to the master of education and educational specialist I certificate for elementary and/or secondary school counselors (M.Ed.). In addition to the degree and certification programs, the department offers a 12-credit post-master's letter of completion program for those preparing to apply for Pennsylvania Professional Counselor Licensure.

Mindful of its dual constituencies (i.e., students in teacher preparation and counselors in training), the department has designed a curriculum that is consistent with the College of Education's conceptual framework and that meets national standards for teachers and counselors. Counselor education curricula address the core competencies developed by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) and CACREP. All programs emphasize the preparation of reflective practitioners who understand and appreciate the diversity of student needs, values, beliefs, and experiences.

Programs are rooted in research-based experiential training and recognize the importance of remediation, prevention, and developmental approaches to service delivery. Upon completion of the counselor education program at West Chester, students possess knowledge and skills in counseling content, client understanding, the helping process, and ethical, professional practice.

M.Ed. CURRICULUM

The M.Ed. in school counseling degree program requires 48 credits with a common core of 27 credit hours, called competency areas I and II. In addition, the program requires 21 credit hours of specialty course work that includes three, 3-credit field experiences.

I. Common Core

Competency Area I (15 credits)

EDC 503 Professional Orientation to Counseling

EDC 540 Assessment Methods for Counselors

EDC 567 Group Dynamics

EDC 570 Fundamentals of the Helping Relationship

EDC 571 Counseling Theory and Techniques

Competency Area II (12 credits)

EDC 520 Social and Cultural Diversity Issues in Counseling

EDC 521 Human Development Through the Life Span for Counselors

EDC 556 Career Development Theories and Practices

EDF 502 Methods and Materials of Research for Counselors

II. Specialty Requirements (12 credits)

EDC 504 Organization and Administration of School Counseling Programs

EDC 559 Human Exceptionality for Counselors

EDC 576 Consultation and Coordination in Guidance and Counseling

EDC 577 School Counseling Strategies for Change

III. Field Experience Requirements (9 credits)

EDC 590 Practicum in School Counseling

EDC 601-602 Counseling Internship in School Counseling (elementary and/or secondary)

OTHER OPTIONS

In addition to the aforementioned curricula, the department offers the following additional tracks to meet students' educational needs:

1. Certification Only

A student who holds a master's degree in counseling or a closely related field may apply as a certification-only student in elementary and/or secondary school counseling. Students must have their previous master's degree course work reviewed by the department certification coordinator to determine what additional course work is required for certification. A letter from the certification coordinator will serve as a contract and detail the requirements necessary for certification. A minimum of 15 credit hours with specialty course work including practicum and internship will be required.

2. Dual Certification in Elementary and Secondary

Students accepted into either the M.Ed. elementary or M.Ed. secondary school counseling programs can qualify for dual certification by completing half of the required 600 internship hours in a K-6 setting and half of the required internship hours in a 7-12 school setting.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The department evaluates each candidate through the use of multiple criteria.

LEARN MORE

Admission requires an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university. The normally accepted standard for students applying to counselor education programs is a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale. Candidates who have a 3.0 GPA in the last 48 hours of course work completed will be considered.

To be considered candidates must submit the following:

- Completed graduate application including goals statement (apply online at www.wcupa.edu/grad)
- A minimum of two professional references
- Official transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended

Review of applications begins October 1 for spring semester and April 1 for fall semester. Applications received after these dates will be considered if available space still remains in the program. An admission interview may be required.

FACULTY

Please check the department Web site for a list of all faculty (see below).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and
Extended Education
McKelvie Hall
102 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: gradstudy@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad

Visit: www.facebook.com/wcugrad

Or contact the department:

Write: Department of Counselor
Education
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2559

Web: www.wcupa.edu/_academics/coed/departments/counseloreducation

The Graduate Catalog is available online at www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/graduate.catalog/.

ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality

undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

